AYLESBURY TOWN Aylesbury Town Council Magazine

Aylesbury Town Council Magazin Issue Forty • Published Quarterly March to May 2016

matters



Serving the people of Aylesbury



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town' www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

St. George's Celebration and Scout Parade

Fun Day llam - 4pm Market Square Sunday 24th April



Giant St George, Mechanical Dragon, Sword Fighting, Story Teller, Archery and lots of games, crafts and activities.

Scout Parade leaves Market Square at 2.45pm led by the Amersham Marching Band and the Broughton School Dragon.

Also marking the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death with live theatrical performances and harp music.





ATC News & Events

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Welcome Note

As we go to press, the nation are starting to mark and celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday with our community pulling together as part of the National Campaign, Clean for the Queen. ATC have combined forces with all the other local authorities to inspire lots of local community groups and individuals to tidy up our town to celebrate the Monarch's special birthday. If you are planning a street party or celebration as part of the palace official birthday celebrations on Sunday 12th June, don't forget to apply for a visit from our Queen's Birthday Travelling Entertainment Roadshow, more details on page 4 and on our website.

Back in December it was amazing to see so many families enjoying all of the free **Festive Family Fun** – with magic, music, stilt walkers, fun fair rides, games, crafts and of course the fabulous giant snow globe, where over 150 families received a unique free family Christmas portrait. Check out page 5 for lots of photographs of this event along with **Carolfest** from St Mary's Church.

Looking ahead, 2016 is going to be a full and fun year with a wide variety of events and activities in and around the town centre. With soapbox races, Shakespearian productions, dancing, magic, making our town into the seaside and a host of live music, all put on with family entertainment, interaction and enjoyment at the forefront of our plans. See page 6 for a full list of all the dates ready to put into your diary.

These next couple of months will be the last in office as Town Mayor, for Cllr Allison Harrison. At the new Mayor Making ceremony in May, Allison will be proud to present the Mayor's Award to a local person who has been nominated and selected having performed an unusual act of bravery, an achievement (not standard exam passes), a commitment or an act beyond the call of duty for fellow citizens of the town in general. If you know someone who deserves this award, please remember to submit an application by 4th April, for consideration. More information on page 7.

For all of our up-to-date news and information, please visit our website, where you will find a brand new look and design, jam packed with news and information about all of our events and services. See www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or find us on Facebook and Twitter gaylesburyto

Best wishes

Councillor Mike Smith Leader of Aylesbury Town Council

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



Young Enterprise

Contact Details

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ATC News

Events for 2016

With 2016 now in full swing, we are going to start with a little look back at the end of 2015 and let you know about the fabulous events that we have planned for the start of this year.



Back in October some little monsters, witches, ghosts and skeletons of Aylesbury joined in the Halloween Fun in Market Square. Where they enjoyed the Pantoween, Thriller dancing, magic shows, games, crafts and face-painting along with fancy dress and pumpkin carving competitions.

The Vale of Secrets, was a mysterious interactive walking play around Aylesbury's Old Town where participants were entertained by a talented team

of actors, using local landmarks to unravel a murderous tale of deceit and conspiracy. For the first time the play finished in St Mary's Church, where visitors could enjoy home-made soup and cakes.



In December hundreds of visitors enjoyed a huge array of Festive Family Fun activities and entertainment, including a giant snow-globe, fun fair rides, live singing, magic, games, crafts, face painting, balloon modelling and even hot roasted chestnuts, all for free.

Carolfest took place in the warmth of St Mary's church, where children from Elmhurst School, the Wingrave Singers and Caduceus brass quintet accompanied the chorus of family voices who filled the church to the rafters with traditional carols and even added a spot of dancing. The local Matrix Scouts served soup and mince pies, kindly donated by Tesco Community, raising over £350 for the Mayor's Charity, Community Unity Projects.



We kick off this year's events with the annual **St George's Celebration and Scout Parade** on Sunday 24th April.

Market Square will be filled with free fun, activities and entertainment from 11am until 4pm with a marching band leading the parade from Market Square at 2.45pm. This year you can expect to see a giant St George, mechanical dragon, sword fighters, story teller, dancers and a wide array of games, crafts and activities all themed around England's patron saint. Also at this event, to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death we will also have performances of Shakespearian classics with a modern twist and live harp music.

Across the country on Sunday 12th June, the nation will be encouraged to organise a **Community Street Party**, to echo the official street party being held on The Mall, celebrating **HRH Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday**. Aylesbury Town Council will be providing the opportunity for organisers of local events to have a visit from the **Touring Roadshow of Entertainers**. For more information and criteria details please email us on **info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** or visit the events page on our website.

2015 saw Aylesbury's first Soapbox Derby, a race that was fiercely contested by karts of all shapes and sizes, including a Luna buggy, bumble bee and even a shed. Registration for this year's Soapbox Derby opens at the start of April. There will be two categories for drivers, under or over 16, all karts must be made from at least 80% recycled materials and adhere to the safety guidelines. To receive the registration pack on the day of release email info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk with your email address. Sunday 19th June (Father's Day) is the day of the big race. From 11am in Whitehill Park, come and enjoy a day filled with exciting races, music, games and activities. Entry and participation are both free.

We hope that you have enjoyed all of the events during 2015, however if you missed any, please check out the list of dates for 2016 on page 6, mark them in your diary, then join us for an array of free family fun throughout this year.





Events Guide 2016

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Friday 4 - Sunday 6 March

As part of a national campaign, ATC will lead the local campaign to encourage residents and community groups to clean their local surroundings. This is with the support of AVDC, BCC and VAHT.

ST GEORGE'S CELEBRATION FUN DAY AND SCOUT PARADE

Sunday 24 April, Market Square, 11am - 4pm

A free family fun day in celebration of England's patron Saint George with entertainment, demonstrations, craft, games and activities. Also marking the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death with performances and music to reflect the era. The annual scout parade, takes place from Market Square at 2.45pm to St Mary's Church and returns to Market Square for dismissal at 4.15pm.

THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY **PARTY ROADSHOW**

Sunday 12 June. Various locations across the Parish

ATC will be providing a team of entertainers who will travel across the parish to community events organised by parish

AYLESBURY'S SOAPBOX DERBY ON FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 19 June, Whitehill Park, 11am - 4pm

Will you and your children be the proud winners of the second Aylesbury Soapbox Trophy, having raced your home-made gravity powered vehicle down the course with lots of fun and entertainment on the day.

AYLESBURY ON SEA

Sunday 3 July, Kingsbury, 11am – 4pm

A day at the seaside comes to Kingsbury. This very popular, free family fun day brings you an array of traditional seaside games, activities and entertainment, themed around Giants of the Sea.

PARKLIFE WEEKEND

Saturday 27 August & Sunday 28 August, Vale Park

A jam packed programme of live music, family entertainment and great fun throughout the weekend.

LIVE IN THE PARK

Saturday 27 August, Vale Park, 12 noon – 8.30pm

An entire day of continuous live music and family entertainment with music, bands, fun fair and lots of free family fun. Refreshments are available to purchase.

CHURCH IN THE PARK

Sunday 28 August, Vale Park, 10.30am – 12 noon

Aylesbury Church Network host an open air church service, welcoming all the community.

FOOTIE AND FUN IN THE PARK

Sunday 28 August, Vale Park, 12 noon – 4pm

Aylesbury Church Network will be hosting an afternoon of free fun and entertainment for the family, with a host of games, fun and sports. More details to be confirmed closer to the event.

PROMS IN THE PARK

Sunday 28 August, Vale Park, 7.15pm - 9.30pm

Arrive with your picnic, friends and flags from 6.30pm for a traditional open air proms concert with Aylesbury Concert Band. The weekend finishes with a fantastic firework display at

BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

Thursday 1 September, Bucks Showground, Weedon

Come and see us at the Bucks County Show. Pop in for refreshments and to find out more about Aylesbury Town Council and meet staff and councillors.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September, Town Centre

ATC co-ordinate all of the free activities and open locations across the town. Providing information and maps to where is open and tours that can be booked.

TUDOR FAYRE

Sunday 11 September, Bucks County Museum, 11am - 4pm

During Heritage Open Days, featuring a wide variety of Tudor themed activities, entertainment, crafts and games.

HALLOWEEN FUN

Thursday 27 October, Market Square, 3pm – 6.30pm

Halloween fun and entertainment in Market Square. Expect an afternoon filled with ghoulish fun and games along with the ever popular Pantoween and fancy dress competition.

WALKING PLAY

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 November, at 6pm and 8pm

Interactive walking play around the cobbled streets of Aylesbury's Old Town. Tickets £4.50

FREE FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

Sunday 11 December, Friars Square & Market Square 11am - 4pm

Get into the festive spirit with our Festive Family Fun Day, packed with seasonal entertainment and joy for the whole family. With games and entertainment in Friars Square and fun fair rides in Market Square.

CAROLFEST

Sunday 11 December, St Mary's Church, 6pm - 7pm

Grab a song sheet and sing along to your favourite Christmas carols, accompanied by a brass band and local choir. Hot chocolate and mince pies are also served.



Aylesbury Town Council TOWN MAYOR'S AWARDS 2015/2016

Town Mayor Cllr Allison Harrison, is delighted to present awards to Aylesbury Residents who have been nominated for performing an unusual act of bravery, an achievement (not standard exam passes), a commitment or an act beyond the call of duty for fellow citizens of the town in general. Anyone can nominate a fellow citizen.

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

The Award will cover two categories:

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT, COMMITMENT OR ACT OF BRAVERY:

Award 1: Child/Youth up to 16 years of age Award 2: Adult

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY:

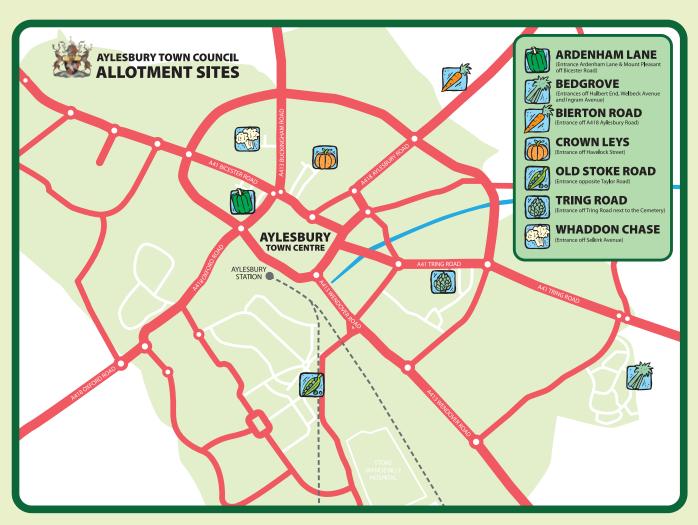
Award 3: Group, School or Organisation Award 4: Individual, Youth/Adult

Closing date for nominations is Friday 1st April 2016.

Winners and their guest will be invited by the Mayor to the Annual Mayor Making Reception in May 2016 to receive their awards. If you know of an Aylesbury Town Resident that you would like to nominate, please visit our website for an entry form or contact Sue Carpenter, Mayor's Assistant on 01296 425678 or email s.carpenter@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



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 with some sites 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.

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. We

also have Wardens on each site, who with their wealth of gardening knowledge, will be able to give you 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 managed 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 and wish to be put on the waiting list then please give me a call on 01296 425678 or email me on I.beaty@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Linda Beaty





Environment



Aylesbury in Bloom Garden Competition

Whilst we are writing this it is rather mild outside considering it is officially winter and some plants and trees are already starting to come out, thinking it is spring. But none of this stops any keen and budding gardener to think about what to plant in their gardens this year.

Our Annual Garden competition will be taking place in June, July and August so there is still plenty of time to plan, plant, prune, grow and mow.

Last year we had a record number of entries and saw some great gardens ranging from wildlife nature gardens, to small gardens, pot gardens, front and back gardens. It was nice to have so many first time entrants and to see so much enthusiasm. The competition is open to residents, groups, organisations, schools and businesses within the Parish of Aylesbury.

Information on entry categories and the application form will be available on our website from 1st March 2016 and will also be in the next issue of Aylesbury Town Matters.

Our three judges are already looking forward to seeing everyone's gardens and to helping with tips and advice. We look forward to receiving your entry, which closes on 17th June.







Changes to your Recycling & Waste Collection Days



Later this spring Aylesbury Vale District Council is making changes to the days it collects recycling and waste from households in Aylesbury Vale.

This change will affect most households throughout the district. Look out for a letter from AVDC after the Easter break detailing whether or not you're affected.



Check AVDC's website for up-to-date news www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/recycle

Is a Wood Burning Stove right for me?



With their glass doors and sleek looks, today's high efficiency wood stoves can provide a visual centrepiece as well as winter warmth.

However, there are practicalities to consider before buying one:

Do I have a chimney? You'll need to feed a flue up a chimney or out through a wall.

Can I store the wood? Do you have a dry space for a few cubic metres of wood? A tonne goes quickly in winter!

Am I fighting fit? Lugging and/or splitting wood is hard work. There will be wood ash to clear if you are burning logs rather than pellets.

Will I use it? A wood stove may be surplus to requirement if you have a good boiler and central heating.

Will I burn the right stuff? Will the wood you burn come from a sustainably managed forest?

For more wood stove Q&As, simply search the blog at www.yougen.co.uk

Photo courtesy of SuperHomes



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.priest@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk**. There is no charge for community groups and charities.

Nigerian Community Association Aylesbury

The Nigerian Community Association Aylesbury (NCAA) recently held their 'Annual End of Year Get Together' event. Both the Mayor of Aylesbury, Cllr Allison Harrison and the AVDC Chairman Cllr Jenny Bloom attended to oversee the handing over of the Presidency of the NCCA from Mr Adedayo Olowosale to Mr George Balogun. Even though the Association is still in its formative years, here are a few things we achieved last year:

- Kids Club Arts and Crafts workshop every third Saturday of each month. This has helped children make beads, necklaces, handbags and other items.
- We have been able to cater for Nigerian patients in Stoke Mandeville Hospital by giving them Nigerian prepared dishes and keeping them company and making them feel more at home. This obviously has helped a lot to speed up their recovery.
- Our children went to Tesco Broadfields for the Farm to Fork excursion. The children learnt a lot on how goods are delivered to the store, delivered to different departments and then placed on the shop floor for customers to buy. Tesco Broadfields Community Development Manager named Nigerian children as the most intelligent and well behaved childrens group that had been to the store and hence sponsored NCAA during the event.
- We have mentored quite a few youths and helped with CV writing which has increased the number of Nigerians getting back to work within a short period, as well as keeping them focussed.
- Even though it has been a financially-constrained year, we have also been able to organise a business presentation workshop to widen and broaden our business thoughts and make work our business vision most especially in the UK.

On behalf of the Nigerian Community and other ethnic minority groups we work with in Aylesbury, we welcome the newly-elect President Mr George Balogun and Vice President, Mrs Mae Ackah and the duo and their officials a successful tenure.

For more information kindly email us at: info@nigeriancommunityaylesbury.org.uk

A Community Interest Company - 09391024



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Midnight Walk back for 7th Year!

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity (FNHC) has officially launched its seventh Midnight Walk taking place on Saturday 9th July, aiming to raise over £50,000 in just one night for local hospice care.

"We're really excited about this year's Midnight Walk and are hoping it's going to be bigger and better than ever," commented FNHC's PR & Marketing Manager Sam Heggie.

"We're bringing back the 'Glo4Flo' theme, which proved popular last year, but are also adding a special carnival twist in support of the forthcoming Rio Olympics, so ladies can really go above and beyond with jazzing up their outfits for the night and lighting up the streets of Aylesbury on their six or 13-mile walking challenge."

In celebration of the seventh year for the event, FNHC will announce a special offer on the seventh day of each month, leading right up until the walk itself. Keep your eyes peeled or you'll miss out!

Registration costs £18pp to include event entry, a limited edition Midnight Walk t-shirt, refreshments on route, a souvenir medal and well-deserved breakfast on completion of the challenge.

Training tips will also be available for all walkers to download via **www.gemstonewalk.co.uk** and as part of every walker pack.

To sign up as an individual or team, please visit www.gemstonewalk.co.uk or call the fundraising team on 01296 429975. Whether you want to mamba or samba ladies, come and be a part of something special in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Looking to volunteer?

The Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds



WHO ARE WE?

We are part of Rotary International which has more than 34,000 clubs in 200 countries with over 1.2 million members. Our main objective is 'Service above Self' – in the community, in the workplace and around the world. The ideal of 'Service above Self' is shared with all Rotarians.

We aim to contribute to our local communities in some way, and to aid those less fortunate than ourselves. We achieve this by organising practical assistance, and by raising funds for local charities together with other projects. We have a friendly, relaxed, and yet purposeful, approach to everything we do. Both men and women of all cultures and ethnicities can join, and we are not affiliated to any political or religious organisation.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Belonging to Rotary provides members with an opportunity to make a contribution to their own communities and to communities around the world. Members join Rotary for many reasons including personal development, involvement in the community, networking and camaraderie with fellow members. But perhaps one of the most important benefits is the satisfaction gained from making a real difference in the world.

SOME OF OUR PROJECTS

As well as raising money for local charities which include Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, Lindengate, Pace and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, we get involved in many community projects by contributing our time and skills, together with workplace expertise and most importantly we have fun doing so. The photo below shows us painting a fence last year for The Park School in Aylesbury.



INTERESTED?

Then why not come to our **Open Evening on Monday 4th April**. We meet at Foxhills Indoor Bowls Club, Wendover Road, Aylesbury, every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 7.15pm for 7.30pm. You will be most welcome. For more information contact Roger King on **01296 482812** or Robert Kernot on **01296 420923**.



Aylesbury Festival Choir

At the end of November 2015, Aylesbury Festival Choir held a successful concert, featuring the everpopular Fauré 'Requiem' followed by John Rutter's 'Mass of the Children'. For the second piece we were joined by Thame Children's Choir and what a magnificent job they did! We did our usual carol singing in the area and the photo shows some of us at Tesco, Tring Road.

Our next performance will be on 16th April 2016 and will be a celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare. The concert will be a mixture of readings and songs. To get a taste of some of the music, have a look at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nl5gfa4cjdA. The title of the concert will be 'Songs and Sonnets' Shakespeare's World. More details will be on our website aylesburyfestivalchoir.net

Our rehearsals started on 14th January 2016 and are held at Bedgrove Junior School, Ingram Avenue, HP21 9DN. We are always happy to welcome new singers and no auditions are required. Please visit our website for more details, or just turn up (7.00pm on the first day of term) and have a go. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

A not-for-profit support service has recently opened its doors in Aylesbury.

Located on the second floor of the Town Council building in Church Street, Inspire All CIC



will be helping victims of crime to move on with their lives. With a trained psychotherapist – Genovieve Feasey – and well-known local counsellor – Ranjula Takodra – heading up the team this Community Interest Company will be providing free practical support and advice across the community.

Working in partnership with other like-minded organisations our aim is to help victims move from survivors to thrivers using a blend of support techniques designed to meet individual needs. We are delighted to be part of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner's Hub Pilot programme offering free support to the local community.

With the support of the Town Council and Heart of Bucks the team is ready to help all victims of crime. Do visit the website **www.inspire-all.org.uk** to find out more.



Age UK Buckinghamshire, formerly Age Concern Buckinghamshire, has been caring for vulnerable and isolated older people throughout the county for 70 years. All funds raised this year will go towards our Befriending Plus service. This service works to alleviate social isolation and loneliness for older people in Buckinghamshire by providing weekly visits. These visits can make a huge difference to older people who may be frail and without anybody else to turn to.



We are looking for local people to fundraise for us by taking on a challenge in 2016! With the Ultra Challenge Series, you have a choice of five inspiring endurance events like no other, that you can walk, jog, or run in aid of Age UK Buckinghamshire.

The Ultra Challenge Series is back for 2016! Consisting of the Isle of Wight, London 2 Brighton, London 2 Cambridge, South Coast Challenge & the Thames Path Challenges. Endurance challenges open to all, to walk, jog or run – with 100km, 50km and 25km options available!

Whether it's a 25km walk, a testing 50km, or the 100km ultra marathon run or walk – there's a distance for all! These challenges are perfect for people of all fitness levels, offering softer options for beginners and the 'ultras' for those are really going for it, along with those in between!

For more information on these challenges and the costs involved please visit the Ultra Challenge website www.ultrachallenge.com





Senior Lunch Club

Are you living alone in Aylesbury? Would you like to join other people in a friendly ambience while having a delicious and inexpensive lunch?

The Healthy Living Centre is running a Senior Lunch Club every Wednesday at 12 noon in the Community Café. Placed in the heart of Walton Court, The Healthy Living Centre aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in Buckinghamshire.

Senior Lunch Club is an initiative of The Healthy Living Centre to reduce isolation and encourage healthy living for elderly people. We are inviting all, especially those who are elderly, living alone and missing out on regular social contact.

The centre's own Community Café serves healthy hot food ranging from salad, sandwiches, paninis, jacket potatoes, omelettes with a variety of options, weekly roast and curry to delicious cakes. The Café also offers a set lunch menu for just £3.50 to club members.

Everybody is welcome to join the Lunch Club which runs every Wednesday from 12 noon until 2.00pm at The Healthy Living Centre, Walton Court Shopping Centre, Unit 1, Hannon Road, Aylesbury, HP21 8TJ. There is no joining fee, just turn up and join a group of friendly people.

For more information please call **01296 334562** or email us at **info@healthylivingcentre.com**

Come along and enjoy healthy food and good conversation!

Don't forget to make a note in your diary of our St George's Day and Soapbox Derby events. See the posters on the inside front and back covers.

Many people have never heard of a Child Contact Centre.

This maybe because it helps parents, often in crisis, who previously would have used the services of legal aid to help them, but may now have no one to speak to.



Centres are there to help parents whose relationships have broken down, to sort out access to their children. For the non-resident parent, not seeing their children is often very painful, and equally the resident parent may want to ensure contact with the non-resident parent, to keep life as normal as possible for the children.

The Centre provides a place of safety and support where the non-resident parent can have quality time seeing and playing with their children.

Volunteers, under the guidance of a Coordinator, provide safety and support for both parents and children whilst at the Centre. Parents often tell us they don't know what they would do without the Centre, and that it has enabled them to regain their greatest loss, that of not seeing their children.

The service of the Centre is totally free, and parents can self-refer merely by phoning the number below and then completing a form, prior to meeting the Coordinator.

Maybe as a grandparent, friend or neighbour, you know someone who is struggling to get to see their children. Why not mention the Contact Centre to them? You may make a great difference to their life.

For more details call 07722 036873 or visit www.aylesburychildcontactcentre.org

Aylesbury Poppy Appeal

The Chairman, Committee and Aylesbury Branch members of the Royal British Legion would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of Aylesbury and surrounding villages for their generosity during the Poppy Appeal of 2015/16.

The final total raised for the appeal of 2014/15 was in excess of £65,000. This covered a period of 11 months. So far this current appeal has raised £78,345 since 24th October 2015. This is an amazing amount and our branches highest ever. The supermarkets, schools and all volunteer collectors certainly put in an extra effort this year.

We also had the support from the Pop-In Centre in Aylesbury High Street and the staff worked tirelessly for us. Also I believe that the display built by George Lait and his crew of Friars Square certainly helped to increase our collection on the main stand. A very big thank you George.

All the funds raised go to help and support serving personnel, veterans and their families in many different ways.

We are always ready to welcome new members to our branch, with or without a service record, and also people to assist with the collections during the two weeks prior to Remembrance Sunday. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and August) at The Railway Club, California, Aylesbury HP21 8HH at 7.30pm.

For further information please call Barbara Grant on 07973 509174.

Registered Charity No: 219279





The Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally

Last year was another record breaker for us on our second year at Weedon Park, raising circa £20,000. The weather was extremely kind to us which always helps bring out the classic cars and more importantly people. This year's event is taking place on Sunday 15th May.

We had two celebrities attend on the day, Fuzz Townsend (who appears on the TV programme, Car SOS) who chatted to car owners. He will be returning this year. The second celebrity was Isla St Clair who handed out the trophies to the classic vehicle owners who won their class.

All the money raised is carefully handed out by the Game Club Grants Committee to local charities and good causes only. We look forward to

seeing everyone again at what is a great family day out, with trade stands, children's rides, licensed bar, autojumble and a free fun dog show (once entered). Kids under 14 free.

You can see further info on our website www.chilternhillsrally.org.uk or www.facebook.com/chilternhillsrally



Aylesbury Town WI

2015 was an incredible year for all WIs throughout England and Wales celebrating the centenary of the



formation of the WI movement. Aylesbury Town members certainly enjoyed their share of fun culminating in a visit to the Royal Opera House for a special treat – a performance

of the ballet, The Nutcracker. We were very fortunate to secure prime seats at a subsidised price; one of the benefits of being a member. The WI has three key messages:

The WI is here to inspire you - The WI is all about inspiring women. It's a rich source of experiences, knowledge and skills passed down through generations and updated every day.

The WI is everything you want it to be - The WI is naturally diverse. It offers all kinds of opportunities, like attending the ballet and learning new skills. For most women it offers an opportunity to make new friends and have fun.

The WI is what you make of it - The WI comes in all shapes and sizes. We offer women the opportunity to join and be involved in a way that suits them.

In 2016 we will help with the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. Aylesbury Town WI always welcomes visitors. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at Granville Street Church at 7.30pm. The next meeting on 17th March is a celebration for St Patrick. Wear green!

For more details contact our President, Jenny Burton on 01296 615709, email aylesburytownwi@gmail.com or pop into The Works Café, on a Thursday morning where we can be found knitting and nattering!

RSPB Local Group

The RSPB local group was founded in the 1980s and has been in Aylesbury for over 30 years. The group exists to actively support the work of the RSPB in the local community and to involve its members and the wider public in conservation, education and other related activities. We are a group of enthusiastic supporters, not just of bird life, but of all wildlife in and around the Vale.

We hold monthly talks from September to April given by speakers who have a wide knowledge of wildlife around the world. We run coach and car trips to places of interest and this year we will visit Minsmere in March and Pensthorpe in May with a car trip to Blow Downs, Dunstable on 11th April. Some of our members give community and primary school talks and get involved in local events.



Locally the RSPB have a reserve at Otmoor where you can see many different species of birds throughout the year, especially spectacular starling displays in winter. The RSPB has its own website which displays all the relevant details of its work both locally and nationally. Have a look also at the local group sites on Facebook and Twitter to find out what's going on.

You don't need to be a RSPB member to come to the talks or join trips – everyone is welcome. We meet at the Prebendal Farm Community Centre at 7.30pm on the fourth Monday of each month so come along.

For more details contact brian.fisher45@yahoo.co.uk

Looking for meeting room hire?

Town Hall Facilities

The Town Council hires out the Council Chamber for meetings and other similar events, full details can be found here: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-chamber. To check availability of the Council Chamber please contact the Town Council on 01296 425678.

Meet your Councillor



Cllr Mark Willis

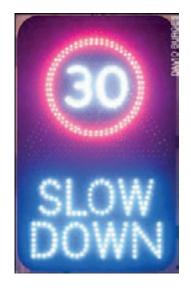
New year and spring are the traditional times of the year that many of us decide to make a change, for some it might be to learn a musical instrument, and others may try something artistic, but like many people Cllr Mark Willis is going to be carrying on with his healthy lifestyle.

"When life deals you a blow then you have two choices, curl up or fight back. When I had a period of ill health I decided that I had to take action, like many people I'm too fat and don't get enough exercise and have a sedentary job, but I'm getting all of those problems under control. I take far more exercise, eat more healthily, and I have joined a fantastic running club with the most supportive members. I'm undertaking more and longer runs, the last one was my first attempt at a half marathon (13.1 miles) raising money for the wonderful people at Carers Bucks, a brilliant organisation who really support our carers young and old."

Cllr Willis is also involved in a new venture for the town: "On 11th September this year there will be the first Two Arms on Two Legs half marathon. This will start at Oakfield Park and follow the canal to Wendover. There will also be a 10K and a family fun run. This is being organised by my running club, On The Run and the Canal and Rivers Trust and will be a fantastic addition to our town. Running has given me so much – I've made wonderful friends and it has really helped my health – so try running for your health. There are many running clubs apart from On The Run – try Parkrun, a free timed 5K run every Saturday at 9.00am at Meadowcroft. Most importantly I'll see you on the start line of the Two Arms on Two Legs."

Please do contact me via my Councillor page, if I can be of any assistance via the ATC website.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs



The Town Council has recognised that speeding in Aylesbury can be a problem and a matter of concern to local residents and so has recently acquired two MVAS units through the Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum.

These units are very familiar to modernday road users and are deployed to remind and educate drivers as to the

importance of sticking to the speed limit in urban areas.

The Council has also agreed to purchase a third unit and all three will be situated at various locations throughout the town, on a rota basis.

The first two units are already in use and have initially been deployed at locations in the north of the town in Quarrendon ward.

Whilst the units do not incorporate any cameras they do provide useful data relating to speeding vehicles which can be used to form the evidential basis for potential provision of a speed camera at any specific location.

ATC invites your comments and correspondence... we'd love to hear from you!







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

Please do give us your name and contact details so that we can reply to you.

Art & Leisure

What's on at Bucks County Museum

Little Pieces of Heaven

13 February - 18 June

A celebration of small religious finds from the careless and the fearful. Lost and buried objects acquired by the County Museum under Portable Antiquities legislation throwing new light on the Middle Ages. **FREE ENTRY.**

Historic Views of Buckinghamshire

27 February - 2 July

A display of historic views of Bucks drawn from the rarely seen collections of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. The exhibition is accompanied by a beautifully illustrated book entitled 'Historic Views of Buckinghamshire' comprising fifty views of the County many of which feature in the display. **FREE ENTRY.**

Concert: John Aubrey - Brief Lives

Saturday 19 March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
A selection of entertaining extracts from John
Aubrey's book of Brief Lives interspersed with
musical interludes from the times. Performance by
Alan Hamilton and Zachary Taylor, accompanied by
the Galliard Recorder Band. Tickets £10 per person.
Booking essential.

The Art of Islam Festival

26 March - 24 September

A major exhibition celebrating the achievements of Islamic civilisation featuring the largest display of Islamic art ever seen in public in the county or anywhere in the South East outside the great museums. Treasures on display include carpets,





paintings, furniture, metalwork, jewellery and calligraphy from across Asia – as well as one of the largest collections of Qur'ans in the country. Exhibits borrowed from the British Museum, Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, the Horniman Museum in London and from a major private collection. As part of the Festival more than 100 events are proposed in Aylesbury, Chesham, High Wycombe and Milton Keynes, and include opportunities for visitors to experience Islamic literature, poetry, ceramics, painting, music, calligraphy and textiles. **FREE ENTRY** to exhibition.

New Light on the Romano-British countryside: current results from the Roman Rural Settlement Project

21 April, 6.30pm – 8.00pm Lecture by Dr Alex Smith, University of Reading. £7.50; free refreshments during short interval. Part of the County Museum Winter lecture series. Booking essential.

For more information or to book call **01296 331441** or visit **www.buckscountymuseum.org**Bucks County Museum and Roald Dahl Children's
Gallery, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP

Chilterns MS Centre Art Exhibition



The Chilterns MS Centre will be transformed from a hub of treatment and therapy for people within the local community with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) to a bustling Art Gallery on the **12th and 13th March**.

In its 11th year, the exhibition is recognised as an important date in the diary in the Arts community. Last year, the event was widely acclaimed as the best yet and this is not surprising in view of the high quality of the art on display and hundreds of visitors travelled from Bucks, neighbouring counties and London. This year the exhibition will feature over 100 professional and amateur artists across an even wider range of media including painting, photographs, sculpture, glass and jewellery.



Please come along to browse, possibly buy and definitely enjoy the delicious homemade cakes on offer with tea or coffee. Saturday 12th March 10.00am to 6.00pm and Sunday 13th March 11.00am to 4.00pm. All welcome. www.chilternsmscentre.org



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.



Harry Maishman

Harry Maishman, a 16 year-old senior member of the Maxwell Swim Club, was awarded a £1000 sports grant to assist in his development in National Swimming competitions across the country.

With a gruelling eighteen hour per week training schedule Harry hopes that within the next couple of years he'll be in the European Junior Championships.

Monday Contact Club

A grant of £877 from Aylesbury Town Council has enabled the Monday Contact Club members to go on a Christmas outing to Wickstead Park for lunch and entertainment.

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

A team of dedicated volunteers work exceptionally hard to provide a caring and kind environment for their members.



Inspire All CIC

Inspire All CIC are a new team who are committed and passionate about creating a positive environment in which survivors of abuse, often from ethnic minority groups, can receive help to rebuild fulfilling lives out of the shadow of abuse at which they have suffered.

The £2000 grant from Aylesbury Town Council will help to fund vital resources for the team of volunteers at Inspire All CIC.

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



Aylesbury Town Council Ward Map

Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Anders Christensen





Cllr Graham Moore

Ward: Central





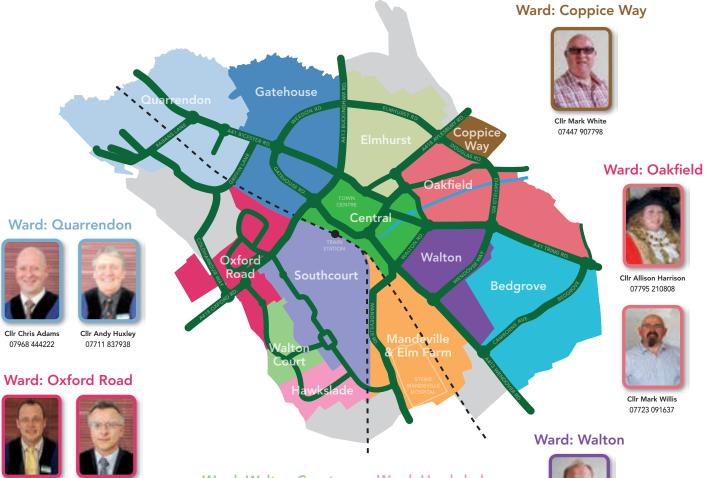
Cllr Edward Sims

Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Susan Morgan







07958 083519

Cllr Mike Smith 07854 178012

Ward: Walton Court



07958 423083

Ward: Hawkslade



Cllr Brian Adams

Cllr Bill Chapple OBE 07702 031712

Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Peter Agoro 07548 952762



07858 973643

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



01296 426814



07887 685345



Cllr Denise Summers 01296 424903

Ward: Bedgrove



01296 434123



Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts 07595 178660



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
- Devolved Services grass cutting, tree works etc.
- Support Twinning of Aylesbury with Bourg-en-Bresse
- A programme of events throughout the year such as Parklife, Tudor Fayre, 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**

AVDC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

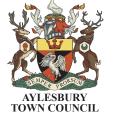
- Collection of Council Tax and business rates
- Household recycling and waste disposal
- Local planning and building regulations
- Public car parks
- Licensing and Environmental Health
- Leisure Services (including Aqua Vale and all parks)
- Award of grants to local groups and charities

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**

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**





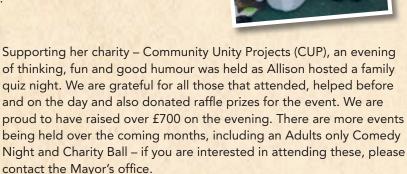
ATC News

Town Mayor's Update

The last few months of 2015 were a busy time for the Mayor of Aylesbury, Cllr Allison Harrison, including her own wedding, which hit the press headlines as she was the first Mayor of Aylesbury to 'tie the knot' in office, on the 7th November, but she was back in her civic role the very next day, attending the Remembrance Service in Market Square.

Allison was delighted to be invited to many community and charity events, such as meeting the Asian Elderly Group for lunch and prayers at the Multicultural Centre, supporting Cruse Bereavement Care at their fundraising race night, as well as meeting the residents and staff at a number of Residential Care homes. Allison was also fortunate to visit RAF Halton on their Graduation parade day, and visited local schools to partake in their morning assemblies.

Christmas festivities started in early November, as Allison set off around 50 dressed up Santa's on their annual Santa Dash Family Fun Run through the town, organised by Rachel Hine in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice. Allison also joined in the fun at the Christmas lights switch-on and Santa Parade.



Into December and with Christmas festivities in full swing, Allison attended many Christmas activities and services. We were delighted that a number of students from Bourg-en-Bresse visited the mayor's parlour and some were able to attend the Mayor's Civic Christmas Carol Service, which was also attended by many local residents and visiting dignitaries. With the very generous help from Aylesbury Lions, it was an evening of traditional hymns and readings and also included two acts performed by CUP.

One of the highlights of the Mayoral year so far, was the opportunity to spend the day with the Staff and Officers at Aylesbury's Thames Valley Police station, being able to participate in the day to day running of the local station and having the opportunity to go out on the road with some of the officers in their daily duties.

There are so many people to thank during the course of 2015, for their support, generosity and friendship. Allison has indeed been privileged to have been invited by so many groups, individuals and organisations and looks forward to attending many more events over the coming months.







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



Bedgrove Junior School

The children at Bedgrove Junior School have enjoyed their studies during the Autumn Term. Year 6 have been looking at how Aylesbury has changed over the years. They have enjoyed looking at images from the past, of the town centre and also of Jansel Square in Bedgrove, to see how these areas have developed.

As part of this topic, the Mayor of Aylesbury came to talk to the children about her role in the town. She answered questions and admired some of the work the children had been doing, including their homework to find out about the history of Aylesbury and Buckinghamshire through buildings, education or transport. One

child, Harry Turner, took pictures of St Mary's church in Aylesbury and looked at how it has changed over the years. He then built a model of the church using layers of cardboard.



The younger children have had history 'brought to life' through themed days and visits. The Year 3 children have been learning about ancient Egypt all term and have visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford where they listened to a talk from one of the curators and were able to look at artefacts. They ended the term with a whole day on Ancient Egypt, dressed as pharaohs and mummies. They took part in many exciting activities including headdress making and playing senet.



The Year 4 children ended their history topic on the Mayans with a themed day and a visit from The Freshwater Theatre Company, who led workshops for the children.

Bearbrook and Elmhurst Early Years Excellence Hub

Last year was an exciting time at the Early Years Excellence Hub we:

- Celebrated our first birthday with a funpacked party at the children's centre
- Had a great day at the Bucks County Show meeting new people
- Made some new friends at our Pop Up sessions in Friars Square, Fairford Leys and Watermead
- Supported families to complete school applications
- Ended the term with two snow-filled Christmas parties!

One of our biggest successes was that due to very generous donations by users of the hub, we were able to donate a large number of selection boxes and advent calendars to local families.

for you!

The Grandparents' Group which runs on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am – 11.45am celebrated its fifth birthday in September. This is one of our most popular sessions and the grandparents are always looking to welcome new grandparents and grandchildren so if you are a grandparent who looks after your grandchild(ren) come along – this is the group

We are now looking ahead to 2016 and have a number of new services starting which we are very excited about including Bounce and Rhyme and Budget Brunches. We are always keen to enhance the support that we offer families so if you have ideas for services or think you could make a difference to local families, please contact the hub about joining our Advisory Board. www.eyeh.org or 01296 437618.



Aylesbury High School Community Christmas Party

On Monday 14th December Year 12 students put on a Christmas party for some of our elderly neighbours. Our visitors were welcomed by the AHS string quartet and then entertained by a Christmas quiz and a selection of acts, including Year 7 Sarah Smethurst on her trumpet and a 1950s style carol sing-a-long led by Year 12s Cait Boon and Grace Dunn. They then tucked into mince pies and Christmas cake.

A wonderful team of Year 12 students worked very hard to decorate the hall, organise acts, make sandwiches, entertain our visitors and clear up afterwards! The quests thoroughly enjoyed the whole event.





Have Fun and Feel Fab with new Active Vale activities

This spring will see new opportunities for residents across the Vale to get fit while having fun. Whether you're looking for a way of de-stressing after a busy day, want to challenge yourself, or you just fancy making some new friends, the Active Vale project, which is particularly aimed at girls and women, offers a range of enjoyable activities in a friendly environment.



Swimming is the first activity kicking off the Active Vale calendar with a splash and includes

everything from girls-only lessons to 'swim fit', which allows you to push yourself with different aqua challenges tailored to you.

After Easter, you can look forward to increasing your gym confidence with friendly taster events and lunchtime sessions, or why not take to the great outdoors with activities including Nordic Walking, beginner running, and lunchtime cycling?

Active Vale activities are taking place at a range of times and locations, in and around Aylesbury, at affordable prices. Don't delay! Just visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/active-vale to find something that suits you and your lifestyle. Or get in touch on Twitter (@aylesburyvale #ActiveVale) or Facebook (AylesburyVale).

Active Vale, which is being run by Aylesbury Vale District Council and sponsored by Sport England, is about women and girls supporting each other to get moving, to try something new and have fun doing it! We're also looking for Active Vale Champions.

Please email activevale@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk if you'd like to get involved. And don't forget to encourage your friends, neighbours, colleagues and communities to get involved too!

Fresh Start for New Runner Training for 2016 Canal Half Marathon

How many times have you set a New Year's resolution to get fit, only to find that with no time to exercise and temptation getting in the way of healthy eating, your plans are a distant memory by February?

For Sarah Brown from the Canal & River Trust, New Year's resolutions don't get bigger than this. Sarah, who works for the charity that cares for the Grand Union Canal in Aylesbury, is planning to get fit in 2016 by training for the 'Two Arms on Two Legs' half marathon along the waterways to be held in September from scratch.

Sarah says: "I desperately needed to turn over a new leaf so I decided to sign up for a half marathon along the Aylesbury and Wendover Arms of the canal... I must be crazy! The event isn't until the 11th September so I know I have months to train but, to be honest, I am slightly dreading it. I haven't run since school and even then I didn't really enjoy it.

My idea of exercise is walking along the towpath and finding a nice pub for some food and drink rather than going for a jog. I'm really starting from scratch in terms of fitness but I am looking forward to getting in shape and becoming fitter. I am determined to finish the run and if I can do this, then you can too.

The best things about training along the canal is that it's a free way to exercise, you don't need to pay for a gym membership and you get out in the fresh air at the same time.

I'll be posting updates on how my training is going so you can follow my progress by visiting the Canal & River Trust website and searching for 'Two Arms on Two Legs'. All the information you need to take part can be found here to".

The event is being organised by the Canal & River Trust and Aylesbury based running club, On the Run, and involves a 10k race, a family fun run as well as the half marathon. On the Run can provide training advice and tips on how to reach your running goals and caters from complete beginners to experienced athletes.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk www.ontherun.me.uk

Activities for Young People



Research Project to reach the needs of the Young People in Aylesbury!

Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ run the Youth Forum project that works with Buckinghamshire County Council to allow young people to help their community and have a voice in the local area.

The Greater Aylesbury Youth Forum has been working on a research project over the last few months, which looks at the needs and concerns for the young people in Aylesbury.

The aim of this project is to see what the overall concerns are and to look at what the Youth Forum can do to give young people in Aylesbury more opportunities and to fulfil their overall needs.

We have collected responses from at least seventy young people around Aylesbury and have been running interviews throughout the autumn in 2015 with many professionals including the police, the town Mayor, youth workers and others in the area to see what their thoughts are.

We're looking forward to putting all the responses together and seeing what the Forum can do to reach the young people in Aylesbury.

All results will be displayed on the Youth Forum website along with what the Youth Forum intend to do in 2016, so watch this space:

www.youthforum.co.uk







Companies are getting ready for the Area Finals

The Young Enterprise Company Programme is about giving young people recognised employability skills, supporting them to enter the job market.

While those involved are mainly schools, this year we welcome a YE Company from Aylesbury Prison. Having now joined the programme they are working hard to catch up. The young people in Aylesbury Prison have named their company Precision and will be participating in the programme like everyone else with the exception of some understandable restrictions given their legal status.

As a group they are optimistic the programme will provide them with recognised skills and knowledge to help them get jobs when they are released. The Centre Lead for the prison views the programme as a much needed activity towards their rehabilitation into society.

All the young people are now on the final straight having set up and managed their company for several months. They will be gearing up to compete in the Area Finals on the 21st April while also continuing to trade. There they will be judged on three key components, Presentations, Trade Stands and Company Reports by judges selected from a cross section of Business People in the Aylesbury Area.

The programme relies on dedication of the teachers and the expertise of our volunteer Business Advisers, without whom none of this would be possible.

This year in order to raise further much needed funding, the Young Enterprise Aylesbury Board has registered as a good cause with Aylesbury Vale lottery, www.valelottery.co.uk. This is a opportunity for more people in Aylesbury to support the programme.

For more information contact Jackie Bryant, YE Manager on **07834 6060230** or email **jackie.bryant@y-e.org.uk**

