AYLESBURY TOWN matters Aylesbury Town Council Magazine



Issue Fifty Three • Published Quarterly June - August 2019

Serving the people of Aylesbury



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



Summer Playscheme 25 July - 3 September 2019

We have seven weeks filled with lots of fun activities and games in store for your child. Each week has a different topic, so no matter if your child wants to come for only one day, a week or for the whole holidays there will always be something different to do each time.

The children can also enjoy our secure outdoor area, which includes climbing frames for different age groups, a go-kart track, multi-use games area and outdoor learning lodge.

Hours and Prices
(per child, per day)
8am to 6.30pm - £30
8am to 3.30pm - £22.50
8am to 12.30pm - £16

25 July – Staying safe 29 July – Colours of the rainbow 4 August – Cooking 12 August – Things that fly 19 August – Messy play 26 August – Holidays 2 September – Making friends

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 **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 f@jpplaycentre





As we are going to print we have just enjoyed the fantastic weather during the Easter break and I have no doubt that our summer will be just as wonderful, weather wise. It certainly is going to be a summer packed full of festivals and fantastic events in Aylesbury.

Starting with the WhizzFizzFest in June, Aylesbury's arts and literature festival, followed by our own Aylesbury on Sea, which will take place in Vale Park for the first time, where a large beach will await everyone; to the fantastic Parklife weekend over the August Bank Holiday and then the Waterside Festival over Heritage Open Days in September. Make sure you look out for all of the dates for the events in the magazine and note them in your diary to ensure you don't miss out.

By the time you are reading this the new Town Mayor of Aylesbury will have been elected at the Annual Council Meeting. To find out who has been elected please have a look at our website and social media. The Mayor's diary is already filling up for the remainder of the year and no doubt the new Mayor will meet many of you at our local events or whilst visiting local groups, residents, businesses and organisations.

If you enjoy gardening, either in your own garden or you are involved with a communal garden area, you may want to consider entering our Aylesbury in Bloom Garden competition. There is a category for everyone and it doesn't matter how big or small your garden is. The application form is on page 7. All entrants will be invited to the awards presentations at Lindengate.

We often receive comments about how beautiful the Tring Road cemetery is and that it is a hidden oasis of peace in our town. Did you know that the cemetery is 160 years old? To celebrate the heritage we have installed information boards throughout the cemetery where you can read about its fascinating history.

Grass cutting season is here and our team are out and about on their rounds cutting grass verges and spraying and clearing weeds. We work on a schedule and deliver up to 10 cuts in the season. As the weather conditions are perfect the grass is growing very fast. Please rest assured that the team are going around Aylesbury continuously to stay on top of it as best as possible.

Make sure you take a moment to have a look at the Arts & Leisure pages in the magazine as there are some great exhibitions and events coming up at the Bucks County Museum, including the Eid Fayre, which is supported by the Town Council. The ImageZ Camera Club is starting their 2019 season and some of their images are included on the front cover.

There certainly is lots to see and lots to do in our town and local area. We wish you all a nice summer and hope that you get to enjoy plenty of sunshine.

Keith Gray, JP Town Clerk

In this issue...

ATC News & Events

- 2 Jonathan Page Play Centre
- 3 Welcome Note
- 4-5 ATC News & Events
- 8 Jonathan Page Play Centre
- 9 Dementia Friends, Tring Road Cemetery
- 17 Town Mayor's Update
- 20 Ward Map
- 21 Council Services
- 24 Aylesbury on Sea

Environment

- 6 Aylesbury in Bloom Garden Competition Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean
- 7 Garden Competition Application Form

Community News & Events

- 10 Lymphoma Action, Flipping Close
- Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day, Bedgrove Day in the Park, Poppy Appeal 2018/19
- **12** Buckinghamshire Mind, Aylesbury Branch of RNLI, Calibre Audio Library
- **13** Aylesbury Gardening Society, Open Garden for Pace, Relay for Life Aylesbury
- 14 Lindengate, Aylesbury Garden Town, Waterside Festival
- 15 WhizzFizzFest, Play in the Park, What's On in Aylesbury over the summer

Aylesbury Town Council Grants

16 Jansel 60 Club, Community Compassion, Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust

Art & Leisure

- **18** Bucks County Museum, ImageZ Camera Club
- 19 Queens Park Arts Centre, Fergie's Fitness

Schools & Colleges

22 Bedgrove Junior School, University Campus Aylesbury Vale, Pebble Brook School

Young People

23 Aylesbury Youth Town Council, Police Cadets

Contact details

Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 2QP Tel: **01296 425678** Fax: 01296 426134 **info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk**

Photos throughout the magazine courtesy of Maurice Cousins, Swale Photography, Steve Cook, Neale Wareham, Derek Pelling, Randal Cheney, Krytan Photography and ImageZ Camera Club.

Printed by Bluepepper Designs www.bpdesigns.co.uk

Aylesbury is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse





Summer Events

This summer's event schedule is lining up to be our biggest to date. Not only are we planning BIG changes to Aylesbury on Sea; a fabulous local line up for Live in the Park; a spectacular Proms in the Park and the historical Tudor Fare; but we are also adding a brand new event Moonday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the Moon.

Aylesbury on Sea will be moving to Vale Park on Sunday 7 July. We have taken on board public feedback and are excited to announce that this year there will be a 50m long sandy beach through the middle of the park, perfect for building sandcastles. There will also be donkey rides, Punch & Judy, a land train, a fun fair ride, palm tree climb, face painting, crafts, games & activities and a special performance of Treasure Island by Queens Park Arts Centre. Please do bring a picnic and your rug to enjoy a day at The Beach in the Park.

Join us at **Moonday** in Friars Square shopping centre (revised location), on Saturday 20 July, 50 years to the day that man first landed on the Moon. We are joined by the amateur experts from UK Astronomy, who will entertain and educate you about all things to do with the Moon and Space in general. Meet a NASA Solar Ambassador, learn the skills needed to become an astronaut, find out about the phases of the moon, touch a real piece of moon rock, explore how moon craters are formed, understand about relative weight on different planets, make and launch your own space rocket, and so, so, so much more.

So if you've ever looked up at the sky and gazed at the moon, stars and Space – then this is an amazing opportunity to find out more and maybe even spark an interest in astronomy.

Parklife Weekend is always our busiest and biggest event of the year. We continue to improve and develop the event for your enjoyment and entertainment. There is far too much information to give you all of the details here, so please do find the event on Facebook and our website, which we will continuously update with information in the coming weeks and months.

Live in the Park's two stages will see 13 bands perform throughout the day, headlining are the brilliant Callow Saints – we are thrilled that this amazing local band will be rocking you into the night – they are promising that it will be a show to remember!! This year's FREE fairground rides will include dodgems and trampolines, and the Community Involvement Area is filling fast – so lots of free fun things for you to do. Souvenir cups will be sold for £1 and all catering will be served in compostable containers to reduce the amount of waste the event creates.

Once again Aylesbury Concert Band will be performing **Proms** in the Park with a programme titled "Childhood Memories" – do come along with your picnics, rugs and Union Jack flags to enjoy the musical extravaganza and spectacular fireworks in the late Summer sun.

For up to date information on all of our events please do visit our Facebook page @aylesburytc and website www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Environment

Aylesbury in Bloom Garden Competition 2019



What a difference a year makes. Last year we had the Beast from the East and this year we had the hottest February since records began in 1910. Many flowers blossomed early and residents could be heard mowing their lawns in February making an early start to getting their gardens ready for the summer season.

Why not get rewarded for all of your hard work in your garden and enter our annual garden competition? The competition is open to residents, schools, organisations and businesses in the parish of Aylesbury Town.

No garden is too small or too large to enter. Over the years the judges have seen some fantastic gardens ranging from small gardens created with just pots, baskets and quirky containers to gardens laid to lawn surrounded by flower beds as well as vegetable gardens, including strawberries growing on a shed roof.

If you garden alone or together with neighbours in a communal area or you are a school/nursery/childminder with a group of children who garden, there is a category for everyone.



We have already received some entries and it promises to be an exciting year again. Everyone will be awarded for their hard work with award ceremonies being held at Lindengate this year. If you are thinking about entering or haven't sent through your application form yet, please complete the form on the opposite page and return to the offices at Town Hall or via email.

Categories include Best Front Garden, Best Back Garden, Best Edible Garden, Best Wildlife/Nature Garden, Best Container Garden and Best Young Gardener. Participants can choose to enter multiple categories and with such a wide variety there is something for everyone's garden. For more information on judging criteria please visit our website www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or Facebook page @AylesburyInBloom



Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean

Residents from across Aylesbury joined Councillors Tim Dixon and Waheed Raja in a Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean in the Central Aylesbury area. The team picked litter for an hour and a half on Sunday 7 April on the roads and pavements around the canal area of the town.

The Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean campaign encourages residents to look at their local area and see if they could give it a tidy up. Councillor Tim Dixon said, "It has been really great to get so many people out on a Sunday morning to help out with the Spring Clean. We received lots of positive comments from members of the public. It's a great way to meet new people and to encourage everyone to take care of the town. Residents can borrow the equipment from the Town Council, so all you need to add is yourself and your neighbours."

If you are looking to organise a litter pick with your family, friends, neighbours, local businesses or organisation contact the Town Council offices on **01296 425678** to borrow our community litter pick kit, which contains litter pickers, high viz jackets, gloves, bag hoops and litter bags.



GARDEN COMPETITION 2019

For Residents, Schools, Businesses and Organisations in the Parish of Aylesbury Town. *Entries Close 19 June 2019*, judging will take place during June, July & August 2019. Please return the completed form to **Aylesbury In Bloom**, **Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP** or email completed forms to **info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** (scanned forms are acceptable).

School / Organisation:			
Phone / Mobile:			
E-mail:			
Address incl. Postcode:			
I am a Resident 🗌 Scho	ool 🗌 Organis	sation/E	Business
Please tick the categories you wish to enter (multiple categories can be chosen) For terms and conditions and criteria for each category, please visit www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or contact the office on 01296 425678.			
Residents		Schoo	ls
Best Front Garden			Best Edible Garden
Best Back Garden			Best Wildlife/Nature Garden
Best Edible Garden			Best Recreational / Learning Garden
Best Wildlife/Nature Garden			Best Garden in a Pot
Best Container Garden			
Best Young Gardener (4-16 yrs)		Business / Organisations	
			Best Communal Garden/Premises
Preferred Month for your garde Aylesbury Town Council is the "contro Church Street, Aylesbury, Buckingham	oller" of the persona	al data yo	une







Jonathan Page play Centre



We hope you are all well and enjoyed the warm February weather we experienced this year, which was great for lots of outside play. Unfortunately, when it came to our school holidays in April the weather wasn't all that great, but we still had a lot of fun at Easter Playscheme. We had a visit from Aylesbury's Town Mayor, who judged our Easter bonnets. We made such wonderful and colourful creations that he had a very hard time to choose three winners. We had a great time at Easter Playscheme and there was never a dull moment.

Now we are on the countdown for the big Summer break. For some of us it can't come soon enough. Six weeks filled with lots of fun activities and games.

Summer Playscheme 25 July – 3 September

Each week we cover a different topic so if you are joining us for only one day, a week or the whole holidays there will always be something different to do each time. We also have a large secure outdoor area where we enjoy climbing on the volcano and climbing frames, riding the go-karts around the track or playing football and other games.

If that isn't enough we also have access to a great selection of toys indoors, which range from Action Man, Sylvanian Families, to dinosaurs, Lego, Barbie dolls, table football, snooker and lots more. We hope you can join in the fun with us this summer and we can make new friends.

25 July – Staying safe
29 July – Colours of the rainbow
4 August – Cooking week
12 August – Things that fly
19 August – Messy play week
26 August – Holidays
2 September – Making Friends

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 www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/jppc or call us on 01296 336413.

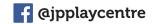
If you would like to visit the Centre together with your children, so you can see and experience what we have to offer first hand and meet our team of qualified staff, then please give us a call to arrange a date and time.

The JPPC are very much looking forward to more fun and action packed Playschemes and to welcoming everyone.









ATC News

Dementia Friendly

Spotlight on... Enjoying our community

By the time this edition reaches your doormat, Dementia Action Week will have taken place and hopefully there will be a few more Dementia Friends in Aylesbury. Over the last few weeks, we've visited some of the activities people – some who have dementia and some who don't – enjoy in our community.

The Monday Contact Club

Every Monday from 10am – 3pm, Janice Colbeck and Tess McGuiness enjoy sharing their day with members from the Monday Club. It's a great place to learn how to play dominos, flick through magazines, talk, dance and participate in gentle chair-based exercises. Perhaps one of the most enjoyable parts of the day is gathering for lunch where music, and conversation gently buzz in the background. For more information about the Monday Club contact Janice on **07805** 690 174.

Men in Sheds

Everyone is partial to a bit of DIY, and the team at Men in Sheds always have a warm welcome for anyone who has a love of all things community. Whether it's woodcarving, metalwork or design, Adrian and his team will always have a cuppa brewing. Men in Sheds is based at the old HSBC bank in Walton Street. If you would like to join their team or learn a new skill, contact Adrian on 07708 449 109.



St Leonards

Don't be surprised if you see the St Leonards' minibus parked up in Aylesbury. From the 'Gents Club' pub lunch, to having fun at Grasshoppers Nursery, or fulfilling a dream to be a lollipop lady for an 80th birthday, there's fun to be had with Ruth, Martin and the gang at St Leonards.



It's true... there's more to a person than a condition, these photos prove just that.

If you'd like to share more activities in the community that people can enjoy, please contact our Dementia Champion at b.lasoye@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or phone 01296 425 678.

Tring Road Cemetery

Tring Road Cemetery is 160 years old and in that time 26,000 burials have taken place, although evidence suggests the site may have been a Saxon burial ground over a thousand years ago. To celebrate this wealth of heritage, the Town Council has installed information boards to give an insight into the cemetery's fascinating history.

On entering from Tring Road, the first board shows the evolution of the cemetery, from the original four acres known as Mill Field, purchased from Thomas Bell in 1857, to the current 25 acres.

The two chapels and mortuary, known as the Dead House, were designed in the Gothic style by Reading-based architects W. F. Poulton and W. H. Woodman. On the left is the Episcopal



Chapel, originally for followers of the Church of England, which is still used for services today. On the right is the Dissenters' Chapel, originally for followers of other faiths, which is available for hire. The Dead House was a place to house the deceased prior to burial. All three buildings are Grade II listed as good examples of early burial board architecture.

Acton Tindal is perhaps the most well-known person buried at Tring Road Cemetery. He was Lord of the Manor of Aylesbury and Clerk of the Peace for Buckinghamshire, and gifted to Aylesbury the clock in the Market Square tower. His wife Henrietta published two poetry collections and a historical novel, under the pseudonym Diana Butler.

The Victorians viewed cemeteries not only as a final resting place, but as a formal garden to visit for a stroll or for quiet contemplation. We hope you will take some time to enjoy this oasis of calm and reflect on its rich history.



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.



Join the 27 in 27 challenge to help people affected by Lymphoma

Lymphoma Action, based in Aylesbury, is the only UK charity dedicated to Lymphoma. Lymphoma is the most common blood cancer and affects the infection-fighting cells of the immune system. It's complex, with over 60 sub-types and can be hard to diagnose because the symptoms – a lump in the neck, armpit or groin; feeling exhausted for no reason; unexplained weight loss; night sweats; itching without a rash – can often be confused with other health issues.

Every 27 minutes someone is diagnosed with Lymphoma in the UK. To highlight this and raise awareness and crucial funds, Lymphoma Action is inviting you to join its 27 in 27 challenge this September during Blood Cancer Awareness Month. Simply raise £27 in 27 days however you like – it's a simple way for you to help the charity provide much needed support so that no-one has to face Lymphoma alone.

Ropinder Gill, CEO of the charity, says: "We'd love local people, clubs and businesses to get involved in 27 in 27. It's flexible to suit you – it could be as simple as having a collection tin on your reception desk for 27 days; getting sponsored to cycle to work for 27 days or until you've clocked 27 miles; or hosting a cake sale... perhaps featuring 27 different cakes! All funds raised will help us provide the best possible information and support."

Call **01296 619400** to get involved or register online at www.lymphoma-action.org.uk/27

Don't forget... Aylesbury on Sea Sunday 7 July, 11am–4pm, Vale Park

Flipping Close

Mix96 once again organised the annual pancake race to crown 'Bucks Best Tossers' in aid of the Florence Nightingale Hospice. Aylesbury Town Council entered a team again but having never gone beyond the first round hopes were not high of success particularly as a late dropout meant the team were down to three members.



Mayor Cllr Mark Willis, Cllr Richard Lloyd and Events Officer Ruth Mayhew lined up in heat one with the Mayor agreeing to run twice on the basis of having the most impressive looking running shoes. A solid start saw the Town Council coming in second to Noodle Nation and making it to the semi-finals for the first time.

The semi-final proved to be the best showing by the team and this time we triumphed over Noodle Nation pushing them into second, securing a place in the final for both teams and our third meeting.

In the final, Noodle Nation and the Town Council were joined by GK Plumbing (the 2018 winners) and Gerald Low. The final ramped up the tossing requirements with additional tosses required by all team members and Noodle Nation's younger and fitter squad made this tell by storming to victory just ahead of GK Plumbing in a very hard fought final with your Town Council team coming home third.

Much fun was had by all in front of a good crowd in Kingsbury and more importantly raised funds for the hospice in doing so. Congratulations to Noodle Nation and many thanks to Mix96 for their ongoing organisation of this fun annual event and we'll be honing our skills to go even better next year!



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.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day 2019

Join us for the Society's Open Day, Buckinghamshire's major family history event. Our Buckinghamshire names database is always a major attraction, containing well over five million surname entries taken from the county's parish registers, wills, census returns and many lesser-known documents. The database is fully searchable – if there's an ancestor you can't find, come along and let us help you track him or her down (small charge for searches).

Our parish register transcripts and other publications will be on sale, and there will be lots of help and advice available from friendly, experienced family historians, and talks, including an introductory talk for those new to family history.

We expect local history to be prominent, with museums and local history groups exhibiting alongside family history societies from around the country, archives and the customary range of suppliers of maps, books, software, archival materials and other services.

Entry is free. In addition to tea, coffee and light snacks, hot food such as burgers and hot dogs will be available from a mobile caterer. Come and make a day of it. Free parking is available at the venue.

We look forward to seeing you between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 27 July 2019, at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH



Bedgrove 'Day in the Park'

Saturday 13 July between 12 – 4pm An afternoon of family fun

- Porsche Club GB car display free to enter fun dog show judged by local vets • live music • games
- funfair rides local charities local business stalls
- crafts face painting refreshments and more!

Contact Chris or Gillian Barnett
01296 420501 or email thebarnett3@sky.com

Poppy Appeal 2018/19

In October of 2018 we held our annual Poppy
Appeal Launch in Friars Square. Below is part of the window display handbuilt by the staff of Friars Square Management. A sincere thank you must go to them and their staff.



2018 was a very special year as it was the Centenary of the end of World War 1. The launch was well attended by all Cadet services from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Police. There were also many veterans, shoppers and visitors.

This year is turning out to be a year that people from Aylesbury and surrounding areas should be proud of. We still have until 30 September 2019, and at the time of going to press, the total stands at £91,500. Buckinghamshire's total so far for this Poppy Appeal is £811,255. Every penny you give makes a difference and the Aylesbury Branch give you all a **BIG THANK YOU**.

The local cadets, of all forces, are a very big help to us not just standing with boxes and collecting pots but supporting us with other events held at our branch. This year we were given so many beautiful craft donations from individuals and groups it was overwhelming. I know these all made such a difference to our displays and donations.

The date for the next launch is Saturday 26 October 2019. If anyone would like to help with items for us to display and/or help with collecting during the two weeks of Poppy Appeal, please contact our Appeal Organiser, Barbara Grant on the number below.

We are also always looking for new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month except January and August at the Railway Club, Aylesbury, HP21 8HH at 7.30pm. For further information please contact Barbara Grant on **07973 509174** or email: **babsg56@aol.com**.

Registered Charity No. 219279

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.



Call for Local Businesses to partner with Buckinghamshire Mind

Buckinghamshire Mind is inviting local businesses to work with them as their Charity Partner. As well as raising vital funds to support the charity's local mental health services, Charity Partnership is a vital element of Corporate Social Responsibility, promotes workplace wellbeing, encourages team-building and can result in increased confidence and self-esteem for individual employees.

A great example of the benefits of Charity Partnership is Orange Genie Group. In September 2018, the contractor management company chose Buckinghamshire Mind as their Charity Partner for 2018/19, with staff committing to raising a minimum of £10,000.

"Involvement in the local community is of paramount importance to us and traditionally our CSR management board have selected a charity or worthy cause to support," explains Orange Genie Group's Chief Executive Officer, Graham Fisher. "We believe that helping the local community is not just something we choose to do but is actually an important part of our business."

Orange Genie chose to partner with Buckinghamshire Mind because of the company's commitment to improve staff and stakeholder wellbeing.

"Buckinghamshire Mind is delighted to be the Charity Partner for the Orange Genie Group," said Andrea McCubbin, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Mind. "It is fantastic to see the strong focus that Orange Genie has on mental health wellbeing for its employees and the wider community. We are all hugely impressed with the commitment that Orange Genie employees have shown towards achieving the fundraising target."

To discuss the benefits of working with Buckinghamshire Mind as your organisation's Charity Partner, please contact **fundraising@bucksmind.org.uk**. Find out more about Buckinghamshire Mind at **www.bucksmind.org.uk**

Calibre audio library

Calibre Audio Library brings the joy of audiobooks to those unable to read print because of sight loss, dyslexia or another disability that prevents them from holding a book. Set up over 40 years ago by a mother whose partially-sighted son struggled to read the printed word, Calibre is now a national charity based in Aylesbury with over 14,000 members.



Our library has around 11,000 audiobooks; all are unabridged, recorded by professional actors and broadcasters and available for unlimited borrowing by

our members. Books can be borrowed via our free postal service on CD and memory stick, streamed online or downloaded on our free app so members can always have audiobooks at their fingertips.

"Calibre has enabled me to read and enjoy books which I thought I'd never be able to do again. The service is fabulous and it's opened a door for me which I thought had been closed." Calibre member

A lifetime membership is just £35 (including VAT) for adults and £20 for under 16s, with no monthly subscription or any hidden costs. Group membership packages for schools, care homes and other organisations are also available.

We are currently offering a 3-month free trial so if you or a loved one would benefit from our service, now is the perfect time to give it a try.

Please visit www.calibre.org.uk or call our friendly membership services team on 01296 432339 to join or for more information.



Aylesbury Branch of the RNLI

If you have watched BBC TV's Saving Lives at Sea you will know about the heroic work of the lifeboat crews, and perhaps felt some faint wish to help. Well, in fact you can. Although we are miles from the sea, the Aylesbury Branch of the RNLI works successfully to raise funds. Over the past 10 years our street collections have contributed over £25,500, besides substantial money from other sources such as collection boxes in shops, pubs, etc.

However several of the Branch Committee are likely to have to give up their membership soon, so we need to replace them. Nine people make up our present team, meeting 3 or 4 times a year but working at individual responsibilities as needed. If you would like to know more about joining the committee, or if you would be willing to help on our collections, please contact Tony Hall, Hon Sec and Flag Day Organiser, at **tonyhall.rnli@outlook.com** or on **01844 208474**.

Aylesbury Gardening Society

Aylesbury Gardening Society is still going strong after all these years. Founded in 1880 the Society still caters for the gardener, large or small. We are having a busy year. For the sixth year running we have provided three potatoes of different varieties together with compost and potato growing bags to 38 classes of school children. We want to encourage them to grow vegetables and we will weigh the results in late June. There are awards for the heaviest combined three bags and also for the heaviest single bag.

In a similar vein, we are running a competition to find who can grow the heaviest crop from a single potato grown in a bag. This is a charitable event in aid of Lymphoma Action and is to commemorate the late Graham Webster, who was our treasurer and a keen supporter of the charity.



Our trading store at Old Stoke Road Allotment Site is busy and we also arrange coach trips. We have our 72nd Annual Produce Show being held at the main hall at Aylesbury

Grammar School on Saturday 21 September. Why not consider entering? There are catering, flower arranging as well as flowers and vegetable classes - or at least pay a visit to view from 2.30pm.

For full details about the Society visit our website at: www.aylesburygardeningsociety.co.uk



An evening at the Bunch, Thursday 4 July 6pm until sunset (Wotton Underwood, HP18 0RZ)

This charming garden was created out of the gardens of a 'bunch' of workman's cottages on the Wotton Underwood Estate. On arrival enjoy a guided tour by the owners around the grounds and learn of the history, whilst taking in the glorious garden during its prime time of year, followed by nibbles and wine served outside while the sun sets. There are themed gardens, canaries and guinea fowl, and a beautiful orchard to relax and take in.

Tickets are £20 per person which includes your guided tour, nibbles and wine. To buy tickets call 01296 616976 or email lacey.bonham@thepacecentre.org

100% of your ticket will be donated to Pace to support the expert therapy and education provided to children with motor disorders.



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.

Relay For Life Aylesbury invites you to join them at the Circus!

Roll up! Roll Up! For the Circus Themed Aylesbury Relay 2019 from 12 noon on Saturday 27 July. The 24-hour free event where teams keep at least one team member on the walking track throughout the day and night, will be held at the Nuffield Pavilion in Halton.

Central to Relay is the Survivors' Lap, where those who have successfully fought cancer, are undergoing treatment, or have received a cancer diagnosis, complete one lap of the track to launch the event.

Chairman of Relay For Life Aylesbury Paula Kirby says: "Our survivors are the reason we Relay. Without them Relay would not be the fantastic community event that we are all so proud to be part of. We would love to welcome as many survivors as possible to Relay in 2019, so if you have any friends who are cancer survivors - men, woman or children - please encourage them to get in touch. We would like to reach as many local people as we can to make this the largest Survivors' Celebration Lunch Aylesbury has seen."



The Survivors' Lap is followed by a special complimentary buffet lunch at which a Survivor's guest (partner, friend, carer or supporter) are also welcome.

These honoured guests can then stay to enjoy the entertainment and festivities which run into the evening including circus themed laps, fancy-dress laps, fundraising stalls, dog show and live music. So far we have raised over £750,000 and to date seventeen teams have registered for Relay For Life Aylesbury 2019.

For more information about how to register as a Survivor please visit our website at www.relayforlifeaylesbury.org or email: aylesburyrelay.survivorship@gmail.com or contact: Paula Kirby, Relay Chairman

Email: relaypaulak@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07910 100963

Lindengate welcomes New Leadership

Lindengate is delighted to welcome new Director, Jan Webster, to lead its transformational organisation and the Lindengate community to the next phase in its evolution.

"We are delighted to welcome Jan, whose experience is both vast and specialised – an ideal skill set for meeting the needs of our multi-faceted organisation."



Jan has over twenty years' experience in supporting organisations with leadership, planning, evaluation and fundraising. Operating in some of the poorest communities in Africa, within

challenging environments, Jan has initiated a well-respected flourishing organisation that works with brain trauma survivors.

As an advocate for the positive mental health movement Jan Webster is the visionary leader required to usher Lindengate through a critical time in its expansion.

"I am privileged to join Lindengate, an exemplary organisation able to support a variety of different people with a wide spectrum of needs. Our vision for the future is to actively encourage our service users' voices to get stronger. We aspire to become leaders in the mental health conversation, with a view of raising the profile of mental health awareness."

The award-winning mental health charity has recently celebrated four years since opening its doors to service users, referred to as 'Gardeners'. Lindengate offers specialised gardening activities to help those with mental health needs in their continuing recovery.

The charity's services, known as Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH), use the healing power of nature and the outdoors to improve mental wellbeing, boost self-esteem, promote social inclusion and encourage recovery. Social and Therapeutic Horticulture is recognised to be beneficial for a wide range of mental health needs including anxiety, depression, loneliness as well as for people with Autism, Dementia and head injury.

In 2018 Lindengate was recognised with the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire Award for Services to Mental Health, as well as the Gold Award for the Environment Category in the BBC Three Counties Radio People's Award. Building on a robust foundation of success, Ms Webster aims to consolidate the many lessons that Lindengate has learned, while keeping the spirit of Lindengate thriving as it grows.

Aylesbury, A Garden Town

Exciting times are ahead for Aylesbury, as it continues to undergo a major transformation, now it's a Garden Town.



Like the original Garden Cities, the status is awarded by the government

to areas across the UK, where key growth is taking place. Around 16,000 new homes are being built in Aylesbury by 2033 and becoming a Garden Town brings funding opportunities to help the area grow in the right way, with supporting infrastructure including road links, schools and other facilities, along with quality green spaces.

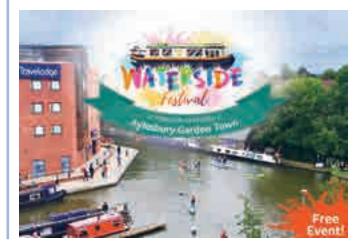
The aim is to create a well-planned environment that makes the community feel proud, with strong connections between historic areas and new developments. A masterplan, setting out the framework for the way the town will develop in the future, is currently being designed and will go to public consultation later this year. Find out more at www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk or follow @AylesburyGT

The return of Waterside Festival – in Aylesbury Garden Town!

Aylesbury Garden Town are proud to be sponsoring this year's fantastic Waterside Festival on **Saturday 14 September**, celebrating Aylesbury's rich canal heritage.

A fun-packed day awaits, with many favourites returning, including the floating market, top musical entertainment and free canoeing, kayaking and paddle-boarding sessions. Enjoy waterside themed arts & crafts, children's activities, merry-go-round and swing boats – not forgetting the fabulous food court!

As part of the Garden Town ethos, this year's Waterside Festival will be 'greener'. Visitors can take advantage of plentiful free cycle parking if they travel to the event on two wheels, with opportunities for bike maintenance and hire too. And in the food court we'll be discouraging the use of plastic and non-recyclable materials. Find out more at www.watersidefestival.org



WhizzFizzFest

WhizzFizzFest is Aylesbury's fantastic family-friendly literary and arts festival, taking place in Aylesbury town centre on Saturday 22 June, 10.30am – 5.30pm. Originally inspired by Roald Dahl, WhizzFizzFest has evolved into a collaborative celebration of creative arts with children's literature and imaginations at its heart.

This year's exciting literary line up includes Cressida Cowell, author of the incredible How to Train Your Dragon series, Judith Kerr, whose The Tiger Who Came to Tea and Mog series are amongst the country's best loved children's titles, and Nick Butterworth, awardwinning author and illustrator of the adored Percy the Park Keeper series.



We're also delighted to welcome back ballerina extraordinaire Dame Darcey Bussell, who will be returning with her DDMix Dance Fitness schools' dance competition, supported by Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist, Maddox and The Aylesbury Rock Choir.

Hosted in the beautiful gardens of Bucks County Museum will be a heartwarming, taste-budtickling Teddy Bear's

picnic and, in grand tradition, the town centre will host over 1,000 school children from across Aylesbury Vale in the most spectacular parade, featuring costumes, puppets and our unmissable five-metre-tall Giant!

Fantastical FREE entertainment includes; bubbleologists, balloonists, story tellers, live music, fashion shows, dancers, street performers, and creative workshops. Adventure through the town with the WhizzFizzQuest and celebrate Aylesbury Vale's young aspiring authors as we reveal the winner of the 500 Words Challenge. There really is something for everyone to enjoy. (Ooh, did we mention we've got a fun fair too?!)

For tickets and more info visit: www.whizzfizzfest.org.uk

What's on in Aylesbury over the Summer

Aylesbury is delighted to welcome to the town a range of new restaurants including Lounges, Zizzi and Miya the new Japanese restaurant, all due to be opening soon. VIRE has recently opened in Temple Street and offers escape rooms, virtual reality and Nerf arenas providing great fun for everyone.

With four markets a week, there is a good choice and they are all based in the historic Market Square. The weekly Foodie Friday market continues to grow with an



even greater offer of street food including jerk chicken, Afro Caribbean, Indian and Greek to name a few.

There is a range of exciting children's events during the summer including:

- Magical Thursday on 25 July, with Colonel Custard and his award-winning magic show. Performances at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm in Market Square. It will be £2.50 per person per show.
- On 15 August, Climb and Bounce from 11am 3pm.
 Test your skills and strength on the climbing wall
 and burn some energy on the bungee trampolines in
 Kingsbury. It will be £2.50 per activity.
- Thursday 22 August 11am 3pm Robogeddon will be returning to Kingsbury. Come along and discover your mean streak and flip other players robots over to impede their progress! It is only £2.50 a go.

Whilst here, there are beautiful places to enjoy a picnic including by the canal or by stunning artwork in The Exchange.

For more information: visitaylesbury.co.uk

Brought to you by the Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership.

Play in the Park is back and bigger than ever!

Play in the Park is an annual event which aims to encourage and develop family play and provide a unique day of activities and entertainment for children to celebrate National Play Day. With lots of fun activities, demos, refreshments and information stands there is something for everyone: go-karts to a climbing wall, circus skills sessions to Punch and Judy shows, a petting farm to drumming – and much, much more!

All the fun takes place in Vale Park, Aylesbury on **Wednesday 7 August** from 11am to 4pm. The event is free to attend, but certain activities have charges of between £1 and £3. Tokens for activities can be bought on the day from the designated token booths.

For more information, please visit: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/pitp or follow #AylesburyPlayDay on social media.

Aylesbury Town Council Grants

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

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.

Aylesbury Town Council Grant scheme support many worthwhile charities and organisations. The funds given really do make a difference to the community of Aylesbury and the residents that need the support which these fantastic organisations provide. For more information about grants visit our website or contact the Grants Officer Jane on j.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Jansel 60 Club

Jansel 60 Club, a well established group in Bedgrove was awarded £1,000 towards the afternoon activities for the members.

The club continues to grow and provide an essential weekly social gathering for many retired residents of Bedgrove.



Community Compassion

Community Compassion, a newly active group, based at Holy Spirit Bedgrove, received £1,000 towards setting up activities for the members. The group are initially focusing on residents with hearing/memory loss, offer social support with signposting to other services.

The group's long term aim is to promote active, healthy aging by encouraging the more active elderly to help deliver such social support.

Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust

Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust were awarded £2,000 towards their 'Spring Festival of Colour'. The event took place on Saturday 27 April and was a great success. The festival was a celebration of love, as on this day, regardless of age or social status, all unite together forgetting all resentments and any ill feeling towards each other.

The event shared knowledge about the Hindu beliefs, customs and culture, while promoting British Values to generate mutual understanding and respect within our society.

The next Grants Committee meetings will take place on

Wednesday 19 June (application deadline Wednesday 5 June)
Wednesday 16 October (application deadline Wednesday 2 October)

General Grants and Sport Grants will be considered at these meetings.

ATC News







Town Mayor's Update

By the time this edition of Aylesbury Town Matters drops through your letterbox my time as Mayor of Aylesbury will have come to a close, I will have handed over the magnificent Chain of Office and the robes to my successor, and I wish them all the best - it's a special town and a special job.

I have had the best year. I have said this many times to many people, but this has been the best job I have ever had. It has been an absolute privilege to represent your town and it has been an honour to meet so many of you. From our fun family events to the more sombre occasions, it has been a year that I will never forget.



I have been fortunate to witness the work of our charities providing the love and support that their users require with help and funding from you, the public. The work of organisations such as the Florence Nightingale

Hospice who are celebrating their 30th birthday and their dedicated staff, volunteers and fundraisers, to the services provided by the Chiltern MS Centre, which are unique in our area, to my own Mayoral charity, Carers Bucks providing services to our growing caring community. I was fortunate to be invited along to see a young carers' youth club, the relief that Carers Bucks brings to these young people and the dedication of the staff and volunteers is magnificent.

This year I was amazed by the enormous talent of our young performers taking part in 'Whistle Down The Wind' at the Waterside Theatre. I had the task of following these talented performers with a speech, how I was supposed to follow them was beyond me. The musical life of Aylesbury

is in good hands too, from Live in the Park to Proms, through to the music at the Remembrance service at St Mary's played beautifully by Aylesbury Concert Band, we have some real talent in our town.



The family event that I will never forget from this year must be the 'passing out' of our son into the Royal Navy. To see our son happy and accomplished in his new career and serving our country makes us so proud. All the more poignant as we also remembered the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 in November with the annual parade and church service, the town remembered the fallen beautifully, with dignity and respect.

There are a few people I have to thank – all the staff at Aylesbury Town Council, particularly Sue who as the Mayor's PA told me what to wear, where to go, and what I had to say or do. It would be a much harder job without your help. Sqt Joe McNicholas my RAF Cadet has been invaluable, I really hope you had a great year and you achieve your goals. Lastly my fabulous wife, Katie who has had to put up with me and the organised chaos, all with your love and humour. Thank you isn't enough, but it will have to do in these pages.

My love and best wishes go to all of you. Thank you for making this year so memorable.

Cllr Mark Willis

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

Samurai: Warriors of Ancient Japan until 13 July

There's still time to catch this stunning exhibition of historical Samurai armour and weapons, from complete suits to beautiful swords and ornate helmets.

Community Voices, 4 May - 6 July

The hidden stories of some of our local communities told through their objects and in their own words in a multi-sensory exhibition.

Pots & Prints by Deborah Hopson-Wolpe 13 July – 14 September

A selling exhibition featuring work by the Olney ceramicist and printmaker, Deborah Hopson-Wolpe.

ROBOT: A Collection of Robots, Cyborgs and Androids 27 July – 31 August

A spectacular exhibition to capture your imagination featuring robots, cyborgs and androids in all their various designs and guises, including a variety from favourite movies. Admission charge.

Eid Fayre — re-enactment of ancient Asian life Monday 26 August, 11am — 4pm

To celebrate the end of the Muslim festival of Eid the museum is hosting an exciting re-enactment of traditional Asian life 1200 years ago including displays of weaponry and archery, games, arts and crafts. A family event for all ages.

Entry to exhibitions and events by donation unless specified.

Drop into our shop and see the beautiful jewellery and ceramics made by members of the Bucks Craft Guild as well as local books, gifts and greeting cards. After your visit take a break in the Museum Café and garden. Bucks County Museum and Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP. Call 01296 331441 or visit www.buckscountymuseum.org

ImageZ Camera Club

It seems impossible that we are already looking to the start of our new season 2019 at ImageZ. It has been a great year – lots of new members, a lively atmosphere and some wonderful photography. The highlight of the season was winning an inter-club competition known as the Rosebowl where we came through against very strong opposition.

You may have seen the print exhibition at Queens Park Arts Centre in May and been impressed by the display – I hope so. If you would like to be a part of all this in the future, then come along to our weekly meetings. We have all levels of photographers in the club from beginners through to professionals. Our ethos is all about learning and sharing knowledge and information. So whatever your experience and camera you will improve your photography. We have talks, practical evenings and competitions so something for everyone.

The new season starts on **10 September** in Weston Turville Village Hall at 8.15pm. There are also some summer evenings planned locally so call me for dates and venues. Any questions – just email me **kathychantler@gmail.com** or call **07738 112775**. You might also like to view our website **imagezcameraclub.co.uk**. Hope to see you soon.

Kathy Chantler – ImageZ Chairman







Treasure Island

Unbound Theatre are setting sail for adventure this summer as they present a brand new production of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel Treasure Island as part of Aylesbury Town Council's 'Aylesbury on Sea' event in Vale Park on Sunday 7 July (poster on back cover).



The play follows the intrepid young Jim Hawkins, who embarks on a swashbuckling adventure aboard the good ship Hispaniola to find a hoard of buried treasure. However, not everyone on board can be trusted – not least the formidable ship's cook; a man named Long John Silver... Directed by Erika Sanderson and adapted by Dario Knight (the team behind last year's acclaimed adaptation of The Wind in the Willows), Treasure Island is an all-new production by Aylesbury's home-grown theatre company. It features a cast of talented local actors, plus sets, costumes and props made by the amazing artists at Queens Park Arts Centre – the home of Unbound Theatre. There will be three performances of the show, taking

place throughout the day. 'Aylesbury on Sea' is free to attend, with lots of great free activities on offer for families.

For more information about Unbound Theatre's latest projects and productions, **visit www.qpc.org** and click on the Unbound logo, or email Creative Producer Dario Knight via **dario@qpc.org**.

Summer Holiday Workshops

Queens Park Arts Centre have a fantastic selection of one-day craft workshops on offer this summer, with four weeks of different classes during July and August. Led by professional artists and tutors including Pippa North and Helen Neighbour, the workshops explore all manner of artistic disciplines, including mixed crafts, pottery, woodwork and textiles. Students can make everything from a pottery teddy bear's picnic to a 3D animal woodcarving, or even a peg princess riding her very own unicorn!



Other workshops will show young artists how to sculpt a pottery dragon or lizard, how to stitch a very special sea creature, and even how to transform a block of wood into a funky carved self-portrait. Places on the Queens Park holiday workshops fill up fast, so early booking is advised. Each workshop (which runs from 10am to 3pm) costs £24 for non-members and £20 for members to attend. Discounts are available for siblings attending the same class, as well as multi-workshop bookings. For more information visit www.qpc.org or email info@qpc.org or phone 01296 424332.

Fergie's Fitness is celebrating 25 years of teaching Exercise to Music

We are constantly being bombarded with news about the types of exercise we should be doing, but what about making it fun and enjoyable – never a chore? Sandra Ferguson has been teaching Exercise to Music classes for nearly 40 years – trained with the YMCA in London, the Keep Fit Association in Kent, and completed her Pilates training with Michael King in London.

For the past 25 years she has been providing classes in Bedgrove Pavilion on Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons – quite a few of her class members have been with her for many years. The classes incorporate aerobic, strength, endurance and flexibility sections – simple and effective exercise to music – it's fun and as challenging as the class participants want it to be.

After 25 years Sandra wants to mark the occasion and, in conjunction with the Aylesbury Hundreds Rotary Club, will be holding a Charity Event at Bedgrove Pavilion on the evening of **Saturday 12 October**. AVDC have kindly agreed to waive the hall fee for this event. There will be a 'silent disco', with light refreshments and a glass of Prosecco, plus a raffle to raise money for charities associated with the benefits of exercise and music.

Tickets will be on sale nearer the time and further information will be made available from the Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds website at http://aylesbury100srotary.org





Aylesbury Town Council Ward Map

Ward: Gatehouse





07832 913171



Ward: Central



Cllr Barbara Russel 01296 431314

Cllr Tim Dixon

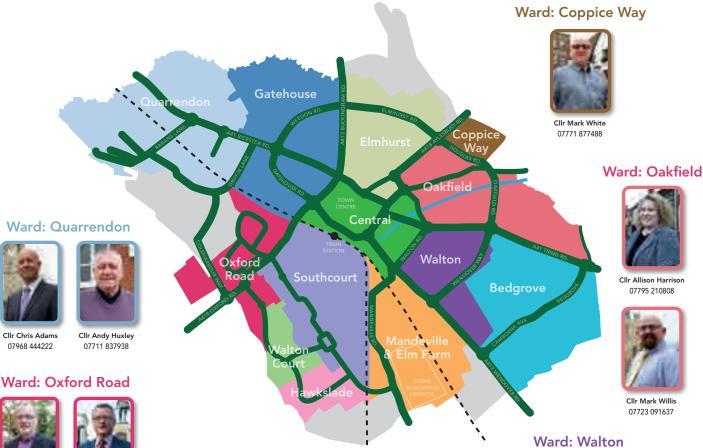
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Susan Morgan



Cllr Jenny Puddefoot





Cllr Stuart Jarvis 07958 083519

Cllr Mike Smith 07854 178012

Ward: Walton Court



07958 423083

Ward: Hawkslade





Cllr Bill Chapple OBE 07702 031712

Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Waheed Raja 07969 056877



07858 973643

Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



01296 426814



Cllr Richard Lloyd 07887 685345



Cllr Denise Summers 01296 424903

Ward: Bedgrove



01296 434123



07595 178660



01296 393304



Council Services



Who do I talk to about?...

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Office of the Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- Management of the seven allotment sites
- 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 Agua 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



TOWN COUNCIL





Schools & Colleges

Great Learners at Bedgrove Junior School

The 'great learners' at Bedgrove Junior School became officially Great Learners on Monday 1 April when the school converted as an academy and joined the Great Learners Trust (GLT). The GLT has an outstanding reputation across Buckinghamshire as a Multi Academy Trust committed to schools working in partnership to accelerate children's learning. The school and GLT share an enthusiastic "Growth Mind-set" approach to education, promoting the development of thinking skills and high expectations of all children.



Lorraine Greco, Headteacher of Bedgrove Junior School said: "We are really excited about the future of Bedgrove Junior School as part of the Great Learners Trust. We are a very outward facing school and we believe we have a lot of very good practice to share with other schools whilst also recognising that collaborative working allows us to gain so much from the other schools we will be working with. We would like to thank all of our parents for their support during our academisation journey and we believe that this new partnership will only strengthen our school even further."

Rozalyn Thomson, Director of the Great Learners Trust said: "We have been working with staff and governors at Bedgrove Junior School for over a year and we are really excited that they are joining the Trust. They bring a wealth of experience and brilliant, innovative ideas – along with a willingness to share and contribute to our school improvement work. The Trust is based on genuine collaboration between schools – we only succeed if we all succeed. Bedgrove Junior School really understand this mission!"

Exciting developments at University Campus Aylesbury Vale

Ian Harper, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Education, Skills & Training, a partnership between Buckinghamshire New University and Buckinghamshire College Group, writes about developments at University Campus Aylesbury Vale.

"We have plenty happening at University Campus Aylesbury Vale, as it's set to be a busy spring and summer in preparation for a range of exciting new developments. Visitors and passers-by to our site in Walton Street will have noticed a flurry of construction activity on the ground floor as the spaces on either side of the building are converted into business incubation hubs. Two large open-plan office areas will accommodate small businesses in their early stages of development. This development will provide opportunities for digital businesses to work with our lecturers and students.

Soon afterwards, people will be able to see space at the back of building, near the canalside, being developed in readiness for a café opening in the autumn. The café will serve our students, staff and tenant businesses, as well as being an attractive location for the general public and visitors to have a drink and a bite to eat. Watch this space as it develops. As it all takes shape, people will be able to see what's happening by visiting our campus at the second Waterside Festival, organised by local community groups and organisations, on Saturday 14 September. It will be a great way to celebrate Aylesbury's canal heritage and visitors will be able to see for themselves how our campus is developing. Let's hope we have some nice weather."

Visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau

Three years on from the school's last visit, two more boys, Benjamin and Uthman from Pebble Brook School, had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz and Birkenau as part of the Holocaust Education Trust, Chiltern and Thames Valley group, 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project. In March, in London, along with other sixth form students, the boys met Susan Pollack an inspirational 88 year old Holocaust survivor from Hungary. They heard her memories and how she feels a responsibility to her murdered family and those others who cannot pass on their stories.



The next step of the project saw the boys have a very early start to Stansted where they flew to Krakow. The day was incredibly moving and informative with times for quiet contemplation and reflection. "It was powerful", were Uthman's words. The weekend after their trip, they met again to reflect and discuss how they would be passing on their knowledge to their peers. "During my experience in Poland, I became aware that we all have a choice in life over our actions. We are all human at the end of this", Benjamin reflects.

Pebble Brook's first students left a legacy of an Annual Assembly on 27 January, Holocaust Memorial day. Benjamin and Uthman have shared their experience with their fellow sixth formers as well as writing 500 words about their trip and are thinking about how and what they can leave at school to mark their experience. The boys then will look forward to becoming Holocaust Ambassadors.

Update from Aylesbury Youth Town Council

At the end of last year, we decided to support the wonderful PACE Centre. PACE is a local children's charity providing support for young people and children with motor disorders. Transforming lives and encouraging support within our Aylesbury community – we continue to look forward to working with the PACE Centre, and getting involved with the fantastic work that they do.

The last few months have been very interesting indeed, since our Soapbox project was like no other. In all honesty I don't think any of us Youth Councillors would have imagined ever successfully building a cart. Nonetheless, we endeavoured, and we're glad that PACE are part of our unique experience.

The project was nothing short of challenging, but the experience was absolutely priceless; we have gained more confidence in dealing with challenging projects.

With help from Adrian and the team at Men in Sheds, the Youth Town Councillors' dedication to fortnightly project meetings, loads of amazing ideas for the cart and about how PACE could get involved, we are extremely excited for what will be our proud spectacle.

We're glad to say that the Youth Town Council is growing, prompted by two new and invaluable additions to our group – welcome to Cllr Ben Harty and Cllr Paddy Wright.

Cllr Shoheb Hassan



If you'd like to be part of the Youth Town Council yourself, or would like to help volunteer at any of the Town Council events, email info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Cadets visit Belgium

Back in February we left in the early hours at 6am with nine cadets, two cadet leaders and three leaders from Bucks Uniformed Youth and made our way to Belgium via France.

Our first stop was Cement Cemetery where we took part in a small service to honour a Police Officer who died whilst on duty and who was from Little Kimble. Three of our cadets were chosen to take part by reading poems, prayers and tributes. It was a very moving start to our weekend.

After we had a walk around the cemetery we continued our journey to Flaunders Museum. This was another moving and interesting experience.



It was 5pm by the time we arrived in Ypres,

where our accommodation was, giving us time to freshen up and get ready for the next part of the agenda.

We attended the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate. Lauren and Alicia did us proud by walking together in front of approx. 200 members of the public to lay a wreath, along with other Officers and students. It had been a long day and after enjoying some nice Italian food we returned to the hotel for a good night's sleep.

The next day we stopped off at a German Cemetery before heading to Tyne Cot. Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground for the dead of the First World War in the Ypres Salient, on the Western Front. This was an unreal experience, and hard to describe the vastness of the cemetery.

A short distance from this was the Passchendaele Museum. This was well worth a visit and included viewing, trying on and walking in made up trenches. By now the weather was not kind to us, we were going to visit some real existing trenches but this had to be cancelled due to the mud and rain. We departed the battlefield area and headed to Calais for our return home.

What an amazing two day experience! Something the cadets won't forget for a long time.



11 - 4 Vale Park



