

AYLESBURY TOWN matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
Issue Forty Eight • Published Quarterly
March to May 2018



Serving the people of Aylesbury



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



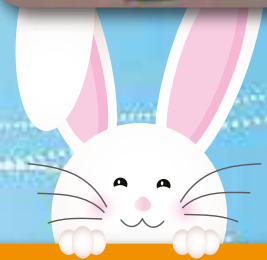
Jonathan Page *play* Centre

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB & HOLIDAY PLAYSCHEMES

Easter Playscheme 3 – 13 April 2018



Two weeks bursting with fun packed activities and games focusing on Easter and spring. Our friendly team have planned lots of great craft activities and games ranging from Spring Time Garlands and Toilet Roll Frogs, ladybird stones to bunny hop races and a disco. On the last day of Playscheme we will be going on a bug hunt and watch how Mother Nature is waking from her winter sleep and getting ready for the year ahead.



HOURS AND PRICES (per child, per day)

8am-6.30pm £30 8am-3.30pm £22.50 8am-12.30pm £16 12.30pm-5pm £16

Playscheme is for all children from the age of 4 up to their 13th birthday

To make a booking please visit our website or Facebook page and click on **BOOK ONLINE** or call the Centre on **01296 336413**

We can accept childcare vouchers as payment

Jonathan Page Play Centre · 147 Meadowcroft · Aylesbury · HP19 9HH
01296 336413 · email: jpplaycentre@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/jppc

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Welcome Note

“ A warm welcome to our first issue of Aylesbury Town Matters in 2018. I hope you all had a good start to the New Year. Even though it is already a few months ago I would like to thank everyone who came to our Festive Family Fun, despite the snow and our rescheduled Carolfest events in December. It was lovely to see the children play in the snow and come into town on their sledges.

The staff at the Town Council are already busy preparing another spectacular year of Free Community Events. We kick off the event's year with St George's Celebrations and the Annual Scout's Parade on 22 April in Market Square. For more information see our handy pull out guide on page 4 which lists all of our event details throughout the year.

On Sunday 20 May we welcome RAF Halton for the Freedom Parade. RAF Halton was granted the Freedom of Entry into Aylesbury back in 1956. A Freedom of Entry is the highest civic honour that can be bestowed on a military unit. RAF Halton will be exercising their 'Freedom to march through the town with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying' and we hope to welcome many residents to see this spectacular march through the High Street and Market Square.

With the weather getting warmer and the days getting longer it is time to start thinking about getting the garden ready for the summer. Why not enter our Annual Aylesbury in Bloom Garden competition? Registration opens at the end of March and is open to all residents within our Parish.

This also brings me on to our allotment sites, which are in various locations across Aylesbury. We do have availability at some of our sites and have also created some smaller plots for those who wish to trial allotmenting. If you are interested please contact the office and our Allotment Officer will be delighted to help.

Our Jonathan Page Play Centre team have been busy with After School Club and Christmas Playscheme in the last few months. They have already planned lots of exciting and fun activities for the next two Playschemes, which take place during the Easter Holidays and May Half Term. More information is available on page 8.

You may have seen our team recently in your area with new machinery cleaning the silt from the kerbside. This should help stop the weeds. The team will be going around all of Aylesbury, like they do with the grass cutting and we will see a massive reduction in the weed growth.

Don't forget to check out the Community News and Arts & Leisure sections with great information about local charities, organisations and events, including some fantastic concerts, exhibitions and workshops that are coming up. Please don't forget that we love to hear your feedback and comments. You can contact your ward councillors directly (see page 20 for contact details) or send your email or letter to the office and we will respond to you.

I wish you all the very best for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you at our events. ”

With best wishes,

Councillor Mike Smith
Leader of Aylesbury Town Council

Aylesbury is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse



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www.bpdesigns.co.uk

Events Guide 2018

FREE ST GEORGE'S CELEBRATION FUN DAY AND SCOUT PARADE

**Sunday 22 April, Market Square, 11am – 4pm
Parade at 2.45pm**

A free family fun day in celebration of England's patron Saint George with entertainment, interactive demonstrations, craft, games and activities themed around 'England's Traditions'. Featuring St George on horseback and a special production of Twelfth Night by the Queens Park Arts Centre.

FREE FREEDOM PARADE

Sunday 20 May, Market Square. Time TBC

This is a Civic event, in association with RAF Halton, featuring a formal parade and inspection of the troops, with the hope of an RAF Flypast. More details on our Facebook page as they are confirmed.

FREE AYLESBURY'S SOAPBOX DERBY ON FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 17 June, Whitehill Park, 11am – 4pm

Soapbox Races and family entertainment including music, go-karts, mega slide, swing boats, face painting and crafts. If you'd like to take part, please contact us to register. 30 spaces available.

FREE AYLESBURY ON SEA

Sunday 1 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.

FREE PARKLIFE WEEKEND

Saturday 25 August & Sunday 26 August, Vale Park

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

FREE Live in the Park

Saturday 25 August, Vale Park, 12 noon – 9.30pm

An entire day of continuous live music and family entertainment with music, bands, fun fair and lots of free family fun, including a Community Involvement Area and Market Stalls. Refreshments are available to purchase.

FREE Stars in the Park

Saturday 25 August, Vale Park, 10.15pm – 11.30pm

Join the amateur experts from UKAstronomy to find out more about the stars, planets and solar system.

FREE Church in the Park

Sunday 26 August, Vale Park, 10.30am – 12 noon

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

FREE Banquet in the Park

Sunday 26 August, Vale Park, 12 noon – 4pm

Aylesbury Church Network will be providing a multi-cultural Banquet in the Park. Come and enjoy foods and cultural experiences from around the world, provided for you by worshippers from within our community.

FREE Proms in the Park

Sunday 26 August, Vale Park, 7.15pm – 9.30pm

Arrive with your picnic, friends and flags from 6.30pm for a traditional open air proms concert. The weekend finishes with a fantastic FIREWORK display at 9.30pm.

FREE HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September, Town Centre, all day.

ATC co-ordinate all of the free activities and open locations across the town. Providing maps and booking information for tours.

FREE TUDOR FAYRE

Sunday 9 September, Bucks County Museum, 11am – 4pm

Featuring a wide variety of Tudor themed activities, entertainment, crafts and games taking place in Bucks County Museum.

WALKING PLAY

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November, Town Centre

Mixing fact and fiction, bringing local stories and buildings to life with this interactive walking play around the old streets of Aylesbury. Tickets £5 adults or £15 for a family ticket (2+2).

FREE FINDING JOY

November (date TBC), Waterside Theatre

Collaborative event with the Waterside Theatre, ATC and Bucks CCG to bring a unique presentation, encompassing all aspects of life surrounding Dementia. Tickets are free and available by contacting us.

FREE MAYOR'S CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 2 December, St Mary's Church, 5.30pm

Join the Mayor, Town Councillors and invited dignitaries at this Civic carol service with traditional lessons and carols in a formal setting.

FREE FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

Sunday 9 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.

FREE CAROLFEST

Sunday 9 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.

Keep an eye on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for up-to-date events information

The Queens Park Arts Centre will be at each of our family events providing crafts and activities – come and see them for a taster of what they do.





ATC Events 2018

With spring in the air and the promise of long, warm, sunny days around the corner, the events team are busy putting plans in place to make 2018's events even better and more engaging than in 2017. Our events remain entirely free of charge and we continue to make changes to the programme, to keep you and your family entertained year-on-year. If you have any suggestions on how we could improve things further for you, then please do contact us.

2018 will be a jam packed year, so do cut out and keep the handy events guide on the previous page. Put the dates in your diary and the page on the fridge, to be sure you don't miss out on all of the free fun our fabulous town has to offer.

Before we launch into 2018, here's a quick look back at the end of 2017.

Who remembers the snow on 10 December? We certainly do, for this was the day that the events team and a dedicated troop of suppliers, battled all odds to keep Festive Family Fun running. Some of the entertainment and activities couldn't make it through the snow, but those who braved the elements made our pantomime themed event, a feast of colour and imagination. Carolfest was postponed until the following Friday evening, to allow safe access to St Mary's Church – thank you to all those who came and sang along with the traditional carols.

This year's **St George's Day** event introduces an 'England's Traditions' theme, showcasing a variety of skills, crafts and traditions, including crochet, willow weaving, lace making, a cricket simulator and archery. You'll find St George on a fine white steed and a dragon that is more sweet than scary. The Queens Park Arts Centre will be showcasing a condensed version of Twelfth Night, with more activities to be confirmed closer to the event. The annual Scout parade leaves Market Square at 2.45pm led by the Amersham Marching Band. This all takes place in Market Square from 11am – 4pm on Sunday 22 April.

Registrations are now open to take part in our fourth **Soapbox Derby** which takes place in Whitehill Park, so if you've thought about racing, why not make 2018 the year you give it a go? The fun starts at 11am, with the first timed race at approx. 11.30am. If you are not taking part you can always come and watch the races and enjoy the family entertainment including music with DJ Dan Blaze, go-karts, mega slide, little tikes ride-ons, swing boats and face painting. With thanks to Rogue Racing and the Queens Park Arts Centre who help to make the day possible. BBQ, coffee, cakes, cold drinks and ice cream from The Works are available to purchase at the event, or you are very welcome to bring a picnic. Limited parking is available, close to the event, so we encourage you to use the town centre car parks and walk the short distance to the park.

If you would like to be involved in our events in any way – volunteering, sponsorship, entertaining or purely to let us know your opinion, please get in touch.

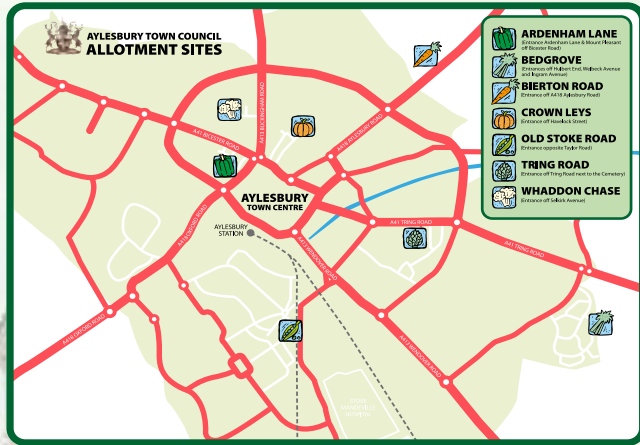
The best way to keep up-to-date with all of the events developments is to Like and Follow us on Facebook @aylesburytc

 www.facebook.com/aylesburytc



Environment

Allotments



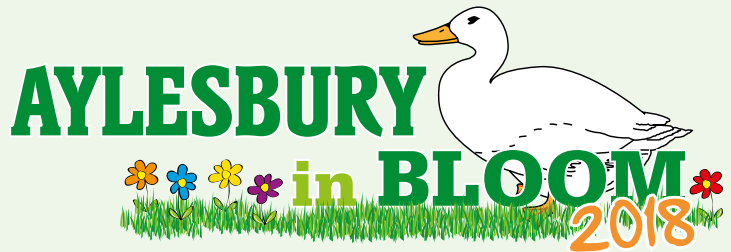
Aylesbury Town Council manages seven allotment sites in Aylesbury; Ardenham Lane, Bierton Road, Bedgrove, Crown Leys, Old Stoke Road, Tring Road and Whaddon Chase – as shown on the map. Even though we have over 600 plots, we still have waiting lists with some sites proving more popular than others!

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 and also new friendships. 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 us a call on **01296 425678** or email I.beaty@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



It is that time of year again to start thinking about getting your garden, ready for the spring/summer time. Why not get some recognition for your efforts in the garden by entering our Annual Garden competition?

A **FREE** competition which is open to all residents, organisations, businesses and schools in the Parish of Aylesbury Town, with many different categories to suit all gardens and gardeners, of every age. The competition is judged by some of the best gardening enthusiasts in town. If you would like some inspiration for your garden visit our Aylesbury in Bloom Facebook page, which shows different style gardens ranging from small to large, stone to container or laid to lawn.



Application forms will be available from 1 March on our website or you can call us on **01296 425678** or email us at info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk and we will send the application and judging criteria to you.

The closing date for applications is Friday 15 June 2018 and judging will take place throughout June, July and August with the school awards taking place in July and all other awards taking place in September. We would like to thank Michael Anthony Estate Agents for sponsoring this event.

Stonham's 'Bearbrook Green Fingers'

'Bearbrook Green Fingers' are a group of volunteer gardeners who all live at the supported housing service in Aylesbury, provided by Home Group. This is the fourth year that they have entered the 'It's your Neighbourhood' community initiative run by Britain in Bloom and were awarded an 'Improving Level' showing that real progress is being made in their garden.

Everything that is planned and worked on is all down to people who want to improve their outside space, and their own wellbeing as well as seeing their ideas come to life. The garden is a great place to have a chat about life's problems surrounded by nature, making a home for wildlife is an added bonus, and starting plans for the future. It is well known that gardening has a positive effect on people, but it is also great to see how well your efforts are received by others who see the results in bloom.

There is now a small workshop making bird boxes, bird tables, hedgehog hotels and other homes for wildlife all made from donated off cuts of wood and old pallets. In the near future these will be donated to causes around Aylesbury. The volunteers are also in the process of writing letters to ask local businesses for help in achieving this. It is with justified pride that the clients who live at Bearbrook Place have proven that with goodwill and encouragement great things can be achieved which has inspired others to pick up a trowel.

Local RSPB Group

The Aylesbury Local RSPB Group actively supports the work of the RSPB through a series of regular monthly indoor meetings and occasional coach and car trips. We visit RSPB nature reserves and other sites of interest in the area. We welcome all with an interest in nature and conservation to join us and help make a difference for birds and wildlife.

Our monthly meetings and talks are held at the Prebendal Farm Community Centre, Fowler Road, Aylesbury, HP19 7QW. You do not need to be a RSPB member, all are welcome to join our talks, coach and car trips. All talks start at 7.30pm and upcoming events include Monday 23 April, 'Action in Nature' by Mike Wilkes. Entry to the talks is £3.00 for group members or £4.50 for visitors, to include refreshments.

We also have two group coach trips on 22 April to RSPB Rainham Marshes, Essex and 20 May to RSPB Lakenheath Fen, Suffolk. Coach trips cost £10, free entry to reserves for RSPB members, small entry fee otherwise. For more details visit our website www.rspb.org.uk/groups/aylesbury



Buckinghamshire Owl and Raptor Group (BORG)

BORG work throughout Buckinghamshire to protect and encourage box dwelling birds of prey, and rely on sponsorship and donations, both from businesses and the general public, to fund this work. During 2017 we re-launched our website, established two new initiatives 'Friends of BORG' and our Twitter account (follow us on @Borg_Owl_Raptor), attended various events (including the Winslow Show, Bucks County Show and College Lake) and gave presentations to groups including AVDC, all of which led to an increase in awareness from the general public and support from landowners. We also built and installed 50 new boxes.



As part of our monitoring we submitted over 130 nest records to the British Trust for Ornithology – our highest ever number – together with 221 ringing records, of which 23 were adult birds, 6 re-trapped birds and 192 chicks. 2017 was a successful year for our Barn Owl and Tawny Owl populations, but not so for Little Owls and Kestrels. We will therefore be aiming to increase our support for these species in 2018. The early months of 2018 will see our volunteers checking boxes, to see which are in need of repair or replacement, and undertaking site assessments. Site assessments vary immensely, but are usually very positive and often lead to an increased workload for our volunteers.

With your help and support we will continue working for a better future for our owls and raptors throughout Buckinghamshire. If you would like to get involved, or support our work please contact us via our website www.giveahoot.org.uk for more information.



It's been a busy few months here at the Jonathan Page Play Centre packed full of fun and exciting activities.

In the run up to Christmas we were busy making Christmas Cards for our families as well as tree decorations and we had a right laugh singing and dancing along to our favourite Christmas tunes. If you came to town to watch Santa's Parade at the end of November you may have seen us all dressed up as snowmen and two of us had the opportunity to ride on the donkeys. We all had a great time and so much fun.

During our Christmas Playscheme we had a special visit from Santa. We asked him lots of questions to try and find out how he manages to see all the children in the world in one night. We even asked him if he had a 'Force' but he kept tight lipped about it all. Guess we won't find out for a long time.

Did you find one of our 'Bucks Rocks' stones? During After School Club we painted and varnished lots of stones, which we hid all over Aylesbury. If you did find one of our rainbow stones please let us know by contacting us on our Facebook page [@jpplaycentre](#).

As always we enjoyed running around in our amazing outdoor area, playing football, riding on the go-karts and lots of other games.

We now have a new Snug Room, which we helped create. It is a great place to hang out and chat with friends, read a book, play games or just chill.

The next Playschemes are coming up soon and the team of playworkers have been busy planning lots of exciting and fun activities. If you would like to join us the next one is the **Easter Playscheme from 3 – 13 April 2018**. It is two weeks bursting with activities and games focusing on Easter and spring. On the last day of Playscheme we will be going on a bug hunt and watch how Mother Nature is waking from her winter sleep and getting ready for the year ahead.

Magic is in the air during our **May Half Term Playscheme from 29 May – 1 June**. The highlight of the week will be a Great Magic Show where everyone performs their tricks, which they learnt during the week in front of an audience and a special guest.

If the weather is okay, we can always play outdoors, using the go-kart track and climbing frames or stay indoors where we can choose from a great variety of toys and games.

The Playscheme is open to all children from the age of 4 up to their 13th birthday. To book a session at any of the Playschemes and for more information please visit the website www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/jppc or call us on **01296 336413**.

We are very much looking forward to more fun and action packed Playschemes.



Dementia Awareness in our Community for 2018

Visit to Turnfurlong School

Little did we know that our Dementia Champion (Benedicta Lasoye) would have had such a busy start to 2018. Continuing our work to create a Dementia Friendly town Benedicta met with Headteacher, Mrs Jo Divers and the 361 pupils from Turnfurlong Junior School to talk about Dementia.



Benedicta said, "I was amazed at the engagement of the pupils right from the start. A willingness and keenness to support our community shone throughout each session. Great to see such enthusiasm. I am sure they all have taken something away from the workshops and shared it with friends and family."

One of the things that came to light was the social actions some of the pupils said they would carry out which included... visiting their grandparents more and talking to them... helping their neighbour take their bins out... look through old photos... not

to ask too many (open) questions... not to laugh at someone who looks different to them...

To know that these are some of the thoughts from our young people really makes us proud of our community and their pledge to support our Dementia Friendly campaign. **Well done and thank you Turnfurlong Junior School.**

If you would like to find out more about the Dementia Friends Information Session or be part of the Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance, email our Dementia Champion on b.lasoye@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Dementia Alliance Update



DAA

Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance

Our Town Dementia Action Alliance continues its work with businesses, groups and charities to deliver more dementia friendly social actions. Our newest member from the Alliance is Active Minds who have joined the Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance with the intention to better connect with communities and continue to grow their understanding. Active Minds Head of Design, Alice Osborne recently moved to Aylesbury and soon highlighted the Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance as an important partner, she explains: "Based in London joining a local Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) has enabled Active Minds to connect with a rural community and meet more people in earlier stages of dementia who are living at home. It's given me the chance to connect with wider DAA networks to discover local organisations and charities."

For more information about Active Minds please head to www.active-minds.org. If you care for someone with Dementia, become part of Active Minds' Carers network and email us on alice@active-minds.org

Dear Mike Smith,

Correspondence



I received the new edition of ATM recently. It's beautiful. We love reading it! Even my son (aged 9) finds it easy to read and very informative. Thank you so much for bringing out this quarterly magazine in such a lovely format!

We moved to Aylesbury over three years ago and have been impressed with the town's close-knit yet very welcoming community. We have attended many events organised by ATC such as Soapbox Derby, Play in the Park, Christmas Light switch-on, Roald Dahl Festival, Parklife weekend and many more. Each event has been colourful, fun-filled, friendly and successful. We always look forward to something happening in the town centre every other weekend :)

I would like to congratulate ATC on all its community initiatives. It has really fostered a strong community feel (like a small village) in a town which is growing rapidly! Well done ATC! Please accept our sincere thanks for your team's efforts.

Kind regards, Santosh Kirve
Councillor, Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

Community News & Events



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

This magazine is delivered to every household in 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.



Forces Support Shop

Forces Support was launched in 2010 to help injured services personnel and their families. We have some forty charity shops throughout England, dedicated to raising funds for this important cause.

The Aylesbury branch, located in Fairford Leys, is now under new management and open seven days a week, 9am to 5pm.

We have a large store where you can find, well, everything, from furniture (can deliver and collect large donated items) and electricals (PAT tested on-site) to books, DVDs, clothes, toys and bric-a-brac. It's something of an Aladdin's cave with friendly staff, a kids' play area and VERY competitive prices, as our regulars will confirm!

We want to invite new customers to come in for a look around. We are also looking for more volunteers – if you wish we can offer training on the till and PAT testing (optional). Check us out at:

**Forces Support, 60 Wedgewood Street, Fairford Leys
Aylesbury HP19 7HL Tel 01296 393436** Charity No. 1157531



Aylesbury Homeless Action Group

Homelessness is a high profile issue within the national media. However, within Aylesbury Vale it is an issue that can easily be overlooked. 'Hidden homelessness' remains a real issue for people. There are a number of people within our community who are sofa surfing, sleeping in vehicles, sheds, disused buildings and offices. These people rarely make the headlines.

Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG) is a local charity situated in the heart of Aylesbury. We provide housing advice and support to any person over the age of 18 years (with non-dependents) who is homeless, facing homelessness or vulnerably housed.

This is achieved through supporting people to access safe, affordable housing, address any underlying issues and to motivate them towards independent living. AHAG provides a number of different services within Aylesbury Vale. We offer a number of local outreach drop-ins within the town. We also operate from a central office to provide further one-to-one support with a specialised case worker.

AHAG offers a range of interventions for those people with a housing need. These include basic services such as ID, postal address, laundry facilities and access to healthcare. We also provide more specialised services such as assistance to appropriate housing, benefits, budgeting, employment support and on-going tenancy support. Within the past year AHAG have supported 238 people who have experienced a housing crisis.

If you would like further information please contact us on **01296 435026** or visit our website on www.ahag.org.uk
Karen Warner, Operations Manager

Looking for meeting room hire?

Town Hall Facilities

The Town Council hires out the Council Chamber and smaller meeting rooms for meetings and other similar events. Full details can be found on our website: www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-chamber

To check availability please contact the Town Council on **01296 425678**.

Chiltern & District Hard of Hearing Club

Halifax House, Applefield, Little Chalfont HP7 9NG

Chiltern & District Hard of Hearing Club is a social and information sharing environment. Members come from Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville, Marlow, The Chalfonts, Amersham and Chesham. The club welcomes those who either wear hearing aid(s), or do not, but struggle to hear in different situations or individuals not helped by amplification.

It is a friendly group and they do all in their power to ensure all can hear or lipread speakers. Most members have lost their hearing over a period of time so speech and lipreading is the communication method.



Members have enjoyed speakers/subjects throughout 2017 such as 'Amazing Frauds/Swindles', 'Coastal Chorus' – another hilarious and informative evening with Paul Ross and a fantastic tea party in the grounds of Halifax House. The 'Golden Age of Cruising' and 'Flying Down To Rio' from Karen who for the second time volunteered to be an Olympic Games Maker.

The programme is supplemented by our in-house evenings with titles such as 'Memories', 'Your Favourite Book' and 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. Outings include Elgiva Theatre to see the 'Nutcracker Suite' and 'Sound of Music' at Waterside in Aylesbury. Afternoon tea with Corinne in Aston Clinton and Hearing Dogs in Saunderton.

Do come to a monthly meeting, second Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm. Family or a friend are welcome too. Occasionally transport assistance provided. (*meeting club's criteria lift share/taxi).

For more details ring **Kate Weber** on **01494 773359** or email Jenny Burton on jennyburton@sky.com or write to **Bob Older** at **2 Woodside Close, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 9TA**

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Looking to volunteer?



Buckinghamshire Mind calls for Volunteers in Aylesbury

Buckinghamshire Mind, the mental health charity, is recruiting volunteers in Aylesbury for its Befriending Service, which provides one-to-one support for adults who are lonely or isolated as a result of mental ill-health.

"We urgently need people in Aylesbury to become volunteer befrienders to help people in their local area. Bucks Mind provide full training, ongoing support, expenses and time credits for our volunteers. We work positively by introducing people to each other on a friendly, informal and supportive basis. The aim is to promote confidence, independence and address the isolation people with mental health problems often experience." Zoe Sole, Befriending Coordinator, Buckinghamshire Mind.

Buckinghamshire Mind's Befriending Coordinators recruit and train volunteers who then form 'partnerships' with people from the local community living with a mental health condition. Partnerships are facilitated by Bucks Mind support workers with volunteers and service users meeting once a week for an hour to two hours, for six months (short term) or one year (long term). They can be based around a specific activity, learning a particular skill or simply a cup of tea and a chat in a local coffee shop.

"My experiences as a volunteer befriender have made me realise how mental ill-health can so easily lead to isolation and loneliness and to recognise that a person does not need to be living alone to be lonely. There most definitely is a 'feel good factor' about befriending, where you can see first-hand how the small amount of time you give, can impact the quality of life of another person. I like to view befriending as a first stage in breaking isolation; it is during befriending that the possibility of moving forward into wider social contact can be explored and supported." Volunteer Befriender for Buckinghamshire Mind.

People who have benefited from Buckinghamshire Mind's Befriending Service have provided very positive feedback about their experience: *"I am back in work. Befriending helped me get out of a rut."* *"Befriending has given me confidence and changed my attitude."* *"I'm getting more confident and helping to improve things for myself."*

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer befriender, please contact **Zoe Sole** on **07507 021911** or email zoe.sole@bucksmind.org.uk To find out more please visit www.bucksmind.org.uk/services/befriending

Looking for a great day out?

Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally

Sunday 20 May 2018
Weedon Park
New Road
Weedon, Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 4NN

Over a thousand vehicles attend every year. Club stands welcome (by pre-booking only). **Entry £6 per vehicle** including driver and one passenger (pre-entry). **Entry on day £10 per vehicle** including driver and one passenger (late entry). Complimentary programme.



- Classic cars, vans, buses, lorries, motorbikes and scooters, stationary engines and tractors
- Auto jumble and trade stands
- Children's rides and fun dog show
- Live music
- Licenced bar, food stalls and craft stands

Free public parking and camping available by prior request. **Public entry only £6, children under 14 free.**

Optional road run from Aylesbury Tuck, 12 - 13 Edison Road, Aylesbury HP19 8TE – Chiltern Hills Rally meet from 7.30am have breakfast and then drive in convoy, if you want, to the Chiltern Hills Rally at Weedon Park.

All money raised from the rally goes to local good causes and charities and all organisers give up their free time to the event.

For any queries you can contact **Adrian Fell** on **07961 121347** or email adrian@ajf.clara.co.uk or **James Masters** email james@hd28.co.uk
www.chilternhillsrally.org.uk
www.facebook.com/chilternhillsrally

Town Council Meetings

All residents are invited to attend the monthly Town Council meetings, which take place every second Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Council Chamber, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury. Time is allocated at the beginning of the meeting for residents to raise any questions they have.

Aylesbury Vale Ethnic Communities Directory

Aylesbury Vale Ethnic Communities Directory (AVECD) is a free 24/7 on-line information resource service, offering a 'one stop shop' ease of convenience approach to both professionals and members of the general public alike.



"There is nothing more frustrating nor time consuming, let's be honest, than trying to locate contact details for ethnic communities organisations, groups or bodies, when more traditional sources of information e.g. Yellow Pages, BT phone books etc. simply don't include them. AVECD then seeks to cut out the laborious detective work for all involved."

Uniquely from other organisations and bodies working within the fields of ethnicity, equality and diversity, AVECD recognises the English, Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Roma and Travelling communities as being separate ethnic communities within their own right.

However, AVECD is neither a political organisation, nor is it connected to any political parties, bodies, organisations or individuals. It is, and will continue to remain, both independent and wholly non-partisan in both its approach and structure.

"Of course, AVECD may well be active in the areas of community campaigning and local initiatives from time to time, in 2018; and on the occasions that it does so it will always take an educational and informative, rather than a confrontational approach to such activities and issues."

For further information/inclusion of your group into the directory or requests for amendments to existing entries please contact: **Johnny Heartbreaker** on **07517 316 345** email johnnyheartbreaker@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.bucksvoice.net/avbmeis

We'd love to hear from you!

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 or write to us at: **Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.** Please do give us your name and contact details so that we can reply to you.

Aylesbury Mosque Syria Appeal

Back in June 2017, Aylesbury Mosque started an appeal for £5,000 so we could buy an emergency vehicle and send it to the war torn country of Syria to help people suffering there. After smashing that target, we kitted it out with donated medical supplies and then it began its journey.

On average an ambulance in Syria saves 43 lives over the course of two to three months. That's a staggering amount and that's why we decided to go for the ambulance.

I think it's a proud moment, not just for Aylesbury Mosque, but Aylesbury town as a whole. In the grand scheme of things we might be a small mosque in a small town, but today an ambulance that was donated and delivered by the people of Aylesbury is making a real difference to the people of Syria.

Masood, Aylesbury Mosque

Imagez Camera Club

Imagez is halfway through the season which, so far, has been very busy. We have welcomed several new members who have added their personalities and experience to our meetings, and there has been the usual mix of practical sessions, competition nights and speakers as well as our AGM and Christmas Fun; plenty more to come though, so look at our website www.imagezcameraclub.co.uk We have a wide mix of experience and knowledge in the club so you will feel comfortable whatever your level.

In January we held our third 'Chiltern Images' print exhibition in the Queens Park Arts Centre with an amazing array of prints from camera clubs in the area. If you missed it watch out for the next one early next year. Better still, make sure one of your prints is on show by joining the club and entering, as every participant is guaranteed at least one of their entries on display; there's nothing like seeing your efforts on a gallery wall.

Still to look forward to are some excellent speakers, a fun, 'match-an-image' competition against Buckingham and Leighton Buzzard clubs which will be especially entertaining for the banter and heckling encouraged from the audience, plus some practical sessions.

If you are interested and would like to know more, then contact **Kathy Chantler** on **07738 112775**, kathychantler@gmail.com or just turn up one Tuesday evening at Weston Turville Village Hall, 8.00 for 8.15pm – you will be assured a warm welcome.



Need childcare over Easter?

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service

Explore Easter Activities and Find Childcare with Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS).

Easter is a great time for having fun; the weather is getting better so the kids can finally get out and explore, there's chocolate, and oh yes, lots of fun activities combining the two!



BFIS have been busy searching high and low for Easter activities from chocolate making workshops to gaming clubs, so take a look now at www.bucksfamilyinfo.org and search by:

- arts and crafts
- cooking
- performing arts
- sports
- those inclusive for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)... and many more

Childcare

If you need childcare over the Easter period take a look at Ofsted-Registered clubs, camps and courses running over Easter and summer.

About the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service

Find Childcare, Childminders, Children's Centres, and Family Activities in Buckinghamshire and access free, impartial information covering a range of topics relating to family life including the Local Offer (SEND) and Early Help (for professionals).

Follow us

Search **Bucks Family Info** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Community News & Events

Looking for a space to hire?



Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre

Located just a five minute walk from Aylesbury's town centre, the Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre is a hub of activity; offering fantastic spaces for groups and classes.

Our rooms are available for hire and are suitable for:

- Meetings
- Parties
- Fundraisers
- Exercise and Dance Classes
- Theatre Productions and Workshops
- Weddings and Christenings
- Daycare
- Religious Meetings
- Computer suite available for hire with free WiFi access

We also have our very own onsite recording studio, available for band practise and/or to record tracks. We offer a range of brilliant professional recording equipment including microphones, mixers and editing equipment as well as range of instruments available to use.

Throughout the year we run a range of classes, including the Aylesbury School of Theatre and Dance, Tai Chi, the Red Top Domino Club and many more. If you are interested in attending any class please speak to the relevant organiser or contact them directly.

Friarscroft Way, Aylesbury, HP20 2TE 01296 429364

email multicultural@btconnect.com or visit

www.multiculturalcentre.co.uk Charity Number 1062549

New Year, New You, New Venture

Aylesbury Vintage and Craft Bazaar takes place every Tuesday from 9am - 2pm in the historic Market Square, based in the heart of the town. There is a good range of stalls from vintage items to hand-made crafts.

If you're thinking of starting a new business, or want to extend your existing creative venture into a new area, a stall at the bazaar could be exactly what you need. From only £14.30 for an erected and high quality stall, it is an affordable and flexible way to test your business idea.



Becoming a market trader is a low cost, low risk way to turn your business dream into a reality. Benefits include:

- start small and grow – it is a great way for any budding entrepreneur
- flexibility – you can be your own boss
- low risk – you can take your product or service straight to your customers without committing to long-term property leases
- low cost – lower and fewer overheads than permanent premises
- to fit in with your other commitments, you can trade from 10am - 2pm
- a social gathering of like-minded traders

There are incentives for you!

- reduced rent for the first five weeks
- regular event days to encourage footfall – Aylesbury is proud to win two national awards for its involvement in the national Love Your Local Market initiative
- fully-engaged award winning town centre management team that works closely with traders

Want to know more?

Email us at pkirkham@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or phone us **01296 585880**.

Are you a retired member of UNISON?

Are you aware of our friendly club which meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at 2.30pm at The Pavillion, Bedgrove Park, Bedgrove, Aylesbury? Come and join us for £2 per session to hear interesting and entertaining speakers (no Union business), join in our raffle, have a cup of tea and make new friends. We also have outings throughout the year and a New Year lunch. **Interested, then contact:** Secretary Mrs Jan Moseley on **01494 837594** or Committee Member Sue Simmons on **01296 625173**. A lift to meetings may be available.



Community News & Events

Lindengate

Driving out of Aylesbury towards Wendover you will pass Lindengate, the award-winning local charity. Lindengate is a five acre garden, a haven where gardening, craft, construction and cooking activities are used to help people living with depression, dementia, loneliness, autism and many other Mental Health needs. The approach called Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH) is gathering increasing interest and recognition amongst medical professionals.

Lindengate Gardeners (service users) and Volunteers enjoy being part of a friendly community, which helps reduce the social isolation of mental health. The charity uses a mix of beautifully designed gardens and personalised therapeutic activities, overseen by a mix of gardening, health and therapy professionals. Activities are chosen, by Lindengate staff, that will optimise each individual's recovery and wellbeing. This requires a great deal of planning and many Volunteers to prepare the activities and support Gardeners, so they get the most from every visit. New Gardeners can be referred by a health or social care professional or it is possible to self refer. There is a women only group on Wednesday afternoons and Memory Pathways; a drop-in session for people living with dementia and their carers. The group meets twice a month for activities and a shared lunch.

By watching the seasons unfold and the garden constantly changing: the spring bulbs, a summer wildflower meadow, a profusion of asters along the walks in the autumn, and the views of the ducks on the pond in winter, people feel connected to nature. Many of those benefiting from weekly sessions at Lindengate find that this, as well as the gentle exercise and the chance to chat to other people, is an essential boost to their wellbeing. The Volunteers appreciate the positive effect working in the garden has on their lives as well. And getting to try the delicious recipes and cakes cooked in the kitchen, using freshly picked produce from the gardens and polytunnels, is another bonus!

You can visit the Lindengate Gardens on **Saturday 9 June**, 12 midday till 4.30pm for the Lindengate Fair and again on **Saturday 6 October** for the Lindengate Open Day. Private and group visits are by arrangement only, to ensure the peace and privacy of Lindengate Gardeners. If you enjoy Open Air Theatre the renowned Mikron Theatre will be performing 'Revolting Women', a humorous and musical tribute to the 1918 Suffragette movement, in the gardens on Tuesday 29 June. Doors open at 6pm for picnics, performance starts 7pm.

Find out more at www.lindengate.org.uk or on social media www.facebook.com/lindengategardening, or <https://twitter.com/Lindengate>. Ring or email to have a chat about volunteering, attending as a Gardener or joining in Memory Pathways info@lindengate.org.uk or **01296 622443**.

SEE ABILITY Making Communication Accessible

SeeAbility provides extraordinary support and champions better eye care for people with learning disabilities and Autism, many of whom have sight loss. We know that blind and partially sighted people face significant challenges when it comes to obtaining information in the right format which suits their needs and we are working to change this. A generous grant from The Rothschild Foundation has provided much needed funding to support us to buy a Braille embosser and we are working in and around Aylesbury to help local businesses and community organisations to make their communications more accessible.



James Wilson has sight loss and recently fulfilled his ambition of performing comedy using a Braille script at Stand Up for SeeAbility, headlined by Jo Brand

Braille is a tactile writing system used by people with sight loss. It is traditionally written with embossed paper. The embosser will enable us to create Braille documents. Having documents in Braille helps people to make informed decisions and protect their own privacy, retaining their independence whilst being able to fully participate in society. In particular, Braille is highly valued because people can read and write information themselves, something that is especially important when it comes to confidential information.

In 2017 SeeAbility opened purpose built accommodation and support service for 14 people in Aylesbury. We are supporting individuals to develop their skills by providing Braille services to help businesses and community organisations make their information and literature accessible. To learn more about SeeAbility's Braille service please contact Sylvia Parker on **01296 323753** or email S.Parker@seeability.org

Community News & Events

Lions Celebrate Forty Years

In March the Aylesbury Lions Club celebrates its 40th birthday. Since 1978 the club has made its own special contribution to the life of Aylesbury by raising and donating funds for good causes and providing general help in the community, whilst taking time for its members to enjoy social events.



Last year we donated over £5,000 most of which went to local organisations. This year we will again be donating the major proportion of funds raised locally and we begin by raffling more than twenty large Easter eggs with the proceeds going to Bucks Young Carers and Florence Nightingale Hospice.

After taking time out to celebrate our 40th Anniversary we will be organising our annual concert at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm on **Saturday 21 April**. The Vale Symphonic Wind Band will be returning and the concert is well worth attending. Tickets at £12 are available from John Binstead **01844 291039** or Ron Syrratt **01296 484492**. Limited tickets will be available on the night.

In June we will be attending the Haddenham Village Fete and then in August we will be in the Vale Park for Play in the Park – we're hoping for better weather than last year.

The Lions are a mixed club and being a member is very rewarding. Why not come along and help us? We meet in the Aylesbury Town Council Chamber at 8.00pm on the first Wednesday of the month. For more details call **0845 833 7863** or visit www.aylesburylions.org

Looking to make new friends?

Aylesbury Town WI welcome new members to join us at one of our meetings held on the third Thursday each month.



There is so much planned for this year including a visit to the Houses of Parliament and Ely Cathedral. Meetings include on 15 March a talk about the history of music 'From cylinder to CD' and 19 April a talk about 'Botanical painting taught techniques'.

There is always an opportunity to make friends while enjoying a coffee, tea and often even lovely cake. Weekly craft meetings are an opportunity to socialise or if you are creative there is a lot of expertise to help if wanted.

Achievements include the sponsorship of two owl boxes and last year our chosen local charity was Aylesbury Refuge which we were proud to support.

For more information please email aylesburytownwi@gmail.com or ring our President Jenny Burton on **01296 615709**. Monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm at Granville Street Church, Granville Street, Aylesbury HP20 2JL

Residents in Quarrendon Make Their Streets More Than Just a Name

The Quarrendon Street Association has been recruiting residents to be the eyes and ears on their street that keep their neighbours safe and well. The Street Association members receive information packs covering scams and isolation which also includes a toolkit to direct neighbours to specialised support services if needed. Whilst the role of Street Member is not hands on, members in Haines Close decided to join forces and strengthen their community.

With the help of the introduction letters in their packs, members were encouraged to visit their neighbours to share



information to ward off scammers. The visit uncovered other vulnerabilities in the Close including residents who needed help maintaining their gardens. Not stopping there, they also wanted to take action regarding a litter problem which was a concern for many residents as children were exposed to a wide variety of items when playing, including needles and broken glass. Eight sacks were gathered over several days and promptly collected by AVDC. The area has since been maintained which has initiated positive comments from other neighbours.

Volunteer Street Lead for the area Jan Seaton said "A positive result of people getting to know their neighbours was demonstrated recently when it snowed. The Close was full of adults and children making snowmen, throwing snowballs, pulling sledges and generally having fun. This has not happened in the 27 years I've lived in the Close and I hope it's an outcome of the Street Association".

The scheme is also working with local businesses and community groups to combat loneliness including St Peter's Church in Coventon Road. Residents are encouraged to attend and enjoy company over a free cuppa at the Community Café every Thursday from 10.30am.

If you're interested in setting up a Street Association as a group or would like to request a pack as an individual for your street, please contact: Helen Cavill, Bucks County Council, communities@buckscc.gov.uk

The Street Association is a Buckinghamshire County Council initiative and receives funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.



Town Mayor's Update

It's 2018. (I'm starting to have to think about what year it is). We're quite deep into the 21st Century at this point, but I remember that back in the 20th the whole idea of a 21st seemed like total science-fiction. And yet the young people I have met this year have known no other century. And many of those born this year will live to see the 22nd.

Our recorded history is really very short in generational terms, and every generation seems to worry about the generations that succeed them. Personally, I feel very confident about the future! In the past few months, I have really come to see how much strength and ability our young people have. I enjoyed some marvellous singing by the pupils from Bedgrove Junior School who performed at our Town Carol Service (sincere thanks also to Aylesbury Choral Society and Aylesbury Concert Band), and Deputy Mayor Mark Willis was hugely impressed by the Mandeville School Carol Concert – a school with a great reputation for music. I saw some beautiful singing and dancing by children at the Diwali Celebrations in October as well. I loved the laughter and fun at our Halloween and Christmas celebrations, and I have dressed up in my robes and regalia on a fairly regular basis in order to share our traditions with the young and to help tell the story of our town.

Mark and I also treasure the memory of sharing in the Christmas celebrations at Zoomania with Bucks Young Carers. Many young people take on adult burdens at a very young age, and the town owes a debt of gratitude for the much needed guidance and support that this great local charity provides.

In November, alongside hundreds of others, from every walk of life, young and old, I remembered the fallen, and thought of how much youthful promise had been sacrificed in war this past century. In addition to the Sunday remembrance service, the Town Council holds a short ceremony at the war memorial in the Cemetery, at which the Mayor gives a reading. I chose a short poem by Wilfrid Gibson, who seems largely forgotten now, one of the first 'soldier poets' of the Great War. It's spoken by the ghost of a soldier of the Napoleonic wars who walks alongside a future comrade, the future of 1914:

"Once I too marched in Flanders,
The very spit of you,
And just a hundred years since,
To fall at Waterloo.

...

"But now you march in Flanders,
The very spit of me;
To the ending of the day's march
I'll bear you company."

The centuries are short, and for better or worse our descendants in the future will be the very spit of ourselves.

In January I made a visit to the Bucks Army Cadet Force and the RAF Air Cadets in the company of Mayor's Cadet Cpl Chloe Keeping. Chloe herself has been a great ambassador for the Cadet Force and has given exemplary support to our Civic Occasions. It was heartening to see the discipline, dedication and good humour of all these very fine young people. I even learned a certain amount myself, revising my adult life-saving skills, and discovering the difference between North, Magnetic North, Grid North and True North. Who would have thought (if you weren't an RAF cadet) there'd be quite so many of them?

But in my job, there are always opportunities to learn. By putting on a pair of distorting glasses and by being led blindfold up to St Mary's by volunteers from Bucks Vision, I got some small insight into the challenges faced by people with visual impairments as they navigate over our uneven pavements.

I now enter the final quarter of my Mayoral Term, with much yet to do, and yet with confidence that Aylesbury's very best years lie ahead.

Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts

If you want to invite the Mayor to attend an event, launch a campaign, or just give a talk, write to Sue at: s.carpenter@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

What's on at Bucks County Museum

Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury old town often has exhibitions on show with work of national and international renown that you would normally have to travel into London to experience. Currently you can see work by the iconic 21st century artist Dame Elisabeth Frink which will be followed by an exhibition of artwork from Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels.

Elisabeth Frink: sculptures, drawings, prints, 10 February – 21 April

A fantastic opportunity to experience the work of the famous artist Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993). The exhibition brings together themes of horses, heads, human figures and animals through magnificent bronze sculptures, prints and drawings, which explore the impact of war on humans and animals, the expression of emotions and aggression and links with mythology. Highlights include a 2 metre tall bronze warrior, a Goggle Head and Easter Head. Frink's sculptures can be seen in many public spaces and her life-sized sculpture of a black horse stands outside Lloyds Bank in Milton Keynes. Commissioned in 1978, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Lloyds' commission as well as it being the 25th anniversary of Frink's death.



© The Elisabeth Frink Estate from The Ingram Collection of Modern British Art

Paul Kidby: Discworld & Beyond, 5 May – 30 June

Paul Kidby is best known as the illustrator of Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels. This exhibition showcases the wonderful book covers and illustrations for Pratchett's novels, including favourite characters like Rincewind, the Wee Free Men and of course, Death!



Rattlebox Theatre presents Beowulf, 30 & 31 May

Rattlebox Theatre Company retell the classic story of the famed warrior Beowulf. Full of daft humour, live music, eccentric puppets and audience participation, this show will bring a bit of magic and laughter to all ages. Check website for times and charges.

Meet the Saxon Warriors Special Event, Easter Sunday and Monday, 1 – 2 April

Join re-enactment group, Wulfheodenas (Wolf coats) and discover what Anglo-Saxon life was like from how they lived to how they fought. Check website for times and charges.

For all events check our website and sign up to our what's on e-newsletter at www.buckscountymuseum.org

The Museum also has a café serving light snacks and shop stocking gifts, local books and cards. There is no admission charge to the County Museum but donations are welcome to support Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust, registered charity 1153345. Some individual exhibitions may have a charge.

Bucks County Museum and Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.
Call **01296 331441** or visit www.buckscountymuseum.org

Aylesbury Festival Choir



Aylesbury Festival Choir invites you to 'A Night At The Opera' at the Aylesbury Methodist Church on Saturday 21 April at 7.30pm.

Under the baton of Music Director, Nick Austin, and joined by sopranos Penelope Appleyard and Hannah Fraser-Mackenzie and accompanist Neil Kelley, the choir will be singing choruses from well-known operas such as Carmen and Madam Butterfly.

Visit the website www.aylesburyfestivalchoir.net for more information and to get your tickets. Otherwise buy them at the door, on what promises to be a sparkling evening.



We are always happy to meet new singers. Why not join us for the start of our 60th Anniversary year in September? All voices welcome, but we would be really pleased to meet tenors and basses.



May Maker's Fair

Queens Park Arts Centre's May Maker's Fair returns on Saturday 12 May. Now in its third year, the event has proven a popular spring attraction for the local community, attracting hundreds of visitors every year. Organised by Amanda Wheaton, Queens Park's Creative Coordinator, the event celebrates the joy of making and features a wide array of fantastic handmade art and craft to view and buy – all created by the artists, tutors, volunteers and students of Queens Park. Work on show will include handmade ceramics, painting and drawing, jewellery, glass, woodwork, textiles and much more.

There will also be live entertainment throughout the day in the Limelight Theatre, including drama, dance and great music all performed by the talented people who attend and run classes and events at the Centre throughout the year. Hot and cold refreshments and a BBQ, will be available during the day. Younger visitors can get creative at a range of fantastic children's craft activities. Free parking is available on site.

Entry costs £2/£1 members and concessions. Under 14s go free however there is a small charge for attending the craft activities. All profits contribute towards the Centre's ongoing fundraising campaign. For more information visit www.qpc.org, email info@qpc.org or phone **01296 424332**.

Twelfth Night

Queens Park Arts Centre's in-house production company Unbound are to present a brand new take on Shakespeare's classic comedy Twelfth Night this spring. Following on from the success of last year's thrilling staging of Macbeth, this year's show will once again feature a talented cast of local actors, and is directed by Unbound's Creative Producer Dario Knight. The play tells the story of Viola, who – after losing her twin brother in a storm at sea – finds herself stranded on the shores of a strange wonderland-like country of Illyria. Soon she becomes embroiled in the lives of its inhabitants, and a bittersweet web of mistaken identity, wicked humour and tangled love unfolds. The show will be performed at the Limelight Theatre (20 & 21 April, 7.30pm), tickets are £8.50 standard, £6.50 concessions, £5.00 students and can be purchased at www.qpc.org or call **01296 424332**.

If you can't make it to the Limelight there'll be a chance to see the play for free at the Bucks County Museum on Saturday 21 April at 2.00pm. Excerpts from the play will also be performed at Market Square as part of Aylesbury Town Council's free St George's Day Celebration event on Sunday 22 April. For more information about the production visit www.qpc.org, email dario@qpc.org or call **01296 424332**.

Aylesbury Choral Society

Aylesbury Choral Society (ACS) is a thriving, friendly and enthusiastic local choir for mixed voices. We currently have well over 80 regular singers and are particularly proud that our reputation is attracting a growing tenor and bass section. For anyone interested in joining us, weekly rehearsals are on Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.30pm at the church in Fairford Leys, HP19 7HT. See www.aylesburychoral.org.uk for more detail.

Our next concert is a performance on **Saturday 24 March** of Bach's magnificent St Matthew Passion, generally considered to be one of the masterpieces of Western music. Written in 1727 as part of the Lutheran church service on Good Friday, it tells the dramatic story of events leading to the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. St Matthew Passion is a big work requiring two choirs and two orchestras, a group of soloists as well as a children's choir from Piper Corner School. The main story is told by the Evangelist, tenor Alistair Walker, the role of Christus by Lawrence White, much renowned for his interpretation of this role while Sarah Bosquet from Belgium sings soprano.



Of particular local interest is mezzo soprano Janet Shell (pictured) a former member of ACS, who has gone on to an international operatic career. Accompanied by Aylesbury Sinfonietta and all under the baton of ACS musical director Jeff Stewart this is a rare opportunity to listen to this great work (last performed by ACS more than 20 years ago). Venue: **St Mary's Church, Aylesbury HP20 2JJ** Tickets: £15 available via www.aylesburychoral.org.uk



Aylesbury Town Council Ward Map

Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Anders Christensen
07834 995690



Cllr Tuffail Hussain
07832 913171



Cllr Graham Moore
07886 369565

Ward: Central



Cllr Barbara Russel
01296 431314



Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Susan Morgan
07799 074411



Cllr Jenny Puddefoot
01296 612461

Ward: Coppice Way



Cllr Mark White
07771 877488

Ward: Oakfield



Cllr Allison Harrison
07795 210808



Cllr Mark Willis
07723 091637

Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr Chris Adams
07968 444222



Cllr Andy Huxley
07711 837938

Ward: Oxford Road



Cllr Stuart Jarvis
07958 083519



Cllr Mike Smith
07854 178012

Ward: Walton



Cllr Bill Chapple OBE
07702 031712

Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE
07958 423083

Ward: Hawkslade



Cllr Brian Adams
07855 299999

Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Waheed Raja
07969 056877



Cllr Mark Bateman
07858 973643

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



Cllr Sue Chapple
01296 426814



Cllr Richard Lloyd
07887 685345



Cllr Denise Summers
01296 424903

Ward: Bedgrove



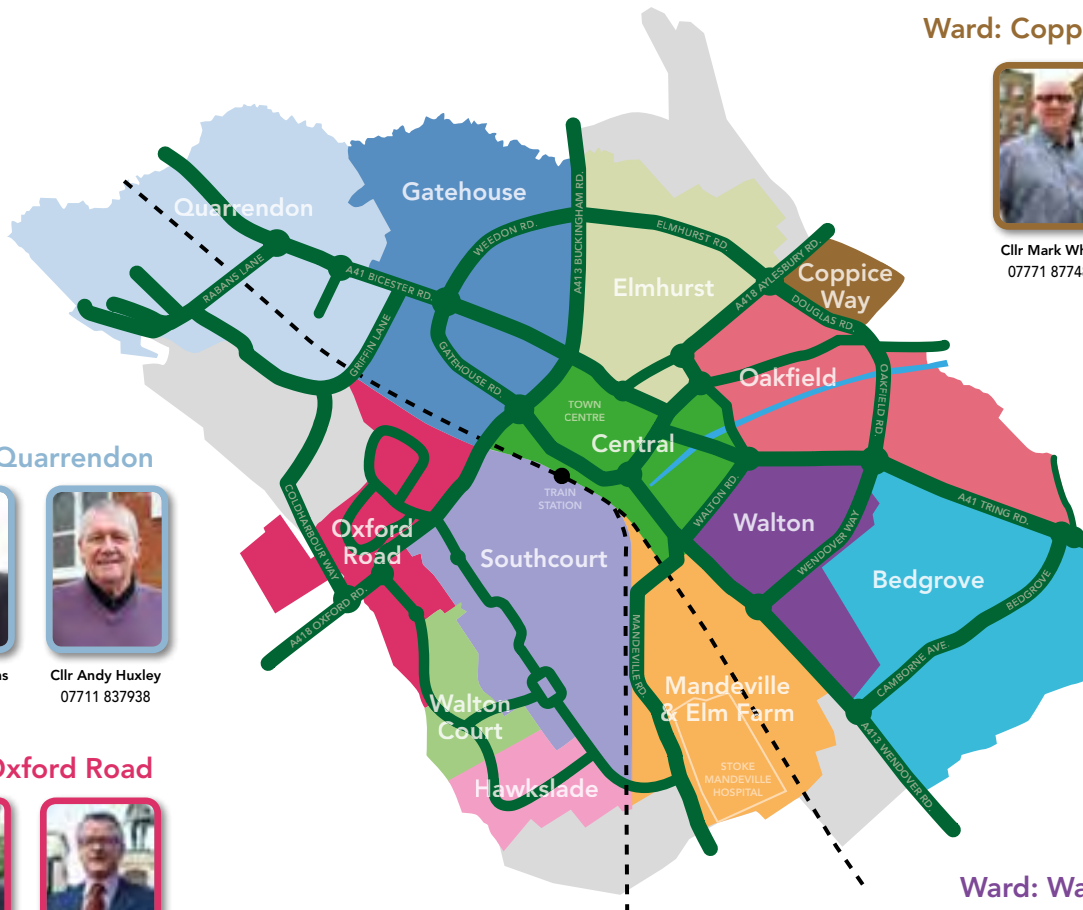
Cllr Jenny Bloom
01296 434123



Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts
07595 178660



Cllr Mark Winn
01296 393304

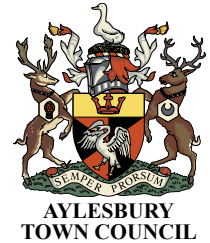




Who do I talk to about? ...

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Office of the Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- Management of the seven allotment sites
- Management of Tring Road Cemetery
- Devolved Services – grass cutting of urban highway grass verges
- 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
- Jonathan Page Play Centre
- 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
- Waste collection
- 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
- Grass cutting of open spaces and parks
- Upkeep of Aylesbury town areas such as Kingsbury and Market Square



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:

- Roads and pavements
- Education and main libraries
- Social care services
- Trading Standards
- Registrars - births, deaths and marriages
- Waste disposal and household recycling centres
- Grass cutting of rural highways/grass verges



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

Community News & Events

Bedgrove Infant School News

Bedgrove Infant School OAP Tea Party

On Wednesday 13 December we welcomed 120 old age pensioners who braved the icy conditions to attend our Annual Tea Party. The OAPs were treated to entertainment provided by our Foundation 2 classes who performed the Christmas Nativity complete with songs and actions! The OAPs enjoyed tea, coffee and cakes after the show and were then presented with a huge piece of Christmas cake wrapped up with a ribbon and a card made by a child in the school. A great time was had by all.

Bedgrove Infant School Choir

The Year 2 choir sang beautifully to the Over 60's Club and they were delighted with the children's performance. The Club gave a large donation to the school which we added to the donations given at all the Christmas Shows. All of the children enjoyed performing their Christmas Shows to their parents and grandparents during the last couple of weeks of term, they sang beautifully and performed so confidently to all of their audiences; we are so proud of all of them.

We raised £305.74 towards the sponsorship of a Guide Dog and £496.42 to develop our school Reading Scheme. Thanks to the many generous donations from parents, visitors and members of our communities who attended our Christmas plays and concerts. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We are now looking forward to all the events that are planned for in this busy Spring Term.



Looking to network locally?

Breakfast Briefings at University Campus Aylesbury Vale

The next Breakfast Briefing takes place in April at Campus Aylesbury Vale, supported by Buckinghamshire Business First, and offering topical subjects to help local businesses.

University Campus Aylesbury Vale, in Walton Street, Aylesbury, is a partnership between Bucks New University and Buckinghamshire College Group, and the Breakfast Briefings, from 8am - 10am, see talks by academics and lecturers from the University or College. The Briefings also offer networking opportunities. Refreshments are served.

On Friday 27 April, Dr Ceri Sims, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Bucks New University, will be giving a talk called 'Bringing positive psychology into the workplace'.



Ian Harper, Chief Executive of University Campus Aylesbury Vale, said: "After 2017's mix of interesting and varied Breakfast Briefings, I'm looking forward to

welcoming guests to our programme of Briefings. With a topical range of subjects our events will appeal to a wide range of businesses who I'm sure will pose their customary challenging questions to our speakers."

Further dates, speakers and topics will be announced soon. Register your attendance for one or all of the Breakfast Briefing series at www.ucav.ac.uk/latest-events/ and follow developments on Twitter at [@UniCampusAV](https://twitter.com/UniCampusAV).

Bucks New University's Apprenticeship Hub is also now based at University Campus Aylesbury Vale. It is working with employers, partners and faculties at the University to create apprenticeship offerings meeting the training needs of businesses.

The University's higher and degree apprenticeships are a partnership with industry to meet the needs of new or existing employers and provide a flexible route for employees to access the life-changing opportunities that higher education provides.

For more information about apprenticeships, for example how they work, the benefits, or the levy, visit www.bucks.ac.uk/apprenticeships or email apprenticeships@bucks.ac.uk



Choosing our Charity of the Year

Being on the Youth Town Council has given us the opportunity to do things we never normally would, from meeting the Town Mayor to attending AGMs. It's fair to say that meeting and engaging with our community has definitely given us more confidence speaking in public and listening to peoples' opinions.

As well as fundraising for local charities, we have been lucky enough to see the impact of our efforts – especially when it comes to helping people our own age. At our last annual meeting, the Youth Town Council chose to support Youth Concern as our charity of the year.

After researching more into the charity, we were moved by their work, which includes providing support and shelter to the youth and young adults of Aylesbury. We recently met Jovan Carthy – Youth Support Worker from the charity, who reiterated just how vital the services are, and the difference Youth Concern can make to a young person who may be going through a challenging time, by offering support and guidance when in times of need.



Over the course of this year, we are planning on visiting the centre, meeting with some young people and getting a better idea of some of the situations they are faced with, and how they deal with them. We are also hoping to show some more of our creative skills in the sound booth at the Centre! All in all, it's going to be a great year for the Youth Town Council. To find out about more of our activities, follow us on **www.facebook.com/AylesburyYTC**

If you would like to find out how to join our Youth Town Council, contact the Youth Town Clerk via email at **b.lasoye@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** or phone **01296 425678** for further details.

Exciting opportunity for new trustees to join Youth Concern, Aylesbury



If you're looking for a trustee role where you can use your expertise to support a local charity making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable young people, then Youth Concern may have just the thing for you!

The charity has benefited young people in Aylesbury Vale for almost four decades. Having expanded their reach over the past few years to meet increasing need, and having just won their first Big Lottery Grant, Youth Concern are planning to launch a flagship youth accommodation project for homeless young people called 'The Next Step'. Focussing on health, skills and employment this project will prepare homeless and disadvantaged young people for independent living by enabling them to rebuild their lives.

Specifically, we are looking for trustees to help us prepare for and respond to this phase of growth, bringing specialist skills such as Senior Housing Management, Finance and Service delivery to an already diverse, experienced and skilled trustee board. There is also a vacancy on the board for an Honorary Secretary. Meeting six times yearly, our trustees play an active role in meetings and often focus on particular projects outside of those meetings for up to two hours a week.

If you are interested in finding out more, please look at our website **www.youthconcern.org.uk** With regards impact, here's our short video featuring Louise, one of our young people, explaining how Youth Concern has been there for her **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REEX_oPApho**

If you think this role is for you, then please contact Fran Borg-Wheeler, CEO Youth Concern on **07730 666608** or **fran@youthconcern.org.uk** We very much look forward to hearing from you!

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL'S

SOAPBOX DERBY

ON FATHER'S DAY

17 JUNE

STARTS AT 11AM

**WHITEHILL PARK, SOAPBOX RACES
AND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**

**FREE
TO ENTER & WATCH!**

**MUST
REGISTER BY
FRIDAY 1st JUNE
TO PARTICIPATE**

**EMAIL
INFO@AYLESBURYTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK
FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**



www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01296 425678

