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# Jonathan Page play Centre

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB & HOLIDAY PLAYSCHEMES

# **Christmas Playscheme** 20 December 2018 – 2 January 2019 (excluding bank holidays 24, 27, 28 and 31 Dec)









#### It's all things Christmas and New Year for this Playscheme.

The children will be making cards and Christmas decorations with plenty of sparkles and smiles. We will be making New Year's resolutions together with the children and celebrate the New Year with a disco. There will also be plenty of singing and dancing and games throughout this festive Playscheme.

TOWN COUNCI

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

Ofsted Registration EY536686

# **ATC News & Events**

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#### Welcome Note

It's always an emotional and reflective time when we lose a friend or someone who is close to us. I was very sad to hear of the sudden passing of Graham Webster, in October. Graham was a colleague and former Councillor and Mayor of Aylesbury, but above all he was an active member of our community. Graham was the initial driving force behind a number of our longstanding events – Aylesbury on Sea, Proms in the Park and St George's Day celebrations – it was his and his councillor colleague's vision back in the early naughties to provide free events that would build, support and gather our community together. The strength of a man is what he leaves behind, and Graham Webster leaves a lasting legacy of giving his heart, soul and time into his community – and that community is ours. Thank you Graham, you will be dearly missed and we'll continue your great legacy of providing free community events in Aylesbury.

These past few months have seen the judging and awards of our local gardeners and allotments. Results and photos are on pages 6 - 7. Special note must go to Jane Stokes, a local childminder, who encourages and engages the children she looks after to assist in cultivating, maintaining and enjoying a beautiful garden. It was wonderful to hear how Jane inspires the children and through creative play she is ensuring they know about their local environment – well done Jane.

As this magazine is landing on your doormats, we will be in the midst of our final preparations for this year's Christmas events. With three large events in one week it is a busy time for our councillors, officers and volunteers. The first event is the formal **Mayor's Carol Service** which is on **Sunday 2 December**, where members of the public are invited to join and witness this stunning Civic Service in St Mary's Church. Then it's **Festive Family Fun**, which takes place in Friars Square and Market Square on **Sunday 9 December** – there really is too much going on at this entirely free event for me to fit it in here, so have a look at the poster on the back page. It's then time for a relaxed evening of community singing at **Carolfest**, also on **Sunday 9 December** from 6pm – 7pm at St Mary's Church. Please do join us at some, or all of these events and help us bring in the Christmas season with a large dose of community spirit.

As we reflect on an eventful 2018, we now look forward to a fun and busy 2019. We have lots of exciting plans in store for you. If you have any suggestions on any elements of the Town Council's work – allotments, hanging baskets and floral displays, the Mayor's schedule, civic events and of course our free community events – then please do get in touch as we are always keen to hear your views.

Wishing you a very happy, peaceful, relaxing and fun filled Christmas.

Cllr Allison Harrison Leader of the Council

Aylesbury is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse

#### OUR OPENING OFFICE HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS:

22

Friday 21 Dec - **8:45am - 4:45pm** Monday 24 Dec - **CLOSED** Tues 25 Dec - **Bank Holiday**  Wednesday 26 Dec - Bank Holiday Thursday 27 Dec - CLOSED Friday 28 Dec - CLOSED Monday 31 Dec - CLOSED Tuesday 1 Jan - BANK HOLIDAY Wednesday 2 Jan - 8:45am - 5:15pm



#### **Contact Details**

Aylesbury Town Council Town Hall 5 Church Street Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP20 2QP Tel: **01296 425678** Fax: 01296 426134

🔰 @aylesburytc 📑 aylesburytc

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#### www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

# ATC News & Events

# Parklife Weekend

# Saturday



When the rain clouds drifted in over the August bank holiday weekend, it could have been a wash out, but the Aylesbury crowds came out in force, with around 13,000 visitors enjoying all of the weekend's FREE entertainment.

The Main Stage was headlined by Bustin' Loose & Skamungas and featured music from Everus, A Little Bit Country, Into The South, Toffees, Serenade The Stars & Nikki Loy and on the Mix96 Second Stage we saw The White Tips, Lost & Found, Craig Live, Casey Leigh, Inlak'esh and Sinfiction.

We will be holding Open Mic competitions early next year, with the winners performing at Live in the Park 2019. If you are interested in performing (or know a local budding band), please do get in touch.

In addition to the live music there were traditional fun fair rides and loads of free activities in the CIA (Community Involvement Area), with a huge range of fun, games and activities provided by 30 local businesses and organisations. Thank you to all those who supported the event.

**Stars in the Park**, had its biggest turn out to date. The clear skies, meant that the amateur experts from UK Astronomy were able to point out details on the Moon, Mars and even Saturn.





# ATC News & Events







# Sunday

**Church in the Park** and, the first ever, **Banquet in the Park**, hosted by The Aylesbury Church Network, certainly saw the worst of the rain but this brought out the best in local people, with over 700 visitors enjoying the service and banquet provided. Unfortunately **Strongman in the Park**, hosted by Devanney Strength, had to be cancelled for safety reasons. We hope to see them next year.

The rain fell in buckets for the entire day, but as the Aylesbury Concert Band entered the stage for the final rehearsal of **Proms in the Park** the clouds parted and the sun tried to creep through. Visitors arrived with picnics, flags and umbrellas – they were treated to an array of compositions from across the world, as the band, took the audience "Around the World in 80 minutes". The energetic interval performance was by the Hartbeat African Drummers. As per tradition, the entire weekend was rounded off with an amazing firework display. **Thank you to all of you that braved the rain, showing that British spirit always shines through.** 

The **Tudor Fayre**, in September, was a day steeped in history and entertainment. One visitor told us "What a perfect day! Had a really lovely day as always. It was our 4th year. Will be back next year. So much to see and do and not enough time!!! Getting better every year and always something new to learn even for big ones."

#### Don't forget...

**Festive Family Fun** on Sunday 9 December – see poster on the back page – and **Carolfest** from 6pm – 7pm the same evening at St Mary's Church. Come and join the community carol singing, led by The Next Stage Choir, children from Turnfurlong Junior School and the Caduceus Brass Quintet – with free mince pies and hot drinks. Raising funds for the Mayor's Charity, Carers Bucks.

Registrations for Soapbox Derby 2019, will open on 1 March, with spaces limited to 30. Please contact us if you would like to receive the application forms on release day.



## Environment

## Aylesbury in Bloom Garden Competition Awards

As part of its all year round Aylesbury in Bloom campaign, Aylesbury Town Council organises an annual garden competition for residents, schools, organisations and businesses.

We've already reported on the school winners in the September issue and we are sure you agree how well the schools did. In this issue we present the winners of the residents, businesses and organisations categories, who received their awards in September.

This year's categories ranged from Best Front Garden, Best Back Garden, Best Edible Garden, Best Wildlife Nature Garden and Best Container Garden to Best Communal Garden.

The gardens were judged by volunteer judges Sandra Ferguson, Rosemary Brown, Anne Brooker, Janet Leech and Sue Wright, who are all keen gardeners and horticulturists. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the judges for giving up their time and spending days looking around all of the gardens, especially with the very hot weather we had.

Despite the challenging hot weather all gardens looked great and the standard was very good. After much deliberation and debate the judges gave the following awards:

Best Front Garden – Phil Welch Best Back Garden – Julia Keasley Best Edible Garden – Ron & Heather Murray Best Wildlife/Nature Garden – Darren Garner-Richards Best Container Garden – Peter & Margaret Walker During their days of looking and marking all gardens the judges also saw some amazing Communal Gardens, all of them with a different purpose. One was to provide respite to patients, others were to provide the residents with an area where they can sit and relax or work in the garden, whilst fostering community and others brightened up relaxing gastronomy areas.

Once the judges had seen all six Communal Gardens and after a lengthy debate, the Mayor's Award for Best Communal Garden was awarded to The King's Head.

Each year the judges choose an Overall Best Garden winner, from all resident entrants. As the standard was extremely high the judges had some lengthy conversations before a majority decision was reached.

continued...





#### Environment

#### **COMPETITION WINNERS 2018**

A MARKED AND A LOCAL DATE			10 Discourse 10 A	
CATEGORY	WINNER	2 <sup>ND</sup> & 3 <sup>RD</sup> PLACE	COMMENDATION	1 Jacon
Best Front Garden	Phil Welch	Mr & Mrs Ridgway Joan & Rita Clark		19 AN
Best Back Garden	Julia Keasley	Barbara Adams Daniel Sadek		
Best Edible Garden	Ron & Heather Murray	Catherine Forward		A Secretar
Best Container Garden	Peter & Margaret Walker	Barbara Adams Daniel Sadek		
Best Wildlife/Nature Garden	Darren Garner-Richards	Ron & Heather Murray James Pascoe		
Best Communal Garden	The King's Head	Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Fremantle Trust	Old Millwright Arms Bearbrook Place	
Overall Best Garden	Julia Keasley			
Newcomer Award	Joan & Rita Clark			
Young Gardener's Award	Jane Stokes Childminding			運動而後

The Overall Best Garden winner of the crystal trophy was Julia Keasley. The judges commented "A well looked after garden with a variety of different areas. Good incorporation of birds and bug boxes for wildlife. Lovely colourful Cosmos. Herbaceous and perennial borders are complemented with annual plants".

Runner-up and Commendation prizes were also awarded to the recipients during the awards presentation, which took place at The Railway Club. The judges reiterated that all gardens they had seen throughout the summer were simply stunning and they enjoyed seeing the great effort everyone puts in, but there has to be a winner in each category.

#### Allotment Awards 2018

The 2018 Aylesbury Town Council Allotments Awards were held on 4 October at The Railway Club, Aylesbury. Aylesbury Town Council would like to express their thanks to Alderman Ray James (Allotment Warden – Crown Leys) and Ray Powell (Aylesbury Gardening Society) for judging the allotment plots.

It was apparent, during the judging, that this year's very hot summer had taken its toll on many plots and despite tenants' valiant efforts to tend and water regularly,



there was not the abundance of crops that we have seen in previous years, however, there were exceptions and these were duly marked by the judges.

The judging criteria extended beyond simply considering the general appearance of a plot. Included was the desirability for varied planting (a mixture of vegetables, fruits and flowers) and also factors such as composting and plot cleanliness were considered. The judges awarded prizes to the best three plots at each site, with additional prizes for Best Newcomer and Overall Winner. The presentations were made by the Town Mayor, Cllr Mark Willis with the 1st place winners each receiving an engraved shield. In addition, prize winners received a certificate and vouchers which were kindly donated by the Aylesbury Gardening Society.

## **ATC News**



# Jonathan Page play Centre

We can't believe that summer is over. Wasn't it fantastic weather for us all to enjoy? We were very busy during the Summer Playscheme, with each week packed full of fun and exciting activities. We made our own flip flops, created pictorial ice creams with shaving foam, baked cupcakes, talked about our families and friends and were creative and playful. As the weather was so great we spent a lot of time outside playing games, climbing the frames and rock, played football and of course enjoyed a water fight or two, to cool us down.

Two of the highlights were the visits from Ross from UK Astronomy who explained the moon, planets and the stars to us and how they all align and a visit from the Aylesbury Youth Action volunteers who played fun games with us.

As we are going to press we are getting ready for our October Half Term Playscheme, which is all about fairy tales, princes, princesses and ghastly dragons. Once that is finished the countdown to Christmas is well and truly on. Costumes are being made for us to take part in the Santa's Parade in the town centre, Christmas cards and decorations will be crafted during the After School Club and the forthcoming Christmas Playscheme will be finalised. By the time you read this we hope you would have seen us at the Santa's Parade.

Our Christmas Playscheme runs from 20 December 2018 to 2 January 2019 (excluding Bank Holidays, 24th, 27th, 28th and 31st December)

The Christmas Playscheme is all things Christmas and New Year. The children will be baking, making cards and Christmas decorations with plenty of sparkles and smiles. We will be making New Year's resolutions together with the children and celebrate the New Year with a disco. There will also be plenty of singing and dancing and party games throughout this festive season.

In February we will enjoy the February Half Term Playscheme from 18 - 22 February 2019, which will be all about our favourite animals and pets.

At all of our Playschemes, weather permitting, the children can also play outdoors, utilising the go-kart track and climbing frames or stay indoors where they 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 our Playschemes or for more information please call us on **01296 336413** or visit our website **www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/jppc** 











## **GRAHAM WEBSTER OBITUARY**



In October this year we received the sad news that former Town Councillor and past Mayor of Aylesbury, Mr Graham Webster passed away, following a short illness. The comments and messages we received in the days following his passing, showed how many people knew and respected Graham and had the pleasure of working with him.

Graham was very much engaged in the local and wider community. He was heavily involved with the Aylesbury District Scouts and many other local charities and organisations such as The Aylesbury Society, Aylesbury Gardening Society, Lymphoma Association and Relay for Life, to name but a few.

During his Mayoral year (2010 – 11), Graham chose the Pace Centre and Lymphoma Association as his nominated charities. It was not unusual to see him walking around Aylesbury with his hair and beard dyed purple, the Lymphoma Association's trade mark colour, to raise money whilst stacking shelves in Sainsbury's. He also threw himself out of a plane during a 10,000ft tandem skydive in 2011 as part of his charitable work.

Graham could be heard saying: "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy." His young introduction to the great outdoors left him with a passion for our countryside and all that abounds in it – a passion which he was able to further fulfil when he joined the local Scout movement. He was an Explorer Scout Leader with Matrix Explorer Scout Unit and in the past also held roles such as Assistant District Commissioner and Assistant County Commissioner for the Scout Fellowship.

A keen gardener, Graham had an allotment in Aylesbury, where he grew some fabulous produce and flowers. He was always happy to help new allotmenteers and anyone who asked him for advice. On Sundays you would often see him at the Old Stoke Road store of the Aylesbury Gardening Society where he helped with advice, making tea and selling garden consumables.

On Heritage Open Days, Graham would show and tell you all about the water well that is hidden underneath Market Square, an ever popular attraction during this national festival.

It was only last year that Graham, in his Father Christmas alter ego, had to swerve around some difficult questions, which the children at the Jonathan Page Play Centre asked. Questions such as "How do you get to see everyone in just one night?", "What is your force?", "How do you fit through the chimney?" and many more. With a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face he had an answer for everything.

Looking at the tributes on the Town Council's and Buckinghamshire Scouts' Facebook pages, it is clear to see that Graham was a stalwart of the community and that he will be missed by many.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Graham's family and friends during this difficult time, and if we can all do one thing to remember Graham by, then it is to get involved with our local community.





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.

## Looking to volunteer?

#### Marie Curie is appealing for local volunteers to help us fundraise this Christmas

Local fundraising is an integral part of Marie Curie providing nursing care for people with any terminal illness. The charity helps people living with a terminal illness and their families make the most of the time they have together by delivering expert hands-on care, emotional support, research and guidance.



Care and support through terminal illness

Whilst everyone else is preparing for Father Christmas to arrive this Christmas Eve our nurses will be starting their night shift. One nurse, Sue, was quizzed by a young son of a patient as he was concerned Father Christmas would not visit as she stays awake all night to look after his Daddy. Sue very quickly explained that Marie Curie has an agreement with the big man himself, that our nurses are allowed to close their eyes when he arrives at the house so that they do not see him. Our nurses do such things so that families can be at home during the festive season where they feel secure and comfortable in familiar surroundings.

Whether you're a seasonal fundraiser or a newcomer looking to get involved for the first time, our local Marie Curie Fundraising Group is seeking a Chair, Secretary, a Host to help look after collection days and a Collection Box Coordinator to look after charity tins in stores.

If you would like to know more about fundraising with Marie Curie please contact Community Fundraiser, Hazel Bendon on hazel.bendon@mariecurie.org.uk or call 01604 258758.

#### **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.

#### Get ready for Christmas!



Enjoy the hustle and the bustle of Christmas shopping, pick up your fresh fruit and vegetables for your Christmas dinner and maybe a few final gifts while soaking up the festive atmosphere in Market Square.

#### Late Night Market Shopping Event Market Square, Thursday 20 December 9am – 6.30pm

There will be a great selection of stalls on Market Square if you are still looking to find that perfect gift for someone special or just do some additional shopping. Enjoy some I AYIS MKT

music, grab a bite to eat from the street food traders whilst you meander around the stalls.

#### Christmas Eve Market

Do not forget the market will be open for business on Christmas Eve from 9am – 4pm if you need to get any last minute shopping for the big day.

For market opening hours in the lead up to Christmas and New Year see the opposite page.

#### Find Santa's Grottos, Christmas Fayres and Lights Switch-ons with BFIS

It's that time of year when Aylesbury comes alive with all sorts of Christmassy events including Santa's Grottos, markets, light switch-ons and fayres. The Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/Christmas has a handy Christmas map to help you find what's on locally for kids big, and small.

The Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) provide information to families on a range of topics relating to family life including childcare, education, money, local services and the Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Their 'things to do' section is bursting with local activities for children and families all year round.

Website: bucksfamilyinfo.org Email: familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk Facebook: BucksFamilyInfo Twitter: @Bucks\_FIS Instagram: bucksfamilyinfo Phone: 01296 383 065 or text: 07786 202 920 Available: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

#### Changes to Shopping Hours in Aylesbury Town Centre

Late night shopping every Thursday from 6 December up to Christmas. FREE parking from 3.30pm every Thursday from 22 November until Christmas in AVDC Aylesbury town centre car parks and Friars Square Car Park.

1000			AT NUCLEO COM	
DATE	FRIARS SQUARE	HALE LEYS	AYLESBURY MARKET	
Thursday 15 November	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	No Market	
Friday 23 November	9am – 5.30pm	8.30am – 5.30pm	9am – 4pm	
Thursday 6 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	No Market	
Thursday 13 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	No Market	
Monday 17 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	No Market	
Tuesday 18 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	9am – 2pm	
Wednesday 19 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	9am – 4pm	
Thursday 20 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	9am – 6.30pm	
Friday 21 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	9am – 4pm	
Saturday 22 December	9am – 8pm	9am – 7pm	9am – 4pm	
Sunday 23 December	10.30am – 4.30pm	10.30am – 4.30pm	No Market	
Monday 24 December	9am – 5.30pm	8.30am – 5pm	9am – 4pm	
Tuesday 25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	
Wednesday 26 December	10.30am – 4.30pm	10am – 5pm	No Market	
Thursday 27 December	9am – 5.30pm	9am – 5.30pm	No Market	
Friday 28 December	9am – 5.30pm	9am – 5.30pm	9am – 4pm	
Saturday 29 December	9am – 5.30pm	9am – 5.30pm	9am – 4pm	
Sunday 30 December	9am – 6pm	9am – 5.30pm	No Market	
Monday 31 December	9am – 4pm	9am – 5.30pm	No Market	
Tuesday 1 January (BH)	10.30am – 4.30pm	9am – 5pm	No Market	
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#### Santa Float

The Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds Santa float will be visiting local areas between 6pm and 8pm on the following dates. Collections are in aid of local charities, this year for Bucks Uniformed Youth, Youth Concern, Chiltern MS Centre and Polyanna Preschool.

#### DECEMBER

Thursday 6 Friday 7 Monday 10 Tuesday 11 Wednesday 12 Watermead 2 Thursday 13

**Prebendal Farm** Fairford Leys 1 Fairford Levs 2 Watermead 1 **Broughton Avenue** 

Friday 14 Monday 17 Tuesday 18 Wednesday 19 Thursday 20

Bedgrove 1 Berryfields Bedgrove 2 **Bierton/Kingsbrook** Bedgrove 3



#### Aylesbury Town WI

Aylesbury Town WI holds a monthly meeting on the third Thursday evening of each month.

New members are always welcome to come along. This is an opportunity to make friends and uplift your social life.

At our meeting in July we were entertained by the RAF Clarinet Quartet. It was a sociable evening with Pimms and a buffet to complete the ambience.

By the time you read this our celebration of 100 years since suffragettes obtained the vote afternoon tea in October will have taken place. A 100 women including guest speakers are attending.

In our November meeting, a Japanese Flower Arranging Demonstration is planned. Next year's programme will be available shortly with various talks and activities.

December there is a trip to Cadogan Hall to see the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform Christmas Cracker. In the future many other events and outings are available.

We have a lunch club and book club each held once a month. Also weekly craft meetings where you can just chat or be creative.

Monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm at Granville Street Church, Granville Street, Aylesbury HP20 2JL.

If you would like to contact us first, telephone Jenny 01296 615709 or email aylesburytownwi@gmail.com



#### The Buckinghamshire Historical Association



The Buckinghamshire Historical Association is the local voice for history for everyone in Buckinghamshire interested in the study or teaching of history. Whether you are a student, historian, teacher or an avid reader of history books you are welcome to join the BHA.

Our monthly talks in Aylesbury include speakers on local, national and international history and cover all eras from prehistory to medieval to 20th century. We meet every third Wednesday of the month at Friends Meeting House, Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury, HP20 2RT.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, admission for visitors and non-members is £3. Admission for members (annual fee of £10) is free. More information on how to become a member can be found on our membership page www.buckshistoricalassociation.org.uk



The next talk is on 19 December and is about the life and music of Rutland Boughton. Rutland Boughton was the son of grocer William Boughton, whose shop occupied Buckingham Street in Aylesbury. He became a well-known composer for opera and choral music in the 20th century.

For more information on all of our talks please visit: www.buckshistoricalassociation.org.uk/talks

Next year's Big Walk in aid of Pace starts on the Icknield Way Ridgeway Link at Dunstable Downs and takes in part of the Ridgeway Trail, including lvinghoe Beacon, Wigginton and Wendover, in April 2019.

There is a choice of three routes:

- Dunstable Downs to Wendover (approx. 18 miles)
- Ivinghoe Beacon to Wendover (approx. 12 miles)
- Wigginton to Wendover (approx. 6 miles)

Pace

Registration will take place at the Memorial Hall in Wendover and parking will be available nearby. After registration, walkers will be shuttled to their chosen starting point by coach. The walks are guided and there will be a team supplying drinks and snacks and plenty of motivation on the route. £10 registration fee. For more information, or to sign up contact Kelly on **01296 616973** or **kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org** 





# Opening up a World of Opportunities

#### Have you heard about Buckinghamshire Adult

**Learning?** We offer over 1,500 part-time courses across the county including many locations in Aylesbury such as Quarrendon Adult Learning Centre, Elmhurst Adult Learning Centre and The Grange School.

Courses range from one-day to one-year and we cover beginner through to advanced levels, offering daytime and evening flexibility. Our tutors are dedicated and passionate about their subjects. Classes allow you to develop your skills, knowledge and confidence, in an environment where both tutors and learners offer support and encouragement.

#### We offer courses in:

- Creative subjects such as Art, Digital Photography, Cookery, Creative Writing, Flower Arranging and Woodwork
- Foreign Languages including Chinese, French, Italian, Spanish and Sign Language
- English, Maths and English for speakers of other languages
- Courses for Adults with Learning Disabilities and/or Difficulties
- Family Learning for schools and children's centres
- Community Outreach to improve confidence of those returning back to learning, further training or employment.

To find out more or book a course, please visit **www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk** or call **01296 382403**.

To find out how you can get help with the cost of your course, together with information on applying for a course loan, visit our website or call us to discuss in person. English and Maths courses are fully funded for adults who do not already have A\*- C or 9-4 grade at GCSE.



#### Looking for meeting room hire?

#### **Town Hall Facilities**

The Town Council hires out the Council Chamber, smaller meeting rooms and Cemetery Chapel for meetings and other similar events. Full details can be found at **www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-chamber** To check availability please contact the Town Council on **01296 425678**.



#### Wendover's first Santa Dash

Get ready, set and go for Christmas at Wendover's first Santa Dash, Saturday 15 December, 11am, Wendover Memorial Hall. Burn off some Christmas calories and raise some money at Wendover's first Santa Dash, in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Starting and finishing at a new traditional Christmas Market at Wendover Memorial Hall on Wharf Road, this brand new Santa Dash will combine a festive fundraising challenge with an opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts.



The 2.5km circular course through the heart of Wendover is wheelchair, buggy and scooter friendly, so it's suitable for all generations, making this a great Christmas event for all the family. All entrants will be provided with a Santa suit to make a splash of seasonal colour through the town.

A very special visitor has promised to pop by to start the dash, cheer everyone on and say hello to all the children. You can pre-register for the event online at the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity website until midnight on Thursday 13 December or you can sign up on the day at Wendover Memorial Hall from 10am (subject to places still being available).

Not able to join the Santa Dash? Come along to cheer on the runners from 11am and pick up some seasonal gifts and food at the Christmas Market.

# Looking to volunteer?

#### Aylesbury Talking Newspapers

Aylesbury Talking Newspaper Association (ATNA) is a charity which was formed in 1979 by Aylesbury Lions Club, to provide local blind and partially sighted people in Aylesbury Vale with local news, events, obituaries, letters etc as published in the Bucks Herald.



We are a member of the national Talking Newspaper Federation (TNF). We receive new referrals from local groups such as Bucks Vision. The weekly news is now supplemented by a very popular monthly magazine of music and stories compiled from the archives of our totally blind Vice Chairman as well as the Aylesbury Town Matters magazine on behalf of Aylesbury Town Council.

There will shortly be an ATN website to improve contact and enable recordings to be stored there and promote our fundraising days. The service is completely free to users, who can choose to make donations and is run by unpaid volunteers ensuring that costs are well contained. Postage is free under PO national legislation.

Although our volunteers spend most of their time producing the TN on a rota basis, we do try to have some fundraising events each year to support our day to day running costs. These events give us a chance to meet the public, and we heavily rely on donations to secure the service and its other needs. We are always looking for volunteers to read and record the stories. If you do have some time and would like to get involved please contact us.

Aylesbury Talking Newspaper and Magazine are aware that there are many sight disabled people who are not aware that this service exists. You might know someone so if you do, please with their agreement, make them known to us, the contact points are below.

01296 421780 (Tony) or 07563 628247 (Alan) aylesburytn@yahoo.co.uk Charity No 279092

#### ATC invites your comments...

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? 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.



Earlier in the year, individuals, groups and communities were enlisted to find clean, unpolluted water in the River Thame Catchment as part of the Clean Water Quest survey. During May and June, volunteers collected and tested water samples from over 450 sites across the catchment, from the River Thame itself as it meanders its way past Aylesbury to Dorchester on Thames, and its surrounding waterbodies, headwaters, streams and ponds. Volunteers used simple test kits to measure the levels of two widespread nutrient pollutants; nitrate and phosphate.

The findings revealed high levels of both nitrate and phosphate across all habitat types. However, despite the many pressures on the landscape, clean water could still be found, with 16% of sites being free of pollution. Of those sites, almost three quarters were ponds. Clean water was also found in the running water, but it was concentrated in the headwaters, particularly where they rise in semi-natural habitat, such as woodland. If you would like to view the results in more detail, please visit www.riverthame.org/volunteering/clean-water-quest/

The Clean Water Quest survey has highlighted the importance of smaller waters in providing clean unpolluted water, essential for much of our wildlife, and how vital it is to extend this clean water network. This can be achieved through clean water pond creation, and can be as simple as creating a rain water fed garden pond or as grand as a creating a large wetland complex. Big or small, all clean water creation is valuable.

It is only through the power of citizen science that this extensive survey could be undertaken. If you would like to take part in future water quality testing, and contribute to improvements in the water quality of our local river, please contact **hannah@riverthame.org** for more information.



e: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

# **ATC News**

#### DAA Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance



#### **Dementia Alliance Update**

**Creating a 'holding hands' approach has very much been the ethos of 2018 for the Alliance.** There are now over 1,800 dementia friends in Aylesbury and you may start to notice some businesses in the town displaying Dementia Friends' window stickers. We hope that you'll see more of these window stickers in 2019 as it means staff have a greater understanding in how to assist customers who need that extra support.



We'd like to thank alliance members The Waterside Theatre and Bucks CCG for working in partnership with the Town Council to deliver the Listening with Your Eyes workshops courtesy of VAMOS theatre to local businesses (shown above). The workshops provided an insight into challenges people living with dementia face daily, such as being unable to recall a name or being uncomfortable in a familiar environment. Attendees agreed to take on what they had learnt and share this with their colleagues.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support and wish you season's greetings.

#### The Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance

The 'Redeeming our Communities' (ROC) Project came to Aylesbury this October, and the Alliance along with many other groups from within and outside the parish will be working closer together to bring a positive impact to our community.

Areas of focus will include 'ways to reduce isolation' and 'collaborate with the local community'. We'll keep you

informed about how the project is developing, and how you can be involved or benefit from the initiatives over the coming months.

**ROC Conversation** 



The Town Mayor Cllr Mark Willis, Town Councillors & Staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



# **Aylesbury Town Council Grants**

# Are you involved in a charitable or voluntary organisation working for the benefit of people in Aylesbury?

# Do you run or organise a weekly or monthly social group that supports and helps others?

If so, you may be able to apply for a grant from Aylesbury Town Council. We award grants that will benefit the town and its communities. Grants can be awarded to fund projects or activities as well as projects working in Aylesbury to improve public wellbeing.

There are also grants to support young sports people representing their sport at a national or international level to help them achieve their potential.

#### **Broughton Community Action**

Broughton Community Action were awarded a £5,000 Social & Emotional Wellbeing Grant towards the support of a full time manager to facilitate the numerous groups and activities held at the More+Coffee Shop, at the Grants Meeting in June.

As well as The More+ Coffee Shop offering a place for residents of the Broughton and surrounding area to meet, the Café offers so much more.

During the week the Café hosts numerous groups such as parents with young children, the Knit and Natter group, board games and crafts, elderly residents' drop in and a debt relief support group.



The Café also hosts The Menopause Café that supports men and women through this time. For more information regarding the groups and what else is on offer at the More+ Café please visit www.morebroughton.org

#### Alice Rolfe

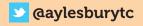
Aylesbury's young sports star, Alice Rolfe was awarded £1,000 towards her continued training to compete in the England Under 18 Hockey Team. Since then Alice has also been selected to play in the Englands Under 21's Hockey Team. We wish Alice and her team mates all the best for the year to come!

For information on how to apply for an Aylesbury Town Council Grant visit **www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** email Jane Eden, Grants Officer **j.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** or call **01296 425678**.

The next Grants Committee meeting will take place on

### Wednesday 30 January 2019

The deadline for grant applications to be considered at this meeting is Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 5pm.



# **ATC News**

#### **Town Mayor's Update**

As I'm writing this in October, storm Callum is doing its worst, but I'm reflecting on what a special place Aylesbury is, and what a special year it has been.

Over the last few months I've had the privilege of meeting so many local groups and charities. I've attended the wonderful events that the Town Council's staff work so hard to put on – Aylesbury on Sea was a fantastic family day, Live in the Park showcased the best local musicians – I was there rocking along with many of you. Proms in the Park was the best of our more classical tradition and gave the opportunity for Shona Beecham to show her undoubted talent. I'm proud of these events as they're open to absolutely everyone and show how strong our community is.

By the time you read this, my Mayor's Challenge will have ended. We had lots of entries who have undertaken the 32 mile challenge, becoming more active and raising money for my charity, Carers Bucks. Being active has a really positive effect on us all, not just our physical health but our mental health too.

As part of my fundraising events for the year, in collaboration with Aylesbury Concert Band, I am delighted to be hosting a Spring concert event at St Mary's Church. This will take place on the 9 March and be a free event for all to attend, however, there will be collection buckets on hand, raising money for the band and my chosen charity Carers Bucks. Please look out for further details on my Facebook page in the coming months. My family highlight was undoubtedly attending the passing out parade of our son at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall. He and his Hanson 08 division put on a fantastic display of military precision with not a dry eye in the house. He's now on his phase 2 training and loving his new life and colleagues.

As we go to press, Christmas is fast approaching and the Mayor's diary is pretty full, so I hope to meet many of you at our events in town. I am looking forward to attending Festive Family Fun, and of course the Mayor's Carol Service – this is one of my favourite events. St Mary's Church looks absolutely stunning when dressed for the occasion, so please join me and all the town councillors for the start of the festive season.

Christmas is a wonderful time for many, but sadly not all, so please remember those less fortunate. Please consider giving to charity, the local food bank could always do with donations. Please look out for your older neighbours and those struggling particularly with loneliness – our community is far stronger if we all look out for each other.

Wishing you all a healthy Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Best wishes to you all Cllr Mark Willis, Town Mayor



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** 

# Art & Leisure



#### What's on at Bucks County Museum

There's lots going on at the museum during the winter months. Enjoy a Christmas science show, take a nostalgic trip back to childhood, reflect on 100 stitched hearts or marvel at the best of contemporary glass.

#### Amazing Christmas Science Show Saturday 15 December

Kids will love this wonderful festive treat – a special Christmas science show packed with amazing experiments that glow, pop, fizz and freeze. Check website for times, prices and booking.

#### Christmas Toy Box Exhibition 15 December 2018 – 19 January 2019

This family favourite is back again with lots of toys to remember from childhood. Dinky, Sindy and LEGO, together with Chad Valley and Pelham Puppets. A great exhibition for all the family with toys and games to play with, too. Small charge per child.





#### 100 HEARTS: Legacy of War Embroiderers' Guild stitched hearts to commemorate the end of WW1 on until 12 January 2019

The Embroiderers' Guild invited their members to take part in the commemoration of the ending of WW1 by stitching 3-dimensional hearts. Come and see these intricate and evocative pieces of work created to commemorate this historic event. The exhibition also includes photographic portraits of men and women from Bucks whose lives were affected by the war. Entry by donation.

#### Glorious Glass! An exhibition celebrating 20 years of the Contemporary Glass Society 2 February 2019 – 23 March 2019

Experience the magical colours, textures, use of light and techniques of around 40 glass artists that demonstrate the glorious and diverse nature of contemporary glass. Many works will be for sale. Check website for family and adult glass workshops, a Forum Day with speakers on glass and a Glass Makers' Fair with affordable pieces.

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

# Art & Leisure

#### Epic Arthurian Pantomime at Queens Park Arts Centre





Dust off your armour and saddle the horses as the Queens Park Arts Centre's traditional family pantomime is off on an epic Arthurian adventure... Dark forces are stirring in the kingdom of Albion. The wicked Morgana La Fey is out to steal the throne from noble King Arthur, who is warned by a prophecy that there's a traitor in Camelot. Will King Arthur find the conspirator before it's too late? Will Morgana's quest for power succeed? And what will it take for Arthur's daughter Anwyn to prove she's a worthy Knight of the Round Table?

**There's only one way to find out...** featuring memorable songs, riotous slapstick routines, plenty of audience participation and magical sets, costumes, puppets and props created by the artists and makers of Queens Park Arts Centre, this year's panto is set to be bigger than ever. The show is produced by Queens Park's in-house production company Unbound and once again features the talented students of the Susan Diane School of Dance.



#### PERFORMANCE TIMES

Matinees (2:00pm) - Sat 8, Sat 15, Sun 16, Sat 22, Sun 23, Mon 24, Wed 26, Sat 29, Sun 30 Early Evenings (6:30pm) - Sat 8, Sat 15, Sat 22, Sun 23, Sat 29 Evenings (7:30pm) - Fri 7, Fri 14, Fri 21, Fri 28

#### TICKET PRICES

Tickets: £13.00 adults / £9.00 conc / £7.00 U16s Family Ticket: £34.00 (2 adults, 2 U16s) Discount Rate Performances: Fri 7, Sat 8 (eve) & Fri 14 Dec – all tickets £7

#### World Premiere Concert by Aylesbury Choral Society

#### Saturday 8 December at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury

Don't miss the newly commissioned arrangement of local composer Chris William's Tsunami Requiem, which the choir will sing accompanied by RAF Halton Voluntary Band at 7.30pm on Saturday 8 December at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury.

The Tsunami Requiem is an intense, haunting and moving piece of music, inspired by the devastating tsunami, which struck Asia in 2004. The Requiem was first performed in its original arrangement at Royal Festival Hall in 2008, when it received a standing ovation. This new arrangement is for a wind band and we look forward to the opportunity to work with the RAF Halton Voluntary Band for the first time.

The concert will also feature a very different piece of music for the Christmas period written by Respighi called Laud to the Nativity, which tells the shepherds' story. There will also be instrumental pieces and carols. This will be the last in our 2018 series of concerts designed specifically to feature

partnerships with local music groups and musicians, following our last highly successful event in June with Aylesbury Opera Group, when the choir performed famous opera pieces, supported by world class soloists.

Our soloists at the December concert will include the well-known tenor, Adrian Thompson and the superb soprano soloist Victoria Joyce. Victoria performed at our last concert in June and was very popular with the audience.



AYLESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY ld première of a new arranger Chris William Tsunami Requiem Respighi's Lauda per la Natività del Signore Carols rcn, 20 2JJ In person: St Mary's Chi (under 16s £6)







**Cllr Sue Chapple** 

01296 426814

Cllr Richard Lloyd 07887 685345

Cllr Denise Summers 01296 424903

Cllr Jenny Bloom 01296 434123

**Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts** 07595 178660

Cllr Mark Winn 01296 393304



# **Council Services**

#### 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** 

Who do I talk to about?...

#### 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** 



AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL



# **Sports**

## New Season at Maxwell Swim Club

**September brought the start of the new season for the swimmers of Maxwell Swim Club.** This September was more exciting than others as Maxwell has a new coach. Noel Horton, who has guided many swimmers through to international level joined Maxwell from Burnley and despite thinking all Southerners are soft Noel has been immensely impressed by the club he has joined.

And why shouldn't he? Maxwell swimmers had an incredible season finishing second in the county championship in February, having nearly forty swimmers make the South East regionals championship and most recently getting a number of swimmers to the National finals, under the tutelage of assistant Head coach Marc Butcher. "I'm really excited to be working with Marc to continue to build this successful club" said Noel.

Maxwell is known for breaststroke swimmers and they did not disappoint at Nationals. Elle Cogan and Gracie Hudson both made the finals in breaststroke events at the English nationals and achieved personal bests. Gracie who is only 12 years old went one step further competing in the 200m breaststroke at the British Nationals, in Sheffield. Gracie has been swimming since she was seven and her success is down to commitment, enthusiasm and hard work.

At the Welsh Nationals, Maxwell were represented by Jenna Govan and at the Scottish Age Group Nationals by Millie Jones who both also excel at breaststroke. Additionally, Sophie Govan also competed at Swim Wales Long Course Championships in a variety of events, making many finals and medals.

Maxwell Swim Club is the lead performance programme in Aylesbury, an all inclusive swim club, training out of The Aqua Vale Swimming Centre, Stoke Mandeville and Swan Leisure Centre.

The future is very bright at Maxwell and all the swimmers are looking forward to achieving great things in the coming season.



#### Want your sports club featured here?



If you run or belong to a local sports club and would like them featured in the magazine please do get in touch with us. You could be looking for new members, telling us about your achievements or just generally telling us about your activities. **01296 425678** info@aylesburytowncouncil.co.uk

# **ATC Youth Town Council**



#### Local Democracy Week

**Even though exams have been a focus for many of us this year in Years 11 and 12, we've been committed to our role as Youth Town Councillors**. In addition to raising over £1,300 for Youth Concern's Nightstop scheme, we joined the Mayor and Town Councillors at St Edward's Catholic Junior School during Local Democracy Week.

We really enjoyed helping pupils talk more about decisions, democracy and our community. It was an honour to meet their Pupil Parliament and see how they have already begun to shape the school's community.





# Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December - 11am to 4pm Friars Square and Market Square

As well as

Children from Bedgrove and Turnfurlong Schools Singing Traditional Carols \* Help Make a Giant Christmas Sculpture \* Balloon Modeling, Face Painting and Glitter Tattoos \* Tap Dancing Turkeys \* Cheeky Penguins \* Craft and Quiz with the Queen's Park Arts Centre \* Lots of Games, Entertainment and Activities





www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01296 425678