

# AYLESBURY TOWN matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine  
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March - May 2020



*Serving the people of Aylesbury*



*'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'*

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



# Jonathan Page play Centre

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB & HOLIDAY PLAYSCHEMES

# Easter Playscheme

6 - 17 April 2020 (excluding Bank Holidays)

Two weeks bursting with fun packed activities and games focusing on Easter and spring. Our friendly team have planned lots of great craft activities and games ranging from Easter window decorations, to flower pot spring chicks to bunny hop races and an Easter disco.

We will also be creating and decorating our own Easter bonnets, which will be judged by Aylesbury's Town Mayor on Thursday 9 April.

### Hours and Prices (per child, per day)

8am to 6.30pm - £31

8am to 3.30pm - £23

8am to 12.30pm - £16

12.30pm to 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 **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](mailto:jpplaycentre@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
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AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL



# Welcome Note

Welcome to our first edition of **Aylesbury Town Matters for 2020**. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

We have a particularly packed issue for you this quarter that looks back on some brilliant recent fundraising by the Rotary Santa Float and ahead to the fantastic year to come. Much of what we cover relates to those events being brought to you by the Town Council and there's a handy 'cut out and keep' guide to stick on the fridge or the noticeboard at work.

The next few months sees us encouraging people to get involved - there's Aylesbury District Scouts, Chiltern MS run and the Aylesbury Lions are looking for new members. If you're more of a spectator than participant there's some great Arts and Leisure events including choral and organ concerts, exhibitions and workshops being run by the Queens Park Arts Centre, County Museum and Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. You can find out more about all of these in the following pages.

To continue the participation theme this edition has details of table tennis and Kendo as well as a focus on Aylesbury United and what will be a regular column focusing on the ambitious project to bring long overdue modern sporting facilities to Aylesbury. We would also encourage residents to start

thinking about what to plant in the garden and to challenge themselves by participating in the Aylesbury in Bloom garden competition.

The Town Council run, Jonathan Page Play Centre (JPPC), goes from strength to strength and building on their OFSTED 'Outstanding' rating last year they now have a second minibus to fulfil the growing demand for pickup from schools. The Easter Playscheme is ready to book, which will include an Easter bonnet competition that will be judged by the Mayor. I'd like to extend my thanks to all the staff and parents that keep the centre thriving, it's a real asset to the town.

As many of you will be aware we have local elections in May where there will be Aylesbury Town Council elections and elections for the new Unitary Authority which will be called Buckinghamshire Council and replace the existing Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council. The ward map will be updated and I'd like to sign off by not only thanking each and every one of the Councillors for their work and dedication to the town over the past five years but also to the fantastic team of officers without whom none of this would be possible.

Thank you  
**Cllr Richard Lloyd**  
**Leader of Aylesbury Town Council**

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## Contact details

Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 2QP  
Tel: **01296 425678** Fax: 01296 426134 [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

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# EVENTS GUIDE 2020

For up-to-date information on all of our events, please check out the Events section of our Facebook page and website.

## THE DUNG BEATLES

St Mary's Church, Saturday 14 March, 7pm  
FUNDRAISER FOR MAYOR'S CHARITY

Join the Mayor for a boogie with the Dung Beatles – now there's a phrase you don't hear very often! Tickets £15 with all funds going to Youth Concern, available from ATC offices and Aylesbury Music Shop.

## AYLESBURY CONCERT BAND

Holy Trinity Church, Walton Street, Saturday 25 April, 2.30pm  
FUNDRAISER FOR MAYOR'S CHARITY

The concert is free, with all donations being shared between Youth Concern and the Aylesbury Concert Band. The programme is celebrating all kinds of 'Heroes'.

## NEW FORMAT

### ST GEORGE'S DAY & HISTORIC FAYRE

Sunday 26 April, Bucks County Museum & Market Square

Join us to celebrate St George's Day with a day steeped in English history, taking place at Bucks County Museum, from 11am – 3pm. Uniformed Youth and Dignitary Parade around the town centre at 3pm, with formal dismissal from Market Square. Led by Amersham Marching Band, St George on horseback and a dragon with fire dancers.

## LAWS OF TIME

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May. Shows at 4pm and 6pm.  
Judges Lodgings and old Crown Court.

Queens Park Arts Centre's theatre company, Unbound, present their second immersive, interactive play. Blending historical facts with an entertaining original adventure story, which weaves its way through the Judge's Lodgings and into the old Crown Court – but who will be in the dock? Perfect for all the family. Tickets via our website and Facebook page. £5 adults/£2.50 children.

## VE75 CELEBRATION & SERVICE

Sunday 10 May, 3pm, St Mary's Church, Aylesbury

Join the Town Mayor, Councillors and Civic Dignitaries for a church service celebrating and commemorating VE Day 75. Please be seated by 2.40pm.

## NEW FOR 2020... FEEL THE FORCE DAY

Saturday 13 June, 11am – 4pm, The Grange School

Partnership event with FTFD Peterborough, Dead Universe Comics and TGP Nominal. The unconventional convention especially aimed at those with disabilities. This will be a ticketed event to control numbers to allow for the best experience at the event for our visitors. Tickets and more information available on our website and Facebook page. You can expect a day filled with a huge abundance of sci-fi and film characters to meet, greet and engage with.

## SOAPBOX DERBY

Sunday 21 June, 11am – 4pm, Whitehill Park

Come and see the homemade, gravity powered karts racing through Whitehill Park, with lots of family entertainment and music from DJ Dan Blaze. Registration is now open. Karts are limited to 30, so sign up now if you'd like to take part.

## AYLESBURY ON SEA

Sunday 5 July, 11am – 4pm, Vale Park

Continuing in this new format with 60 tonnes of sand and traditional seaside entertainment in Vale Park, including Punch & Judy, land train, face painting and a wide range of games and activities.

## PARKLIFE WEEKEND

### LIVE IN THE PARK

Saturday 29 August, 12 noon – 9.30pm, Vale Park

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

### STARS IN THE PARK

Saturday 29 August, 10pm – 11pm

Behind the main stage in Vale Park.

Join the amateur experts from UK Astronomy for this amazing opportunity to be guided around our night sky.

### CHURCH IN THE PARK

Sunday 30 August, 10.30am – 12 noon

Banquet in the Park, 12 noon – 3pm

Join in this celebration and outdoor worship hosted by Aylesbury Church Network, as they give thanks to God and welcome everyone from our community to enjoy the service and feast.

### PROMS IN THE PARK

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

Arrive with your picnic, friends and flags from 6.30pm for a traditional open air proms concert, starting at 7.15pm. The weekend finishes with a fantastic FIREWORK display at 9.30pm.

### MAYOR'S CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 6 December, 5.30pm, St Mary's Church

Join the Town Mayor and Councillors for this festive service with local choirs and the Aylesbury Concert Band. Please be seated by 5.20pm. Mulled wine and mince pies served following the service.

### FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

Sunday 13 December, 11am – 4pm, Friars Square

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

### CAROLFEST

Sunday 13 December, St Mary's Church, 6pm – 7pm

Grab a song sheet and sing along to your favourite Christmas carols, accompanied by Caduceus Brass Quintet and the Next Stage Choir. Hot chocolate and mince pies are also served.



*We are looking forward to a great year, cut out the dates opposite, stick them on your fridge, then come along and join your community whenever you can.*

## ATC EVENTS 2020

As always, our events team are hard at work planning all of our community events for 2020. The best place for all of the up-to-date information is our Facebook page and website. We suggest that you "like" our Facebook page then you'll receive notifications about all our work, and when an event is listed mark yourself as going, so that you get Facebook reminders too or just stick to pen and paper, tear out the page opposite, stick it to your fridge and write the dates in your diary.

You will notice a **NEW EVENT for 2020 – Feel The Force Day**. This is a very exciting project for us, one that embodies all that we strive to achieve in accessible community events. We are working with the Peterborough Feel The Force team and Dead Universe Comics to bring this truly amazing event to Aylesbury. As we go to press a major planning meeting is about to happen and we hope to have released lots of information before you get to read this magazine – oh, the joys of printed magazines!

All of our events are about **YOU**, the members of our community. Our events are for **YOU**, so please do come along and be involved. But if there is something from stopping you, then let us know how we could alter, amend, adjust or improve our plans to enable you to join us.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to say a **HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers – thank you!!** We are so very grateful to the time and effort that our team of events crew and photography volunteers give to our events for your enjoyment, fun and safety. They really do make a massive difference to the activities we are able to offer, all without charge to you. They deserve a huge round of applause, so if you are at any of the events this year, please do give them a thank you smile – we are sure that they will appreciate it.

If you, or the company you work for, would like to be involved with these free community events, in any way, then please do get in touch. We are always looking for event partners to add value and enjoyment to everything we do.



## Calling all keen and enthusiastic gardeners in the Parish of Aylesbury!

Even though it has been quite wet in recent months it has also been very mild and many of you have seen daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops peeking their first green shoots through. Some trees even started budding before Christmas.

Whilst you look out in your garden observing what Mother Nature is up to why not start planning what to plant in the spring/summer time or any maintenance work that may need doing so you can enjoy a colourful oasis when the sun is out. Why not get some recognition for your efforts in the garden by entering our annual garden competition?

A **FREE** competition which is open to all residents, organisations, businesses and schools in the Parish of Aylesbury Town, with many different categories to suit all gardens and gardeners, of every age. The competition is judged by some of the best gardening enthusiasts in town.

If you would like some inspiration for your garden visit our 'Aylesbury in Bloom' **Facebook page @AylesburyInBloom**, which shows different style gardens ranging from small to large, stone to container or laid to lawn.

Application forms will be available from **31 March** on our website or you can call us on **01296 425678** or email us at **info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** and we will send the application form and judging criteria to you.

The closing date for applications is **Monday 15 June** and judging will take place throughout July and August for residents and organisations and in June for schools with the school awards taking place in July at Lindengate and all other awards taking place in September.



## Town Council Maintenance Team



The Town Council Maintenance Team will start cutting the grass verges on urban roads in the first week of March – weather permitting – and hopefully there will be no snow, unlike last year. They will start at one end of the Parish of Aylesbury Town working their way around, undertaking nine cuts throughout the spring and summer months. These are much more cuts than would normally be carried out if no devolved services were in place.

To ensure the team doesn't get delayed or any of the machinery gets damaged please do not park on grass verges. In particular churned up grass verges can cause costly damage to the mowing machinery and also means the grass will not be cut.

Please note that some grassed areas in Aylesbury are managed by the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust's contractor or the current Aylesbury Vale District Council (Buckinghamshire Council will take on all AVDC works after April). If an area hasn't been cut and you are unsure who is responsible please do not hesitate to contact us at the Town Hall on **01296 425678** and we will be happy to assist and answer any questions you may have.

Weed spraying and other clearance works are undertaken continuously throughout the year. We also carry out tree works and grit spreading for the County Council, when asked to do so.

**Give the team a wave when you see them out and about.**



## Walton Pond

Heading to the Walton Pond to feed the ducks is a very old and popular family pastime; it's a fun, free activity and a great way for parents and children to see and appreciate wildlife and nature. Whilst it is a great pastime it can also cause problems. Ducks do need a varied diet to be healthy. Unfortunately, bread doesn't have much nutritional value and fills the ducks up so they stop foraging for food they would naturally eat, which can lead to malnutrition in the long run.

Bread, rolls, chips, grains and other 'snack food' items also encourage the rat population, which can carry and transmit diseases. Feeding the ducks does not only pollute the waterways, it also encourages harmful algae and causes the rat population to increase. In recent months the rat population by the pond has flourished after feeding off the leftover food, which people have thrown in and around the pond for the ducks and birds. We are working together with AVDC Environmental Control on this problem.

The Town Council is encouraging the public to help maintain the area and for those visiting the pond to stop feeding the ducks large quantities of bread and grain. Healthier food has nutritional value for the ducks and is much better for the environment. How about the bag of salad in the bottom of your fridge or those grapes shrivelling up in your fruit bowl? You don't need to go out and buy expensive birdseed.

- Ducks love oats, rice, vegetable trimmings, frozen peas and sweetcorn.
- Put the food into the water and do not leave it around the edge of the pond.
- It is also important to try not to feed them too often. Ducks need to maintain their natural fear of humans and if they expect food from everyone they meet; they can become aggressive when they aren't fed.

An alternative to feeding the ducks is that you could organise a rubbish pick-up around the pond. Not only do the ducks love a clean place to swim in but it is also good exercise. The Town Council can provide you with litter bags and a litter picker. Just contact the office on **01296 425678** for more information.

In the coming weeks signs are being installed on the feeding platforms and at various points around the pond warning of the risks involved when feeding ducks with leftover breads, crisps etc.

*Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation*



It feels like a long while since we wrote about what we have been up to at the play centre. Before Christmas and New Year we were busy making decorations, writing letters to Santa, making New Year's resolutions and having a good old sing and dance. You may have seen some of us taking part in the Santa's Parade, showing off our handmade snowmen.

We also invited our parents to After School Club for an Advent Evening when they joined us for play time, games, arts and crafts whilst enjoying Christmas cookies and hot chocolate.

We also welcomed a new minibus to the centre to fulfil the pick-up demand for After School Club. With two minibuses on the go now we felt that it was time to name them both. Meet Hooty and Tooty!

Whilst we are writing the team here are getting ready for the February Half Term Playscheme and they are planning lots of fun and colourful activities and games for us. In April we will welcome the Town Mayor to the Easter Playscheme, who will be judging our Easter bonnets. In the past the Mayor has always found it very difficult to pick the best one as all of our bonnets are so beautiful.

We can't wait for the weather to get better and for the evenings to get lighter again so we can play football, climb on the rock and climbing frame and drive the go-karts around the track.

We would like to say a big thank you to our Playworkers Beccy, Karen, Hannah, Fezi and Mary and the Casual Playworkers who look after us so well and ensure that we are kept safe at all times whilst having heaps of fun and laughter whilst we are at the centre.

Why not join us for all of the fun at our **Easter Playscheme** which takes place from **6 – 17 April 2020** or at the **May Half Term Playscheme**, which is all about **Minibeasts Fun** from **16 – 29 May 2020**.

If you or your parents have any questions about the centre or you would like to visit us beforehand then just give the centre a call and the team will be happy to help.

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



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





## Introducing... Dementia Friendly Heroes in Aylesbury

Welcome to 2020! As our town continues its Dementia-Friendly work, we're going to be recognising service providers, groups and organisations who are making a real impact in Aylesbury.

Our dedicated Dementia Friends Champion has been working hard along with many others to maintain our 'holding-hands' approach in supporting people whose lives have been affected by dementia. Our article in this edition looks at the work of what is traditionally known as one of our four emergency services – the Ambulance Service.

We met with Chloe Lofthouse-Jones Education Manager for Dementia, South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Trust, who explained how important it's been for the ambulance service to receive dementia awareness training.

Chloe went on to say: *"We recognise dementia affects a whole community, and as a result SCAS staff in all roles, from our administrators (including our frontline staff who provide emergency and urgent care and also the first point of contact with our service), to our senior teams, undertake a dementia awareness eLearning module. This is designed to give a basic overview of what dementia is and where to find further information/support"*.

*"Feedback on sessions from our call handlers in particular has been really positive, with staff reporting how useful this training is for increasing understanding of dementia in order to further assist those patients who need us"*.

*"The work to become dementia friendly is ongoing; we are proud of our achievements so far but we recognise there is more we can do. Watch this space for future updates"*.

#dementiafriendlyheroes

### Out & About

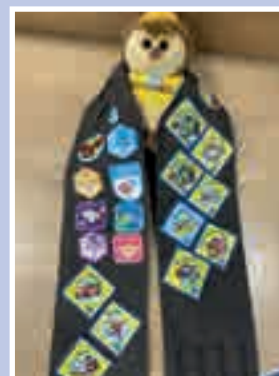
Our Dementia Friends Champion met with Harry Johnson (Dementia Friendly Communities Officer for SE England on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society) as part of a community engagement group. We are looking forward to working more closely with dementia alliances in Wendover, Wycombe, Buckingham and Marlow.

#### Olive the Owl & the 12th Aylesbury Brownies

Who would have thought an owl and a fish were going to be part of a Dementia Friends session? To keep up to date with our dementia awareness campaign... follow us on Facebook @aylesburytdaa and Twitter @aylesburytdaa

#### Dementia Action Week 11 – 17 May 2020

If you're organising any events or exhibitions be sure to let us know!



To find out more please contact the Aylesbury Town Dementia Action Alliance on 01296 425678 or [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Unitary Council

The new Unitary Council will come into place officially on 1 April 2020. The new council will be called Buckinghamshire Council and will replace the existing local councils – Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council.

In our forthcoming June magazine we will outline what the Council is responsible for including their full contact details.

## Council Elections

Elections for the Town and Parish Councils in Buckinghamshire will be taking place on Thursday 7 May this year. Residents in the Parish of Aylesbury Town will be voting for their representatives in their ward. All in all 25 Councillors will be elected for the Aylesbury Town Council. At the same time elections for Councillors to the new Unitary Council, Buckinghamshire Council will also be taking place.

## The Search for a Stadium

Waiting for the next goal or point, standing in the cold watching your children train, waiting for the after practice chip shop, sitting in traffic waiting for the lights to change on the way to a game, waiting for the new season to start, there's a lot of waiting in sport.

Aylesbury's need for new, up-to-date, community led multi-sports facilities are long overdue and having started on this journey in February last year by proposing to the Town Council that we form a working group to achieve this I've certainly become used to waiting on meetings and decisions.

I intend to make this a regular column charting our progress, we've spoken to lots of sports clubs over the last year and there are similar needs. From the obvious of somewhere to play (one cricket pitch and seven teams), meeting ground regulations (Step 3/4 football), somewhere to train (indoors & out) to the more surprising but no less relevant, somewhere to store equipment (hockey has a lot of kit!).

A lack of facilities leads to a drop off in participation among children, a lack of social cohesion – players and their families not having places to congregate and socialise which aids bringing the next generation through and the community together.

**So where are we?** There is access to funding for facilities via organisations such as the National Lottery. The challenging part is land, there's a lot of competition for land and historically that's mostly been consumed by houses here in the Vale. We have established an excellent working relationship with one landowner in particular and have identified our preferred site adjacent to the current pitches in Fairford Leys. We can't progress this much further yet as we're waiting (that word again) on a final decision on the go ahead or not of HS2 (the project isn't reliant on HS2 but land use in the area can't be finalised until that decision is made).

CLlr Richard Lloyd

## Grants

Aylesbury Town Council's Grant Scheme supports 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 organisations provide.

Aylesbury Town Council presented the Millennium Club with a cheque for £800 towards their 20th anniversary celebrations. The club provides local senior citizens with a regular meeting place with activities and entertainment.



For information visit [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) or call Jane Eden, Grants Officer on 01296 425678 or email [j.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:j.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Aylesbury Town Council Meeting

All residents are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 9 April at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, 5 Church Street.

The Town Meeting is an opportunity for residents to put forward their questions, comments and queries to their local Councillors and for the Council committees to report back on their work and achievements during the last year. A monthly Council meeting follows the Annual Town Meeting for those wishing to stay.



**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](mailto:j.priest@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
There is no charge for community groups and charities.

## Looking to volunteer?

### Aylesbury Lions CIO



As we look forward to a busy time in the new decade raising funds for good causes we invite you to join us and bring new ideas to the Club.

We have several new initiatives this year beginning with the collection of used spectacles. Collection boxes are now appearing in doctor's surgeries and other locations including the Multi Cultural Centre. These boxes will be emptied at regular intervals with the spectacles being sent for refurbishment and transportation to third world countries. Later in the year we plan to organise a competition for blind bowlers.

Last year we acquired a Santa's Sleigh and now are planning to use it this Christmas. We would like to hear from drivers with a tow bar prepared to spend two or three evenings in December towing this sleigh around local village streets. If you are skilful at towing your caravan what a splendid way of keeping your hand in whilst at the same time making local children happy when Santa visits their streets.

Our regular activities soon begin with giant Easter Egg raffles in March/April, donning big yellow hats for Marie Curie, organising another concert in St Mary's Church possibly in May and selling burgers and hot dogs at Play in the Park. If you are organising an event we would be happy to talk to you about ways in which we could be involved.

We are a friendly organisation and would love to hear from potential new members, especially if you fancy being Santa's chauffeur. To find out more call **0345 833 7863** or visit [www.aylesburylions.org.uk](http://www.aylesburylions.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.co.uk) or write to us at: **Aylesbury Town Council, Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.** Please do give us your name and contact details so that we can reply to you.

## Aylesbury Flower Club are moving!

Aylesbury Flower Club have been meeting in the same venue in Aylesbury since 1957 but 2020 heralds a new beginning for us as we move to a new home at the Rivets Sports and Social Club, Whitehead Way, Aylesbury, HP21 8AD.

Meetings are still on the last Monday of the month (unless it's a Bank Holiday when it's the week before). Our first demonstration of the year is **24 February at 7pm** for 7.30pm start.



We hope all our members will support us in this brave attempt at supplying a more comfortable and affordable venue and that this move might attract new members as well.

Visitors are welcome at any of our meetings at a cost of £6 per person, so come along and see what we do. Ability to arrange flowers yourself isn't necessary, just to enjoy the results.

Most months a professional flower arranging demonstrator comes and produces 5 or 6 pieces which are raffled off at the end of the night but in May this year we are planning a workshop for those who wish to learn.

Tea/coffee is available and throughout the year we have outings and hold other events for members to attend, to maintain a happy and friendly atmosphere.

If you are interested the committee would love to see you. For more information contact Val Truby on **01296 489425**, email [valerie.truby@ntlworld.com](mailto:valerie.truby@ntlworld.com)

## 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](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-chamber)  
To check availability please contact the Town Council on **01296 425678**.



## Put your best foot forward for the Prestwood 10k

Runners will be taking to the streets for the annual Prestwood 10k on Sunday 17 May, raising much-needed funds for the Chilterns MS Centre in Wendover.

Starting at 10.30am at Sprinters Leisure Centre, the day includes the 10k race, 5k fun run and Children's Challenge. Refreshments and family-friendly activities will also be available.

Proceeds will support people with multiple sclerosis (MS) to improve their symptoms and maintain their independence so they can continue doing the things they love. People like David Smith: *"Physiotherapy has helped me to maintain my physical abilities as far as possible and weekly oxygen treatment gives me more strength and stamina. The companionship with other members lifts my spirits and it's good to feel part of a group of similarly affected people."*

His wife Gill also finds the Centre supportive to her too. *"I have found the support offered to me insightful, varied and oh so valuable! I can attend groups around mindfulness and the various alternative therapies offered. I feel I've benefited so much that I happily volunteer when I can too."*

Run Prestwood 2020 has been generously supported by Tesco Bags of Life and the Rotary Club of Great Missenden.

You can help the Centre beat last year's total of £9,000 by signing up to run and getting sponsored. If you register online you save money on the registration fee too!

Sign up to take part at [runprestwood.co.uk](http://runprestwood.co.uk).



## Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio is listened to around the world

If you enjoy listening to advert free radio try a dip into Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio. Despite its name, the station is heard all over the world thanks to its online presence and it is entirely free of commercials because it's run by a passionate team of volunteers.

In addition to providing a service to the patients, staff and visitors to Stoke Mandeville, Amersham and Wycombe hospitals, the station can be heard on 87.7FM within several miles of the Stoke Mandeville site where the studio is based, so everyone can continue tuning in when they get home or while out and about in their cars.

And in addition to the online presence, many listeners tune in via a free downloadable app on their phones or tablets.

This truly local station broadcasts a wide genre of music 24/7 from easy listening, gospel and jazz through to classical, blues and country, and with a request show each weekday evening listeners can ask for their own favourite tunes.

I've been training with the station for a year and now present my own lunchtime show, Heather Jan's Lunchtime Jam, on Tuesdays from midday through to 2pm.

The full programme schedule is available on [www.smhr.co.uk](http://www.smhr.co.uk) where details on how to join as a volunteer are available. It's not obligatory to train as a presenter, there are many technical roles as well as positions for request collectors who visit the wards.

Heather Jan Brunt



## 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 and comments they have.



## 2019 Rotary Christmas Float

The 2019 Rotary Christmas Float was a real success around the town and the grateful thanks of the Presidents and all the club members of the Rotary Club of Aylesbury and Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds are extended to the public and families that were visited for their generous donations.

A great big thank you also to Sportif Citroen, Aylesbury who kindly loaned the club a towing vehicle, enabling Santa to make his flying visits to the children of Aylesbury.

With different teams from various local charities, we were out each night, sometimes in very inclement weather, making sure that Santa covered as many areas of the town as possible. Most pleasingly our donations total, which included the Tesco collection, amounted to a princely sum just in excess of £13,000. This money will be distributed to a number of local charities in Aylesbury and specifically to those who helped crew the collecting teams.



## Survivors are the reason we Relay!

Let us introduce ourselves, we are Relay for Life - Aylesbury. It is an annual event which sees teams of individuals walk in relay for 24 hours.

This unique activity is designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for life saving research. It unites and mobilises communities committed to fighting back cancer. It also enables us to increase the visibility and generate cancer awareness.

As a Survivor you are the reason we Relay and you are given the spotlight to show there is life after diagnosis and to inspire those who have been touched by cancer. You are a testament to the progress that has been made in the fight and you are changing the face of survivorship. Just showing up can really make a difference to someone suffering from cancer in that they know they are not alone.

We would love you (and a guest/carer) to join us at the Relay For Life Aylesbury at RAF Halton on July 25 at 12 noon for our Opening Ceremony and celebratory Survivor Lap and then to be our honoured guest at a special lunch in your honour. We look forward to welcoming you.

Interested? Then please contact us. You can find us on Facebook Aylesbury Relay for Life or contact our Chair Paula Kirby: relaypaulk@hotmail.com or [www.relayforlifeaylesbury.org](http://www.relayforlifeaylesbury.org)

## Celebrating 100 years



This year we will be celebrating 100 years of the WI. The roundabout in town by the theatre has been planted by the Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes and Aylesbury Town Council to mark the occasion.

Lots of events have been planned to celebrate with WIs from all over the county, walking 100 miles for 100 years, a garden party and afternoon teas and in May a parade of every WI's Banners. It's an exciting time to be part of the WI.

In March we are going 'Pot Tastic' and making pots during our meeting. There are lots of things going on each month as well as our weekly meetings. Our book club, lunch club that meet monthly and our weekly craft meeting where you can just enjoy a 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 call Gill on 01296 748659 or email us [aylesburytownwi@gmail.com](mailto:aylesburytownwi@gmail.com).



## 2020 FNHC Midnight Walk

Join hundreds of other walkers on Saturday 27 June 2020 for one more amazing night as they brighten the streets of Aylesbury with flashing bunny ears, day-glo outfits and beaming smiles, raising money for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

Walkers can choose from 5 mile or 10 mile circular routes both starting from Aylesbury College at midnight.

More details at [www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk)



## New Year, New You, New Venture

**Aylesbury hosts its weekly markets in the historic Market Square.** There are four weekly markets – Vintage and Craft bazaar on Tuesday, general market on Wednesday and Saturday and the Foodie Friday market.

If you're thinking of starting a new business, or want to extend your existing creative venture into a new area, a stall at the market could be exactly what you need. Starting from only £14.30 for an erected stall, it is an affordable and flexible way to test your business idea. Becoming a market trader is a low cost, low risk way to turn your business dream into a reality. **Benefits include:**

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

### There are incentives for you!

- rent incentive for week two and three at half price, week four and five totally **FREE**
- regular event days to encourage footfall - Aylesbury is proud to win national awards for its involvement in the national Love Your Local Market initiative
- fully-engaged award winning town centre management team that works closely with traders

### Want to know more?

Visit our web pages at Aylesbury Vale District Council, email us at [pkirkham@aylesburyvale.gov.uk](mailto:pkirkham@aylesburyvale.gov.uk) or phone **01296 585880**.

Don't forget our **NEW FORMAT**  
St George's Day and Medieval Fayre  
on Sunday 26 April.  
See poster on back for details.

## Chiltern Handbell Ringers

**May I introduce the Chiltern Handbell Ringers.** We are volunteers who play the handbells in aid of charity at Care Homes, WIs, weddings, clubs and groups in the Aylesbury area and beyond.



John and June Beer of Weston Turville took over the team more than 30 years ago and although sadly we lost June a few years ago, John continues to play, lead the group and take bookings for our services. We are self-supporting and hold weekly practices to ensure we are ready to entertain.

We charge a fee of £50 per booking which goes directly to our given charity of the year along with any donations collected on the day. In 2019 we collected over £1,860 for Lindengate and this year our chosen charity is Young Carers Bucks.

People often expect the bells to be loud and 'hard' on the hearing but once we start playing they realise that it is a very mellow almost soothing sound which they really enjoy. June re-wrote hundreds of pieces for us to play from almost every music genre and so we can play all year round with a very varied repertoire, although the busiest time for us is before Christmas with carols to sing along to.

If you would like to book us to come along and play for you or if you are interested in joining our group and learning to play then please contact John on **01296 612344**, email: [chilternhandbells@gmail.com](mailto:chilternhandbells@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook [@chilternhandbells](https://www.facebook.com/chilternhandbells).

## Out of the Darkness

written by Lesley Poon

Grey and black  
and black and grey  
Dawning of another day  
Sudden change  
Shapeless scene  
Now becomes more blue more green  
Mystic glow from cloud of white  
Gives to sky a subtle light  
Streaming soaring in the blue  
Soon to disappear from view  
Green and blue and blue and green  
Nature's colours boldly seen  
House and tree and field and lane  
Evident to eye again  
Mystic glow appears once more  
Still abundant than before  
Blue and green and black and white  
Nature's dawn from nature's night.



## Town Mayor's Update

I'd like to belatedly welcome all of you into a brand new decade! I can honestly say that the period leading up to Christmas 2019 was just about the busiest, not just of my Mayoral year but probably of my entire life! Right up to Christmas Day itself I was meeting wonderful people from all over Aylesbury and beyond, sharing some lovely moments and seeing the community spirit and generosity that really sums up the true meaning of Christmas. By the end of the year I had virtually lost my voice, probably from so much carol singing!

I know many of you have given generously to my mayoral charity, Youth Concern, at our events over the last few months – thank you so much! In the next few weeks I'm looking to turn fundraising into "Fun raising" with a couple of really enjoyable events that I hope you will be keen to come along to.



It's hard to believe I'm now heading into the final few months of my year as Mayor, which has been such a privilege as well as an education for me – learning so much about our town and the amazing people who live, work and volunteer for so many good causes here. Once again I must thank every single person and organisation I've met, for making me welcome and

giving me the chance to play a small part in celebrating your achievements and commitment to Aylesbury.

On that note, I know a lot of that great work just happens without always being celebrated or publicised, and I'd like to change that. One way we do this is through the 'Town Mayor's Awards'. I would love to hear those inspirational stories and look forward to meeting all the winners in person later in the year.

If you'd like me to join you at any of your events please get in touch using the 'Invite the Mayor' section on the Town Council's website.

Cllr Mike Smith  
Town Mayor



On 14 March, the always popular and hugely talented **Dung Beatles** make a welcome return to St Mary's Church for a concert spanning the entire career of the Fab Four, from the biggest hits to the quirkiest album tracks. A seated gig where you'll find it hard to stay sitting down!! Tickets can be obtained from the Town Council, Aylesbury Music Shop or St Mary's Church.

On 25 April Holy Trinity Church will play host to even more musical talent, with a huge selection of favourites for the whole family from **Aylesbury Community Concert Band** (already known to most of you from their amazing performances at 'Proms in the Park'). Entrance is free, however there will be a collection at the door and refreshments will be available from the Church Café.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved, for their personal support and time in helping make these events happen.



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

## Art & Leisure

### What's on at Bucks County Museum in 2020

Drop in and discover fascinating exhibitions and activities on your doorstep in Aylesbury old town.

#### Rock and Fossil Day

Saturday 4 April, 11am – 4pm

Explore hands-on displays of rocks and fossils, meet experts and bring along your own specimens for identification. Fossil fun for all ages.

#### Toy Box Exhibition

On now until 18 April

This family favourite is back again with lots of toys to remember from childhood and plenty of toys and games to play with, too.

#### Easter and May School Holiday Activities

During the school holidays we run popular craft sessions for families on lots of different themes. Check our website for dates and times.

#### Sit & Make Exhibition

2 May – 11 July

Remarkable chairs made from recycled plastic units designed by artists and designers from Grymsdyke Farm research facility, Lacey Green. Come and try out the chairs yourselves and create designs with the units.

An annual pass is now available for the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery which is great value particularly for local families who want to drop in on Saturdays and during the school holidays.

The Museum also has a café serving light snacks and a gift shop with unusual gifts, cards, books and now a beautiful selection of jewellery and ceramics made by the Bucks Craft Guild. Drop in and take a look. For full details visit [www.buckscountymuseum.org](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org) or call 01296 331441. Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.



## Space and Place at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

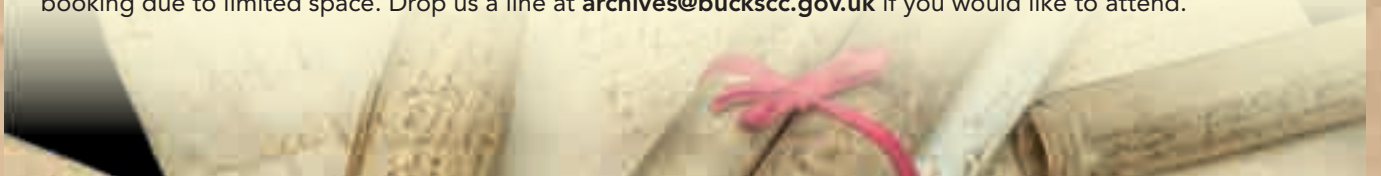
This spring we are exploring the spaces and places of historic Buckinghamshire, using the documents held in our archive collections. If you are curious about medieval history then one of our talks about manorial records might be for you. Some of the oldest records in our collection were created by manors and manorial courts around the county; guest speaker Sarah Charlton is going to explain why they were created and what they tell us about life from the 12th century onwards. In a second talk local historian Garry Marshall will be describing medieval Quarrendon and Chesham. Maps are a really useful historical source. In a workshop in May, archivists from the Centre will show off some of our finest examples, and describe techniques for getting the most out of these often beautiful documents.

27 February, 11am – noon, Introduction to Manorial Records

26 March, 11am – noon, Chesham and Quarrendon: a Sense of Place

14 May, 11am – noon, Hands-on with Historic Maps

Talks are at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, County Hall, Aylesbury. Talks are free, but require advanced booking due to limited space. Drop us a line at [archives@bucksc.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bucksc.gov.uk) if you would like to attend.







## Musical Events

**Aylesbury Choral Society** is rehearsing for what promises to be a memorable performance of Handel's great oratorio '**Messiah**'. The concert will take place in St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, on **Saturday 28 March** at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from choir members, or by visiting the website [www.aylesburychoral.org.uk](http://www.aylesburychoral.org.uk) Tickets are priced at £15, and £5 for under 18s.

The four soloists, all of whom have wide experience in oratorio and opera, are soprano Eleanor Stevens, who sang with the Society at its March 2019 performance of Mozart's Mass in C minor and Haydn's St Nicholas Mass, and contralto Alison Kettlewell, a Kathleen Ferrier Award finalist. Adam West, tenor, and Eddie Wade, bass, complete the quartet.

**Aylesbury Festival Choir** will be performing two very different concerts this year. On **25 April** we will be singing a selection of Baroque music including Vivaldi's '**Gloria**' and Haydn's '**Little Organ Mass**'.

In complete contrast, we will be doing a short Summer Concert on **Thursday 2 July**, a wonderful mix of light music from 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' to 'Tequila Samba'. For more information have a look at our website: [www.aylesburyfestivalchoir.net](http://www.aylesburyfestivalchoir.net)

### Ian Tracey Organ Concert

The Annual Organ Concert at Aylesbury Methodist Church will take place on **Wednesday 13 May** at 7.30pm. This year we welcome the distinguished International Recitalist, Ian Tracey, Organist Titular of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral.

One of the most popular of all organ recitalists, Ian will be making his fifth visit to perform at Aylesbury Methodist Church. Ian always presents and performs an appealing programme to suit everyone.

Entrance: £15, or £12 if booked in advance, Students free. Tickets: Available from 1 April from the Church Office on weekday mornings, or direct from Derrick Matthews **01296 488076**.



## Audience Choice for Unbound Theatre's Shakespeare Tour

**Unbound Theatre** are headed out on the road with their latest Shakespeare production in June, and this year's tour is like no other! As part of Queens Park Arts Centre's 40th Anniversary celebrations, Unbound will be staging two of the Bard's most celebrated comedies – A Midsummer Night's Dream and As You Like It. However, at some stops on the tour it'll be up to the audience to decide which play they get to see!

The ensemble cast of ten actors will play 42 characters between them, so be ready for some lightning-fast costume changes! The team are already hard at work in rehearsals, having achieved great success with tours of Antony & Cleopatra and Twelfth Night in recent years.

As well as performances at Queens Park's Limelight Theatre, the show will also tour out to venues in Aylesbury and beyond, including the Bucks County Museum, the King's Head, Waddesdon Manor and Wendover Woods – with further dates in Great Missenden and Rowsham also planned.

For full details on performance dates, times and ticket prices visit [www.qpc.org](http://www.qpc.org) or call **01296 424332**.

## May Makers Fair

**Now in its fifth year, the event on Saturday 16 May is a celebration of creativity, showcasing the artists and makers of Queens Park Arts Centre as well as giving the local community a chance to learn more about (and have a go at) all manner of different artistic activities.** Work on show will include handmade ceramics, painting and drawing, jewellery, glass, woodwork, textiles and much more.



There will also be live entertainment throughout the day in the Limelight Theatre, including comedy from the Centre's production company Unbound, a showcase from the Susan Diane School of Dance and a variety of great music performed by the

talented people who attend and run classes and events at the Centre throughout the year.

Hot and cold refreshments, including fresh coffee, Pimm's, ale, soft drinks and a BBQ, will be available during the day. Younger visitors can get creative at a range of fantastic children's craft activities led by our talented tutors. Free parking is available on site. Entry costs £2/£1 members and concessions. Under 14s go free however there is a small charge for attending the craft activities. All profits contribute towards the Centre's ongoing fundraising campaign.

For more information visit [www.qpc.org](http://www.qpc.org) email [info@qpc.org](mailto:info@qpc.org) or phone **01296 424332**.

# Sports



## #BringTheDucksHome

**Aylesbury United Football Club last played a home game in Aylesbury in 2006... Yes, that's right The Ducks, formed in 1897 and are the town's most successful and oldest football club.**

They have been homeless for over 13 years, following their eviction from their former ground, affectionately known as 'Buckingham Road', where The Ducks played the full England team (the only non-league to do so) in 1988 in front of a packed crowd of over 6,000, had many memorable FA Cup games, an FA Trophy Semi Final and where England (including David Beckham) and Ajax trained in the early noughties, the team has since been ground hopping.

This has included two spells at Chesham United, where the club now play, (14 miles from Aylesbury), as well as spells at Leighton Town and at Thame United.

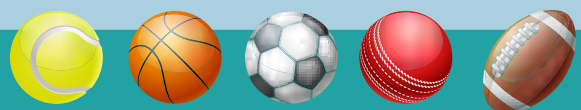
During this period the club have understandably seen home attendances drop from an average of around 1,000 at the turn of the millennium to about 150 very loyal fans. The club however does still exist which is no mean feat and down to some remarkable efforts by club officials and volunteers.

Being homeless has not stopped this club from being a focal part of the community and has actually seen the club grow. The club now has teams (31 in total) of all age groups for boys and girls from 'Mini Ducks', where current England star striker Ellen White started playing football, a disability section and a walking football team.

There have been many attempts made for the club to return home that have not materialised for a number of different reasons. However every effort is being made to get back playing in Aylesbury. The supporters are hoping that they get their wish to **#BringTheDucksHome. We need your support!**



**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](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.co.uk)

Fancy playing table tennis?

## Aylesbury and District Table Tennis League



The Aylesbury and District Table Tennis League has been operating since 1927. They use Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre for their various competitions and they meet there each Wednesday to play table tennis. They have a youngsters session from 6pm until 7.15pm, then adults from 7.15pm until 10pm. All standards, ages and abilities including people new to the sport and hardened evergreen league players are welcome.

In addition the League is represented by a number of local clubs, Berton being foremost amongst them. On Tuesday evenings they meet at the Berton Sports Centre on five tables. Bishopstone have a club that meets in the day on a Wednesday. Juniors pay £2 for their session with adults paying £3 at Quarrendon, and £3.50 at Berton.

The club is always looking for new players, so if you enjoy a good game of table tennis or would like to learn how to play then contact the club secretary **David Badham** on **07757 853334** email **david.badham1@btinternet.com**

## Aylesbury Kendo Club - Exercise With a Difference

If you've never heard of Kendo, it's no surprise! This unique martial art is one of the most popular hobbies in Japan - but what is it?

'Kendo' literally means 'Way of the Sword'. It is very similar to fencing, a hobby which perhaps rings a few bells for being closer to home. In Kendo, students learn to strike one another with bamboo swords using precise and controlled movements. More than that though, Kendo incorporates elements of traditional Eastern Martial Arts philosophy and is as much a practise of improving oneself as it is about sword fighting.

If you find it difficult to get enthusiastic about exercise, have an interest in Japanese culture and history, or simply want to try something completely new while getting your workout in, Kendo could be just the thing you're looking for.



The Aylesbury Kendo Club is made up of dedicated students at all stages in their journey, from the highly skilled and experienced to the absolute beginner. It is a community of people of all ages helping one another to improve. The club get together on Thursdays and Tuesdays at popular local venues Aqua Vale and Stoke Mandeville stadium respectively.

With a pair of fantastic, supportive and patient teachers, anyone wanting to give it a go or simply see what it's all about will be given a warm welcome. **If you're on the fence, come along on a Thursday evening for a free session, or even just to watch!**

The club has a highly responsive Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Ichibyoshikendo](https://www.facebook.com/Ichibyoshikendo) or for more information, get in touch with Sensei John Bates at: **01296 658582**

[www.ichibyoshikendoclub.org.uk](http://www.ichibyoshikendoclub.org.uk) [ichibyoshi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ichibyoshi@yahoo.co.uk)

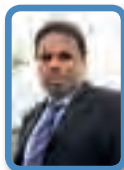


# Aylesbury Town Council Ward Map

## Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Anders Christensen  
07834 995690



Cllr Tuffail Hussain  
07832 913171

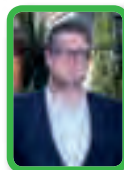


Cllr Graham Moore  
07886 369565

## Ward: Central



Cllr Barbara Russel  
01296 431314



Cllr Tim Dixon  
07849 757492

## Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Susan Morgan  
07799 074411



Cllr Jenny Puddefoot  
01296 612461

## Ward: Coppice Way



Cllr Mark White  
07771 877488

## Ward: Oakfield

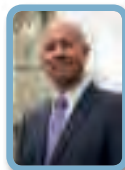


Cllr Allison Harrison  
07795 210808

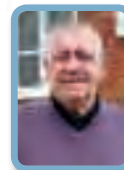


Cllr Mark Willis  
07723 091637

## Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr Chris Adams  
07968 444222



Cllr Andy Huxley  
07711 837938

## Ward: Oxford Road

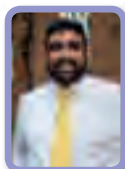


Cllr Stuart Jarvis  
07958 083519



Cllr Mike Smith  
07854 178012

## Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Waheed Raja  
07969 056877



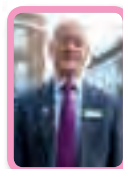
Cllr Mark Bateman  
07858 973643

## Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Ranjula Takodra MBE  
07958 423083

## Ward: Hawkslade



Cllr Brian Adams  
07855 299999

## Ward: Walton



Cllr Bill Chapple OBE  
07702 031712

## Ward: Mandeville & Elm Farm



Cllr Sue Chapple  
01296 426814



Cllr Richard Lloyd  
07887 685345



Cllr Denise Summers  
01296 424903

## Ward: Bedgrove



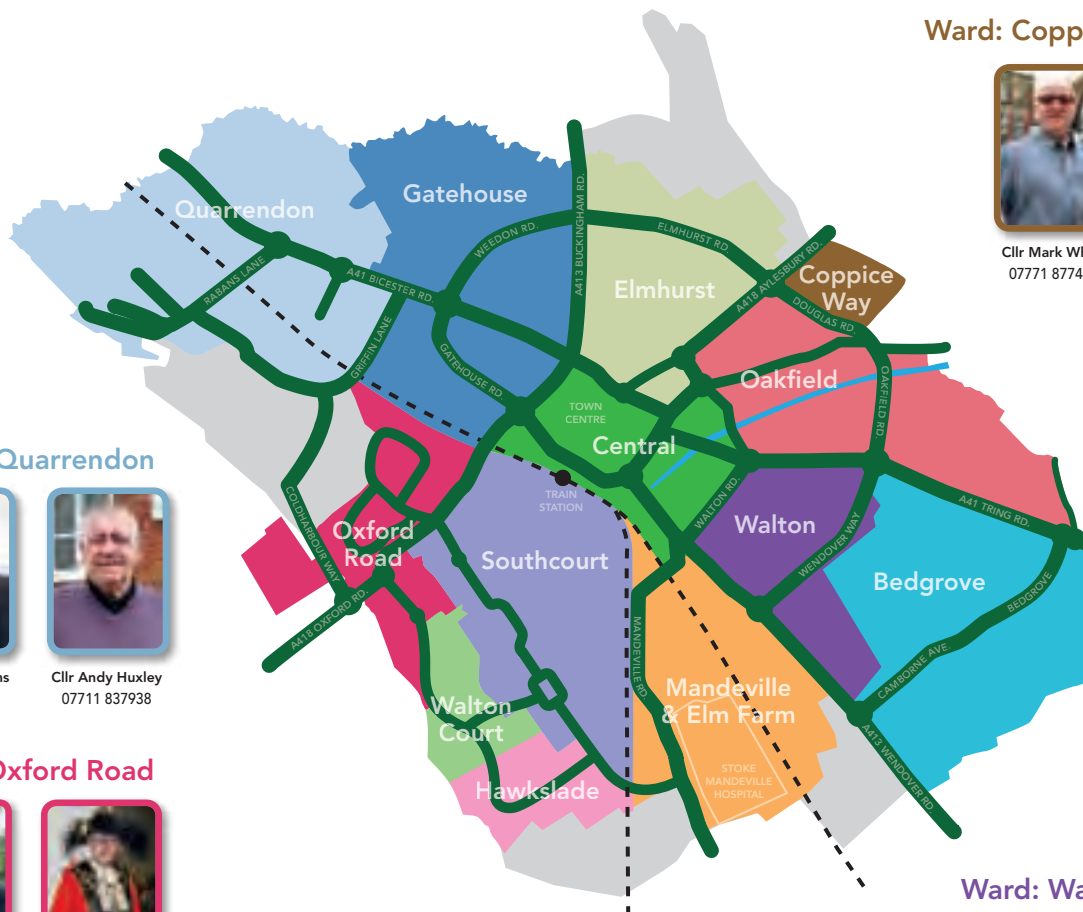
Cllr Jenny Bloom  
01296 434123

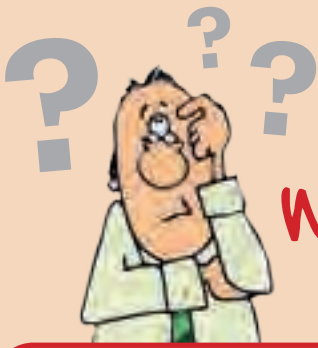


Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts  
07595 178660



Cllr Mark Winn  
01296 393304

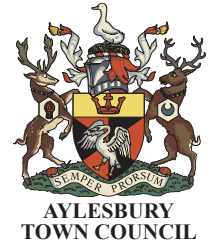




## Who do I talk to about? ...

### AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Office of the Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- Management of the seven allotment sites
- Management of Tring Road Cemetery
- Devolved Services – grass cutting of urban highway grass verges
- Support Twinning of Aylesbury with Bourg-en-Bresse
- A programme of events throughout the year such as Parklife, Tudor Fayre, Aylesbury on Sea, Christmas and summer events along with other free events
- Award of grants to local groups and charities
- Free quarterly magazine, Aylesbury Town Matters
- Jonathan Page Play Centre
- Aylesbury in Bloom (hanging baskets, planters, floral beds, roundabouts and more)



**Aylesbury Town Council** is the council closest to the residents in the parish of Aylesbury. The Town Council is here to be a voice for the residents by representing their views on issues affecting them.  
Call: **01296 425 678** or visit: [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

### AVDC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Collection of Council Tax and business rates
- Waste collection
- Local planning and building regulations
- Public car parks
- Licensing and Environmental Health
- Leisure Services (including Aqua Vale and all parks)
- Award of grants to local groups and charities
- Grass cutting of open spaces and parks
- Upkeep of Aylesbury town areas such as Kingsbury and Market Square



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

# Young People

## Turnfurlong Gardening Club

The Gardening Club at Turnfurlong Junior School has been running for nine years. Initially I ran the club for seven years but for the past two years (due to my health issues), thankfully Mrs Phillips has now taken on the gardening 'baton' for the school.

The emphasis on academia is important but research has shown that school gardens enable children to learn focus, patience and co-operation. It also teaches them that, even if living in a flat, they can grow simple vegetables on a balcony. In the 21st century it is vital that children know where their food comes from and learn the skills and knowledge of food growing. Sadly during 2019 Turnfurlong Gardening Club lost two of its stalwart supporters – Mr Graham Webster and Mr Joseph Benham, both members of the Aylesbury Gardening Society.

These gentlemen contributed towards the organising of the 'Potato Challenge' for the past several years. It became an annual ritual for our children from the Gardening Club to plant three types of seed potatoes (supplied by the Gardening Society) into sacks around the middle of March and then nurture them into fruition. The children learned in turn that potatoes don't grow on trees (a question once asked of me by a child) and that you can grow organic potatoes in a confined space and yield a good harvest.

When Mr Webster eventually arrived to 'weigh' the three crops of the potatoes he would draw a small crowd of eager children who helped him sift through the soil and, like searching for treasure, they would excitedly hand him the potatoes to weigh.

Mr Joseph Benham was our contact for instigating the Potato Challenge. His quiet guidance and reassurance was always there and for several years we have been the winning school in the harvest for the heaviest individual sack of potatoes. The trophy has rarely been away from the school since these two gentlemen encouraged us (and many other schools) to participate in this challenge. Mr Benham and Mr Webster gave their time for nothing and constantly guided those who might not receive support or encouragement otherwise. Their constant dedication and hard work enabled more children to become enthused about the earth and its harvest.

Gertrude Jekyll was a British horticulturist and garden designer. She once said, *"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies"*.

The keen members of Turnfurlong Junior School Gardening Club thank both Mr Benham and Mr Webster for their contribution to our success as enthusiastic gardeners and for 'sowing' the seed of gardening in our hearts.

Marian Colyer  
Turnfurlong Junior School

## Looking to volunteer?

### Exciting new estates... exciting new Scout Groups

As Aylesbury expands, so hundreds of young people want to join the Scouts. The exciting opportunities we offer both boys and girls from 6-18 and beyond cannot happen without adult volunteers leading these sections.

So why not give up a couple of hours a week, a month or occasionally a weekend to help provide these exciting opportunities? With your help we can support existing Groups in the area who need more adult help or even start new Groups on the new estates being built.

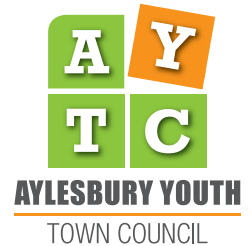
**INTERESTED?** Then contact the District Secretary on [secretary@aylesburyscouts.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aylesburyscouts.org.uk)

Alternatively why not come along and meet the team on **Sunday 26 April** during the St George's Day activities and parade in Aylesbury? You can find us at the County Museum.

**We'd love to talk to you about the opportunities available for volunteering. You won't regret it.**



## A New Year, a New Leaf...



Are you between  
11 & 19 years  
old?

Have you ever  
wanted to get  
involved with a  
local event?

Would you like  
to meet the  
Mayor?

Could you be  
the next Greta  
Thunberg or David  
Attenborough?

Are you looking  
to volunteer for  
an event in the  
community?

If the answer is YES,  
contact our Youth Town Clerk  
and join us at our next get  
together Wednesday 1 April, 4pm  
at Aylesbury Town Council.

*Looking forward to  
seeing you there!*

## **ACTION 4YOUTH** National Citizen Service Programme

Action4Youth is proud to deliver the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme again this summer. We have worked with NCS since 2010, delivering the life-changing experience for young people in Aylesbury. To date, we have worked with over 4,000 young people, helping them to realise their potential and achieve their goals.

NCS is a youth programme designed for 16 to 17 year olds that runs every summer during the school holidays. The experience is all about emboldening young people, by giving them the buzz of being an adult (without all the responsibilities). On NCS, participants live away from home and get a taste of independence. They mix with a new crowd of people and take on exciting challenges together.

The experience helps young people to develop skills that will set them up for life after school. Participants then get a chance to use these new-found skills, by tackling a passion project of their choosing. NCS is dedicated to providing a platform for young people where they can speak up and get their voice heard and tackle real world issues close to home.

This year, we are delivering NCS across the whole of Buckinghamshire and have eight start dates; five in Aylesbury and three in High Wycombe. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please visit [www.wearencs.com](http://www.wearencs.com) to sign up, or call the Action4Youth NCS Team on 0300 003 2334 for more information.



# St George's Day & Medieval Fayre

Sunday 26 April 2020  
Bucks County Museum  
11am – 3pm

*Featuring a huge array of historical performers and interpreters to submerge you in Medieval England*

Parade at 3pm featuring St George on horseback, dragon, fire dancers, Amersham Marching Band and representatives from Aylesbury's Uniformed Youth

**FREE EVENT**

*Join us to witness a spectacular parade for the entire town to be proud of.*



[www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
01296 425678

