

AYLESBURY TOWN matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
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Serving the people of Aylesbury



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Welcome Note

Welcome to our first ever digital copy of Aylesbury Town Matters. The circumstances in which we have had to do so are some of the most challenging that many of you will have had to deal with and we're indebted to everyone who is ensuring that we can all carry on with life under this lockdown period.

This edition is a celebration of our community and how we are all supporting each other through this difficult time. There are stories of community groups coming together such as the Bedgrove volunteers, the Women's Institute sewing face masks and local businesses and schools producing PPE. You'll find here details of not only where to get help if you need it but also how to volunteer.

Volunteering is the lifeblood of many of our communities and also does so much to support the free events that your Town Council provides. We have sadly had to cancel many of those events for 2020 but in this edition you'll find the Mayor reminiscing about the last twelve months and on those excellent events we have held in his time in office. One of those key supporters is the Queens Park Arts Centre and you'll find some creative ideas to be involved with.

It's not only about volunteering, many businesses, particularly smaller ones and charities are struggling with often much

reduced incomes at present and there are details of grants available. A number of local organisations and clubs have been doing all sorts of things to raise money, you'll see a report from Aylesbury United Ladies & Girls teams who did the '2.6 Challenge' and raised money for local charity WheelPower.

Last, and by no means least, we pass on our thanks not only to all the key workers and those that ensure supplies of essential items are available but also I'd like to personally thank the Council staff for dealing with members of the public in often emotive and sensitive situations so effectively and professionally.

We will be back in print as soon as we can and in the meantime please do send in your Lockdown Stories. The University of Buckingham www.buckingham.ac.uk and Buckinghamshire Culture www.buckinghamshireculture.org have teamed up to create 'Lockdown Stories' a website where county residents can share their thoughts and experiences through creative writing.

Best wishes to you all,

Cllr Richard Lloyd
Leader of Aylesbury Town Council

In this issue...

ATC News & Events

- 2 VE Day photographs
- 3 Welcome note
- 4-5 Thank you to our volunteers
- 7 Jonathan Page Play Centre
- 8-9 Dementia Friends
- 10 COVID-19 Volunteering
- 11 Aylesbury Town Council Grants
- 19 Mayor's reflection of the last 12 months
- 22 Ward Map
- 23 Council Services

Environment

- 6 A is for Allotment

Community News & Events

- 12 Aylesbury Lions CIO, Buckinghamshire Family Information Service, Aylesbury Garden Society
- 13 Aylesbury Town WI, Buckinghamshire Federation of WIs
- 14 Heart of Bucks, Holy Trinity Church
- 15 Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Old Town Street Association
- 16 National Paralympic Heritage Trust, Pace
- 17 SeeAbility, Community Impact Bucks
- 18 Aylesbury Community Workshop, Vale of Aylesbury Housing
- 24 Aylesbury High School, Petals on the Ground

Art & Leisure

- 20 UK Astronomy, Lockdown Stories
- 21 VE Day, Queens Park Arts Centre

Sports

- 25 Aylesbury United Ladies & Girls FC, Maxwell Swim Club

Young People

- 26 Aylesbury Youth Town Council, Aylesbury Youth Action

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ATC Events



This page would usually be filled with amazing pictures and exciting news about our recent and up coming events – but alas not for this issue. Which is sad, as the events team genuinely love providing you with a huge variety of free community events across the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the amazing individuals and groups that ensure we are able to provide you with the very best events possible – because, as we are sure you will appreciate it takes many, many hours of preparation to plan each and every event. Then on the big day the entire team pulls together to shine, working from very early in the morning till late in the evening to set-up, deliver and pack down all of the day's activities.

Firstly, we would like to thank our **Events Officer Ruth Mayhew** for organising and arranging the events. In the run up to the events and on the day Ruth is supported by the Communities Team and other Council staff members – **Judith, Sue and Bee** – the backbone to each of the events, **THANK YOU.**

Next is our team of dedicated young (and a couple not so young) volunteers who give up their time to help the community – **Alice, Anna, Antonine, Alistair, Charlotte, Elli, Georgina, Grace, Gwyn, Imogen, John, Keeley, Laura, Laurie, Lauren, Meiyang, Sophie, Veronica and William** – we really couldn't provide all of the games and activities without you, **THANK YOU.**

The **ATC Outdoor Team** is also an essential part – especially for the BIG events – thank you **Tim, Pedro, Gareth, Dayle and Steve**, we can always count on you, **THANK YOU.**

Since the start of 2018, the creative team from **Queens Park Arts Centre** has joined us at every event, with some brilliant crafts and activities. From street art to clay models, flags and parrots. Their artistic flare is second to none and we are delighted that you are able to learn new skills with them and take home your creations. **Dario, Carlota and the team from Queens Park, THANK YOU.**

Marie from Hand Talking also joined us in 2018, opening our events to a wider audience by providing British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation to those who are hard of hearing. This was a service that we'd always wanted to offer, but couldn't afford. Marie is a local professional BSL interpreter who came to our events with her family and generously offered her services as a volunteer, as she knows first hand the benefits of BSL. Marie has grown

into this role and is now an essential and integral part of every event. Marie runs sign and sensory classes from Broadfields Tesco on Friday mornings, for young people and also does classes and interpretation for all, so please do contact her if you ever need her help www.facebook.com/HandTalking/ Marie and your team, **THANK YOU.**

The last, but by no means least, of these thank yous goes to the dedicated team of volunteers from **BuDS – Buckinghamshire Disability Services**. They are a large team of predominately disabled volunteers, lead by Andrew and Liz, whose personal dedication to supporting those with disabilities ensures that events across the region are accessible. With their guidance and insight, we have made all of our events inclusive and accessible to all. You will find them in blue t-shirts during the Parklife weekend, manning the blue badge parking and disability information marquee – this is a long and exhausting weekend of exceptionally long days, but their team are always on hand to assist. **Andrew, Liz and all of the BuDS volunteers, THANK YOU.**

The Town Council takes pride in working with local companies whenever possible, and we would also like to thank all of our amazing suppliers that make the magic happen – there are far too many to mention individually, but please know that we are grateful to each and every one of you, **THANK YOU.**

If you are a local business, charity or individual and would like to be involved in our community events in the future, then please do get in touch. We are always open to discussing new ideas and ways to develop and progress our events and working alongside new people.

And we save the biggest **THANK YOU** till the end... to you all, **the residents of Aylesbury**. It's your support of the events that make them the success that they are. We provide the events to bring the community together – and it's you that does that, by bringing your families and friends out for the day. **AYLESBURY THANK YOU.**

COVID-19 has hit all of our communities hard, it has separated us and pushed us apart from each other, BUT at the same time our communities have become closer and more connected. We look forward to a time that we can all come together again, at the moment we have no idea when that will be, so for now, we will just say "see you at an event soon". Until then...

Stay Safe, Stay Well, Stay Home





The Hut, Plot 128 Bedgrove Allotments, Ingram Avenue, Aylesbury

12th May 2020

Dear Miss Haversham,

I am writing to say sorry for not attending your online lesson this afternoon. Pa insisted that we all went to the allotment, as we usually do in the afternoons these days. It's where we do our daily constitutional exercise. There's no wifi on the allotment and we don't have a smart phone, so I couldn't log on.

I have, however, been busy with the learning. Especially the three Rs. For example, I looked up "constitutional" in the dictionary before writing this letter. It means the act of constituting or state of being constituted. I don't know what that means, but I thought you should know that I am trying to find out about new words. I had better luck when I looked up allotment. It means a small piece of usually public land rented by an individual for cultivation. That makes sense.

We got our allotment just before the lockdown. One of my grandmas (Lao Lao) lives in China and told Mum what was happening there in February. Mum worried about us if the virus got over here. We live in a flat, with just a balcony. So she phoned up the Town Council and got us an allotment so that we'd have somewhere to go and get fresh air away from other people. It's on Bedgrove, the other side of Aylesbury. They had lots to spare, so we didn't have to go on a waiting list. We went round with the warden. He helped us to choose a nice plot. It was worked last year, with some raspberries and blackberries. Lao Lao sent us a list of the seeds that she thought we would need, but Mum couldn't find most of them at the garden centre. We got lots anyway, as well as some tools and a small shed - The Hut where I am writing this letter to you!

So what about my learning on the allotment? I've certainly been using the three Rs. I've been reading the instructions on the back of the seed packets. I've been writing in our allotment diary, keeping a record of what we do every visit. And there's been lots of arithmetic. I've been measuring distances between plants, working out how many rows to fit in a bed and calculating the spacing of potatoes. I'm even using a spreadsheet to keep track of what we spend and how much we will save. (Ma and Pa had to help me set it up, but I put the numbers in).

There are many more Rs on the allotment. I found out all about roots when we started digging over the beds. The old boy who has the next plot explained why couch grass and bindweed mustn't go in the compost heap with the other weeds. Recognising and removing their roots from the soil slowed down the digging a lot. Ma explained all about rotations when she chose what to plant in each bed. I liked the idea of killing off diseases by moving their food to somewhere else every year. Does it work with viruses? Rotation won't help my radishes though. The insects who are munching holes in the leaves have wings, so they don't care if I plant the next lot somewhere else.

Ma does most of the three Cs. This is because she helped out on Lao Lao's farm when she was my age, before she met Pa and came to Aylesbury. So C is for choosing seeds and plants. My spreadsheet lists over twenty different varieties that we have planted! C is also for costs. Ma spends the money, but I have to record the numbers. The rent of the plot was only £50. I think we'll get that back by not having to buy vegetables in the shops. The third C is for criticising, which Ma is really good at. She says that she is the expert, so we must do everything her way.

The three Ws are Pa's job. He was furloughed when the virus arrived and the restaurant had to close. I couldn't find furlough in the dictionary, but it means that Pa has plenty of time to take us to the allotment. He does a lot of the weeding. There's a lot of it to do, much more than I expected. I'm allowed to help with the watering. There's a lot of that too, but the weeding becomes impossible once the soil dries out. The third W is the waiting. Plants take longer to grow than I thought they would, but waiting for them gives us lots of time to enjoy the bird song and the sunshine. Much nicer than sitting on our balcony at home.

So I'm sorry that I missed your lesson this afternoon, but I have been doing a lot of learning, and the best R of all - our allotment.

Yours sincerely,

David Copperfield (Class 7A)



Making Rainbows



Once upon a time, in our lives before COVID-19, throngs of happy children would fill the hall and fields of the Jonathan Page Play Centre with their laughter, song and joyful chatter, but now the same hall and fields are a much quieter place.

On 20 March we closed our doors to most of our After School Club children and had to cancel all children who were meant to come and spend time with us during the Easter holidays. Suddenly there was just silence in the centre, but that didn't last for long...

Once the guidelines and requirements were established, our fantastic team were back and ready to look after keyworker and vulnerable children. Whilst it wasn't as noisy as it would usually be, the team ensured that the children had lots of fun – whilst observing social distancing – not easy at first, but we are so proud of how all of the children have adapted to this new way of life.

During the Easter holidays the children made a giant rainbow and also coloured in pictures for local care homes and the Nightingale Hospitals around the UK, to show solidarity with all the children who had to stay at home.

We would like to say a big thank you to **Tesco Broadfields** for surprising the children with Easter chocolate bunnies, which were hugely appreciated by everyone, thank you.

The May Playscheme and on-going After School Club, will be going ahead, but only for keyworker and vulnerable children of our regular pick-up schools. This is to ensure that we can continue to provide after school care in a safe environment for keyworker and vulnerable children and our team.

We will be following Government guidelines, under consultation with the local Buckinghamshire Council to establish the way in which we will be able to run our ever popular Summer Playscheme. At the time of writing the plans haven't been confirmed. We will make sure to keep you informed and updated via the Town Council's and Jonathan Page Play Centre's social media channels and website www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/jppc

We do hope that the centre will soon be filled again with children's laughter and smiles. In the meantime stay safe and well and if you are looking for some activity ideas check out our short clips on our Facebook page.





A poem written by Hilda Duncombe aged 103 years during COVID-19

WE ARE FAMILY

We admire the staff who always make us laugh
 Twenty-four hours a day, they help with work and play.
 Even when we're in bed at night, they make sure everything's alright.
 The cleaners come in night and day, keeping all the dirt away.
 When we go to rest our heads, we know for sure they have made our beds.
 Food a plenty, delicious meals, cups of tea to oil the wheels.
 Every day at three, fresh cakes made with cream, more difficult than it might seem!
 Jam and scones are put in a pot, we really are a greedy lot.
 The gardener is an awesome sight, he seems to get it always right.
 We break and they come and mend, even though we drive them round the bend.
 Grubby clothes come out clean, straight from Bartlett's washing machine.
 From their office, phones answered, letters sent, busily working to make our days well-spent.
 When we can't find the answer too, without the staff what would we do.
 Sipping on a glass of wine, now everything is really fine.
 Without our wonderful staff where would we be, we think right up an apple tree!
 We thank you from the bottom of our hearts, without your help we would fall apart.



Bartlett's Residential Home, Stone

The Fremantle Trust - Keeping in Touch

It has been truly heart-warming to see the level of support that local communities are providing the Fremantle Trust's homes. Our homes have also been lucky to receive donations from our local Aldi stores – a mixture of healthy foods, tempting treats and toiletries have been warmly received by our homes.

Residents have also been eagerly awaiting letters and pictures from local children. Lewin House in Aylesbury received a delivery from a girl named Lily. Lily was walking past Lewin House one day and told her mum she wanted to do something nice for the "people that lived here", so she created some pictures and wrote a letter to the residents.

Fremantle Court, near Stoke Mandeville, also received a wonderful banner that had been created by children at Stoke Mandeville Combined School. The banner had a large and striking rainbow decorating it, along with the kind-hearted message: "All in this together".

We have obtained a grant from Heart of Bucks, which allowed us to purchase additional tablets and Google Chromecasts for our homes. The homes are using the tablets to help residents, relatives and friends speak to each other via Duo video calls. Team members have also been teaching residents how to use Skype so they can send pictures and messages to family and friends. The Chromecasts allow the homes to connect devices to the main TV, enabling residents to watch their personalised YouTube playlists, as well as play games on a bigger, more accessible screen. The homes are also planning to use Zoom to hold inter-house quizzes, bingo games and other activities – we expect the competition to be fierce!



Forget-Me-Not Campaign Heritage & Sons Community Champion

For the past year, Maria Butler, our Community Champion based at Heritage & Sons in Aylesbury has worked tirelessly to create an interactive and engaging programme of events and activities aimed at helping to alleviate loneliness and social isolation within local care homes. A common assumption is that care home residents would not be lonely as they are around others, but lack of connection can be just as isolating as physical separation. Despite receiving excellent care, many experience feelings of isolation as family members live far away and friends may no longer be present.

Forget-Me-Not was borne out of a desire to help build connections and relationships as well as providing meaningful and engaging stimulus to daily routines. Activities involve an exchange scheme, matching local care homes and taking residents for monthly trips to another home to meet new friends. To date with 23 care homes involved, there have been over 80 exchange visits which have resulted in new friendships as well as a reported uplift in residents' wellbeing as they look forward to the visits.

In addition to the visits are regular group activities, from bingo to food tasting, themed parties to quizzes and regular visits from Snowy, Maria's popular little mascot.

Due to the conditions surrounding COVID-19, all physical visits have had to be put on hold to protect the wellbeing of residents and our colleagues. Rather than lament what cannot be, Maria has risen to the challenge and embraced all means of modern technology to continue to maintain regular contact with the residents and care home team, who have adapted well to the new format! Her quizzes are also via Skype and even Snowy makes regular appearances via an iPad or in her very own newsletter which is being sent weekly to keep residents amused. In addition, the pen pal scheme has been opened up to the general public and Maria has been using social media to spread the word, encouraging children and adults alike to take a moment to pen a line to residents.

You can follow Maria (and Snowy's) latest exploits on Facebook; Heritage and Sons Funeral Directors – CPJ Field Community Champion and find out more details about various local initiatives. For more details please contact: Bobbie Yoong – bobbie.yoong@cpjfield.co.uk



Home Instead Good News Story

Home Instead Senior Care, Aylesbury Vale are recognising and celebrating CAREGivers achievements and efforts with the Chocolate Orange Award.

Our CAREGivers are working harder than ever to ensure that the service of care they provide is a positive experience, received gratefully by our clients. Care continues in the community regardless of COVID-19 and our CAREGivers are professional in following the Government guidelines wearing the correct PPE and practising social distancing where possible.

The team are being flexible and available to cover when others are self-isolating and fuelling themselves up for each new week ahead of them. New clients and CAREGivers are joining the team which is exciting and refreshing to know that we are coming together during an unprecedented time.

Sweet treats and hand creams are being enjoyed weekly by our CAREGivers supplied by the management staff whilst a mobile library and community assistance is all in action too. We all continue to do what we do best in changing the face of ageing.

Narelle Guthrie, Care Manager

ATC News



COVID-19 Volunteering

In these unique and troublesome times, one thing is for certain, even though our communities can not be together, they are most certainly helping each other and supporting one another in the very best way possible – by being kind and helpful. Here we highlight just a few stories of what our Councillors and Officers have been up to in our community over the past few weeks.

Town Ward volunteer, Sherrilyn Bateman

My name is Sherrilyn and when lockdown started, I was placed on furlough and decided that I wanted to give back to my community. It's been very rewarding working with Cllr Richard Lloyd in the Mandeville & Elm Farm Ward, Cllr Tim Dixon in the Central Ward and Cllr Waheed Raja in Southcourt. It has been a pleasure to assist in manning the helpline set up by Cllr Raja and Cllr Dixon. Together with other volunteers and Councillors, we have been collecting prescriptions and doing food shops for many isolating people in our community. In addition we have been calling the vulnerable and signposting them to specialist help or providing assistance ourselves.

3D Print World in Aylesbury, a local family run business, diversified to meet the needs of the nation (along with many other businesses), by producing and distributing 12,000 PPE face shields. This was a major operation, with staff and volunteers often working through the night to meet the urgent demand early on in the pandemic. The face shields are being used as protection for the NHS and Community Social Care Workers, Doctors Surgeries, the local community and further afield.

“Volunteering in the community has been a very valuable personal experience for me and kept me positive at this challenging time. I have had many fulfilling and interesting conversations with the residents of Aylesbury and it's been a pleasure to assist 3D Print World.”

Bedgrove Volunteers by Cllr Mark Winn

During the early stages of the pandemic, I was extremely worried to see those clearly over 70 or who had a medical condition who had been advised to self-isolate, having to go to the shops or queuing up to collect their prescriptions from the chemist. Many will have been driven there by the selfishness shown by others who had stripped the shelves of food and for some strange reason, toilet roll.

I felt something needed to be done, and I put a call out to Bedgrove residents to help those in self-isolation. I have been absolutely overwhelmed by the response, we got nearly 190 volunteers to form the Bedgrove Volunteers, which have since become part of the Bedgrove Residents' Association. To publicise the volunteers and the support we could offer, a local printer printed free of charge leaflets and the volunteers delivered these to over 2,700 households within the Bedgrove area. A helpline has been set up where those requiring help can call to request shopping, to get prescriptions, deliver parcels and letters or walk the dog. We have also set up a 'Bedgrove Happy Chatters' line in order that those in isolation have a regular person to talk to, to keep up their morale and in order that we can ensure they are getting the help they need. Some of our chatters and phone line operators are even from those that are self-isolating.



A successful bid to the Buckinghamshire Council's COVID fund means that the volunteers can now pay for shopping in advance through a shopping fund, thereby eliminating the risk in handling money and we have a good stock of sanitiser to help protect both the volunteers and those being helped. Over 400 calls have been made to the helpline since we set up on March 23rd, and the actual number being helped is far greater, as several volunteers have regular residents that they help each week.

All the volunteer groups that have sprung up in Aylesbury, such as the Bedgrove Volunteers and existing organisations such as the foodbanks and Officers in the Town Council and new Buckinghamshire Council have jumped to the challenge of ensuring residents and communities are supporting each other during this crisis. I am not exaggerating by saying this, but they have not only brought people together, but they have also saved lives through their actions, those at risk have been able to stay indoors with the food and medicines they require and if they need more there are volunteers to help them. They have not had to go out and put themselves at risk of catching the virus.

I think I speak for not only the Bedgrove Volunteers but all those that have selflessly helped each other, that when this crisis is finally over and it becomes a distant memory, the hope is we will have a long lasting legacy in all the communities that make up Aylesbury of volunteering to help each other.

The Communities Team helping in the community

Our Communities Officers, Bee and Ruth, have also been helping and volunteering as much as possible too. They are involved in a variety of projects across the town, including moderating a couple of COVID-19 help groups on Facebook, where advice and support is requested and gained dozens of times each and every day.

Through these pages we have also assisted in a number of initiatives including sourcing 1,800 pens to be delivered to the hospital to be used by the doctors and nurses on the high dependency wards, special thanks to Metrobank and @Mediaport, who really helped out with this project.

We are involved in the Aylesbury Food Response Group, offering support and assistance, connecting different stakeholders and helping practically with the sourcing of disposable gloves and take away containers for the food banks to provide nutritious home-made 'ready meals' for those in need. We've also spent some time in the kitchens of Vineyard Aylesbury, helping to produce some of the 5,000 meals, already distributed to those in need across the town. Our work continues and we are ready to help whenever is needed.



If you would like to volunteer or need assistance in any way, please go to <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

Aylesbury Town Council Grants

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

The coronavirus will have had a huge impact on many voluntary groups and organisations in Aylesbury. These groups often provide lifelines to many vulnerable, lonely and struggling members of our community as well as essential meeting places for those that wouldn't normally have the opportunity to be with others.

If your charity, group or organisation meets the criteria, 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 which improve public wellbeing in Aylesbury.

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

The next Grants Committee is scheduled to meet on **Wednesday 24 June 2020**. The deadline for grant applications to be considered at this meeting is **Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 5pm**.



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

This magazine is usually delivered to every household in the Parish of Aylesbury. For more information call Judith 01296 425678 or email: judith.priest@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
There is no charge for community groups and charities.

Aylesbury Lions CIO



The lockdown has caused everybody many problems. For the Aylesbury Lions it has meant conducting meetings via Zoom which is a completely new experience for most of us.



It happened just as we were beginning to raffle 24 giant Easter eggs. Most of these were in pubs and local businesses which were locked down at short notice. In a normal year this is a good fundraiser but this year it has turned out to be a nightmare. We thank those businesses that agreed to help us and everyone who bought a ticket. Where

possible these raffles have been drawn regardless of ticket sales. We still have some eggs in lockdown and these will be drawn later.

A number of events which we planned to attend have been cancelled which has affected our fundraising opportunities. Many local charities are finding it difficult to fund all their activities and unfortunately we will have reduced funds to help them. Since lockdown we have already received several requests for help.

At our May meeting we were able to make grants to Lindengate and a group of local seamstresses making scrubs for local NHS Hospitals and care homes. We expect more pleas for help in the months ahead.

The Lions are keen to help wherever they can. With fundraising possibilities currently on pause we are looking ahead to Christmas and the exciting possibility of having a Santa's Sleigh to organise. **Why not join us and help? Interested then ring 0345 833 7863.**

ATC invites your comments...

If you have thoughts about the town we'd like you to express them through this magazine. 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.

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service

During these challenging times, the Family Information Service is here to support families by helping you find the support you need. They have been pulling together resources far and wide to keep families and young people up to date as well as inspiration and resources to help with home education and things to do.

You can find this information in their **COVID-19 Support for Families** area of their website which covers education, health, wellbeing and parenting, and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

You can also search the Bucks Family Info website for activities and services that are open or open online. From language learning groups to cookery schools, many local places have been holding sessions online and via social media. Visit www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/coronavirus

Available Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5.30pm and Friday 9am to 5pm. Have a chat with one of the Information and Outreach Officers who can help with advice on benefits, childcare, educational resources and more. Call **01296 383 293** or email familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Aylesbury Gardening Society

Joe Benham, who passed away in December last year, was the Society's Secretary, a post that he had held for many years. Marian, his wife was frequently with Joe until she became ill and passed away in August 2018.



The Society decided to commission a bench in memory of Joe and Marian. This bench has been purchased and will be installed on a prepared base adjacent to the Thurston Trading Store, Old Stoke

Road Allotments when the current restrictions on social gatherings have been lifted.

The Garden Society would be very pleased to accept any donations towards the cost.

Aylesbury Town WI

Over the last six weeks of lockdown the ladies at Aylesbury Town have been very busy. We quickly realised that we weren't going to be able to meet at our monthly meeting and our regular weekly clubs could not go on. We were going to miss our friends and the pleasure of sharing our hobbies.

After 100 years of the WI a few lessons have been learnt! We needed a new way to do these things. Our secretary set up a few WhatsApp groups.

One is our daily tune, working through the 60s and now into the 70s, a song to start every day and get us singing and bopping in the kitchen or on our daily walk.



The craft group jumped straight in finding different things to use to make masks, headbands and 270 laundry bags for the NHS. Chatting on WhatsApp encouraging each other and sharing pictures of their work, once completed, they are now knitting for the SCBU.



The cooking group has us all rushing to the kitchen and turning on the oven! Cakes and fruit pies being favourites, makes every one in our homes happy.

One member has inspired me by continuing relearning an old hobby, playing the guitar.

The media group has meant that everyone has been able to chat, join

in and offer support when things are bad and share the good things that have happened.

We've not tried a digital meeting yet, though if things continue never say never!?

Buckinghamshire Federation of WIs

'Help Needed!' was the cry and how local WIs (and a dog) stepped up....

Just a week ago the Bucks Federation of WIs was contacted by Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust to ask for help with making laundry bags for NHS staff uniforms as part of the COVID-19 defence strategy.

The bags are for staff to remove their 'scrubs', as the uniforms are known, before they leave the hospital at the end of a shift for laundering safely.



Laundry bags ready for delivery by BFWI

The word went out around the county to our 119 WIs and as if by magic, fabric from unwanted sheets, pillowcases, tablecloths, and even from precious fabric stashes was transformed into

over 6,000 of the 75cm x 50cm drawstring bags. WI members and friends took out their sewing machines and set to with their usual 'can do' attitude with some having to dust the machine down and re-learn how to use it!

By the end of April our Aylesbury area 'collector' reported receipt of 961 bags, from Aylesbury Town, Watermead & Weedon, Ballinger, Cheddington, Ivinghoe & Pitstone, Wingrave and Wendover Evening WIs, which would be going to Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMH) plus 16 ear savers, 25 bags to Poplar Grove GP surgery and 60 to paramedics. Her helpful dog, Doris, (pictured) assisted with the delivery.



Assisting the NHS Trust has addressed an urgent need in our community, but also provided purpose for our members at a difficult, isolating time – something humans definitely need.

We are so proud of all of our 'sewists' for production of such vast numbers of laundry bags in response to this plea, and at such speed. Thanks to all.

Heart of Bucks is supporting local organisations

Heart of Bucks, the Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire, have distributed over £190,000 so far in emergency grants to Buckinghamshire-based organisations working to alleviate some of the negative impact that the coronavirus has had on the local community.

Among the local groups supported, Heart of Bucks have funded Aylesbury Foodbank to enable them to offer more help to disadvantaged families; Buckinghamshire Mind to help them extend their service to offer online mental health support; and Pace, a charity for children with disabilities, so they can provide remote education and therapy.



The Fremantle Trust used their funding to bring hope to their care home residents during this difficult time. They purchased a total of 41 tablets and Google Chromecasts and staff have taught the elderly residents how to use this technology to make video calls to their families and send and receive messages.

"I can't begin to tell you what a difference the grant has made to our services", said Sue Faulkner, Community and Lifestyle Manager at The Fremantle Trust. "There have been many tears of joy.

"Birthdays have been shared, sing-alongs with family members... We couldn't have done it without Heart of Bucks acting so quickly on our application".

If you are a Buckinghamshire charity, organisation or community group currently running activities or projects to support the community, then Heart of Bucks would welcome your grant application. To read the application criteria and to apply, head to www.heartofbucks.org/coronavirus-response-funds/

Catherine Pearson

Holy Trinity Aylesbury brings light in the darkness

While the churches may be physically closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, Holy Trinity Aylesbury continues to meet online to provide a beacon of hope in these dark times.

They have set up a new YouTube channel youtube.com/holytrinityaylesbury which already has nearly 150 subscribers, where Sunday church services and children's church continue each week, alongside a varied programme of activities: Lighthouse Toddler Group for families with pre-school aged children; monthly groups for children up to Year 4; and times of quiet reflection and prayer. In addition, older children have meet-ups on Zoom, as do groups for Bible Study, pastoral support and prayer meetings.



In May they launched their first ever online Alpha course (a safe space for people to talk about faith, life and God) and members of the congregation helped facilitate a number of socially distanced VE Day Street Parties across the parish and beyond.

Holy Trinity are continuing to support Aylesbury Foodbank by collecting food donations from their congregation and have set up a support group offering practical support to anyone in the parish who needs help with grocery shopping or collecting medicines as well as a telephone support service.

For more information about any of the above, or to join Alpha, please email office@htaylesbury.org call 01296 398110 or visit www.htaylesbury.org

Information on how to stay well during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic for those living with cancer.

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust cancer information and support

The Trust has developed a set of factsheets specifically for people living with cancer, these include:

- How to find and access help via the Bucks Community Support Hubs
- Cancer support and psychological support

You can access these factsheets via the BHT Cancer and Haematology weblink at:

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/CancerCOVID19Support

To contact the cancer information and support service call **01296 316954**

24 hour mental health helpline for Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

This helpline will operate during the coronavirus pandemic and provides access to appropriate mental health advice for people of all ages.

Call **01865 904 997**

Visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/24-7-mental-health-helpline-replaces-111-in-oxfordshire-and-buckinghamshire/

Macmillan Cancer Support

Macmillan Cancer Support also has advice to support your health and wellbeing while at home, including:

- How to keep active
- Eating well and looking after your mental wellbeing

Visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coronavirus

Call **0808 808 0000**



Old Town Street Association

With the arrival of COVID-19 and the new government guidelines for the elderly and vulnerable to stay at home, a local grassroots shopping group has emerged in the Old Town. Under the umbrella of the local Street Association, a group of twelve volunteers are now taking care of 30 households in the Old Town, and have so far completed over 100 shopping lists in three weeks.

Within the Old Town this group is shopping for anyone at risk who does not have existing support from family, friends, or carers. The Thomas Hickman Charity provide Independent Living homes for 63 of these residents. Bernie Creaser, their Welfare Assistant, has expressed how grateful the charity is for this network of volunteers.

A vintage caravan, parked in the Rectory, is being used as their operations centre, and the volunteers go shopping early in the morning following all of the safe social distancing guidelines.



The local Sainsbury's has been supportive, lending two trolleys, and allowing the volunteers to shop in a group for the vulnerable at the beginning of the day. The volunteers wear Buckinghamshire Council ID which was designed in response to volunteer need.

Tamara Zimmerman quoted: "We have noticed that the silver lining in all of this, is a beautiful growing of community between the generations, as we all reach out and take care of each other. It is our hope that these new friendships that have been forged out of necessity will continue far beyond the end of the social restrictions that the neighbourhood is currently living under. We are planning to have a celebration when this has all blown over!"



A small museum with big virtual ambitions

The National Paralympic Heritage Trust (NPHT) has created free virtual tours of its national exhibitions to help the public get up close to sporting history from the comfort of their own home.

Using 3D technology, users can 'walkthrough' exhibition spaces and zoom in on specific artefacts or artwork, and are prompted to access video, BSL, text caption and audio-description options at points of interest.

London 2012 generated national and local interest and pride in the history of the Paralympic movement particularly in and around Stoke Mandeville and across Buckinghamshire.

It showed us the power of the Games to break down negative attitudes to disability and it also highlighted that no-one was looking after the early collections, or more recent collections, left in insecure offices, old stores and boiler rooms, and also in the personal memories of many local people who literally made the Paralympic Games happen through support and fundraising.

This led to the creation of the The National Paralympic Heritage Trust's national exhibitions. Which you can now enjoy from home.

With support from the Rothschild Foundation's Impact Grant of £145,000 the National Paralympic Heritage Trust are working with local disability organisations, individuals and participating schools to build a 3D digital sports heritage centre 'Digital Explorations'.

Local disabled people will research and investigate communication skills, leading to the creation of a virtual gallery of the NPHT collections and archives. Training will be free and lead to paid opportunities for those wishing to further their employment skills. If this is of interest then please do get in touch with NPHT directly.

More information can be found on the National Paralympic Heritage Trust website at www.paralympicheritage.org.uk/digitalexplorations

If you would like further information please contact elaine.phiri@paralympicheritage.org.uk



Supporting vulnerable children during lock down

Pace children have complex disabilities and associated medical conditions, and their vulnerability is heightened further by COVID-19, which prevents us from delivering hands-on therapy and integrated therapeutic education. We must now deliver enhanced services remotely whilst this vulnerable group remain in lockdown.



Pace are utilising Google Classroom for curriculum-based activities in our school and Microsoft Teams for both educational and therapeutic services.

We support communication, daily living skills, physical development, sensory and emotional wellbeing, through individual teletherapy, group

challenges and activities, sharing resources, delivering sensory sessions and stories. We support on sleep, feeding and play and conduct assessments for Education Health Care Plans, equipment and assess new families.

Pace are able to support more families through teletherapy and other remote services. If your child therapy provision has been reduced or stopped or if you have concerns over your child's development and want support but haven't sought advice because of the pandemic, then get in touch. We are here to help as many families as we can, during lockdown and beyond.

Contact Elizabeth.Burroughs@thepacecentre.org to find out more.

SeeAbility

SeeAbility supports people with learning disabilities, sight loss and autism. We're one of the nearly 20,000 care and support providers making a massive difference to people's lives, and to many of the people we support, we're second family. In our **Buckinghamshire Support Service in Aylesbury**, we're working hard to reduce heightened anxiety levels by keeping active and getting out in the fresh air, and we're all working together to develop our small garden.

We've had a generous donation of bulbs from a local gardener which we're busy planting along with other decorative plants and we're also starting a vegetable plot so we're looking forward to the joys of picking our own produce!

Our front line key workers are going above and beyond in Aylesbury, showing immense creativity in their efforts to keep people well and stay connected, in spite of the challenging lockdown conditions. For example, staff have enabled Kirsten to continue her music therapy by Zoom, thus enabling her to stay calm and relaxed; other members of the team are making sure residents keep up with their exercises while on lockdown – one brought in a wheelchair bike to keep everyone fit while the gym is closed and others have built a small exercise den.

If you'd like to support SeeAbility's incredible front line team in Aylesbury as they support some of the most vulnerable people in our community through the pandemic, please call Clair or Donna on **01296 323753** for details of how you can contribute gardening equipment, plants or seeds.

Alternatively if you'd like to support SeeAbility with a donation then you can do so online at www.seeability.org



During the COVID-19 pandemic, over 1,800 people have signed up via Buckinghamshire Council's website to volunteer to help in our local communities. The Bucks Volunteer Matching Service was created to ensure these volunteers are deployed where, when, and how they are needed throughout the crisis and to help our communities recover.

The service is provided by Community Impact Bucks, working together with Buckinghamshire Council and the Clare Foundation. There is now a pool of volunteers ready to support local charities, community groups and other volunteers involving organisations like health services.

If you are part of a charity or community group in Aylesbury and would like to tap into this volunteer resource, fill in the volunteer request form.

Community Impact Bucks is a local charity which supports people and groups to get involved and make a difference in Buckinghamshire communities. It does this by providing practical support and advice, helping people to find volunteering opportunities as well as helping charities and not for profit groups to get started and grow.

Whether you are an established charity or you have formed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can also give you tips on how to secure funding, advice on how to run your organisation, ideas on how to recruit and manage volunteers – and much more.

If you are currently volunteering in Aylesbury, you will find advice on how to get the most out of volunteering on our website including online training on safeguarding and telephone befriending, and guidelines around shopping for others.

To find out how you can support your community both now during the pandemic and after lockdown, whether as a volunteer or as part of a community group, visit www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk or email info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk for one-to-one advice.

Aylesbury Community Workshop

What a jaw-dropping moment when COVID-19 was posted through the world's letter box. Aylesbury Community Workshop, formally Men in Sheds, has prided itself in the work its undertaken, helping the more vulnerable members of our communities to rebuild their self-esteem and self-worth. This is very often a ticket to a life-changing journey. We have also been busy empowering people to be prime movers in repairing items that are broken. We care so much about the community we live in!

We took the decision from the onset that we would use our resources to help our community in crisis and began calling people to see how they are doing and to help steer them for appropriate support.

I feel very blessed in having some of the most wonderful calls with people who were well into their later years many who have no family and have had issues with support networks. So our phone calls have been most welcome. I've learnt how these individuals have kept themselves busy!

A lady with failing eye sight has a special computer to help her see and she's been making cards, a 96 year old told me how she had been doing her housework one step at a time (what a gem). One of my best requests to date was to tell a fruity joke!! We realise and accept our work is ongoing, but these are some of the ways we've supported local residents...

Prescriptions - late one afternoon we had a call from a lady in Southend who wanted a prescription collected for her dad. The story unfolded that her dad had been discharged from hospital with a prescription. Being late in the day, a stroll into town was required and then we could deliver it on the return. What really stuck out was the thank you message his daughter had left on the answerphone.



Another occasion, a lady had requested me to help her with her prescription... my brains working overtime we get there, knock on the door, and she said "you left your hat in the bag!". We had a good laugh before leaving.

The clunk - we found ourselves drinking tea one afternoon, and from outside came a loud clunk. We found some of the locals with a cycle issue so we donned our gloves and mended their bike and set them on their way! There's us thinking our cycle workshop was on hold.

Supporting other groups - one of the local groups has been busy out mowing grass for vulnerable people, and we have been helping them keep their fleet of equipment in good condition.

We have learnt that in the dark there's lots of stars that shine, but some are brighter than others.



Vale of Aylesbury Housing

VE Day celebrations at the Vale of Aylesbury Housing were a hit at their Independent Living Scheme in Wing. To bring some light relief during this challenging time, residents along with their Independent Living Coordinator Jackie Carrol, transformed their street with homemade bunting and decorations.

Jackie said: "It was so lovely to bring everyone together and even though we were socially distancing neighbours still managed to celebrate with each other!" Joining together for food, drinks and well needed conversation, one resident commented "it brought us together for a sing song and chats, which was much appreciated".

Mayor's reflection of the last 12 months

My first draft of this report was written in early March and how the whole world has changed since then. It remains uncertain how things will pan out in the coming months, so I will mainly focus my report to cover the 10 months I was 'actively' in the role.

I began my Mayoral year not entirely sure what to expect; perhaps a mix of some interesting, some challenging and some dull or tedious duties. The reality has pleasantly surprised me – all of my engagements in the 10 months have been interesting, educational and fun!

From pancake racing to carol singing, 100th birthday parties and being handed the microphone on stage in front of well over 12,500 people at 'Parklife' (no, I thought better of it and didn't sing), the variety of events I've been to has amazed me.

I genuinely learned so much about this wonderful town – probably more in this one year than I did in my 21 previous years as a resident and Councillor. I've also been invited to events in Wendover, Halton, Chesham, Milton Keynes, Haddenham, Wycombe and Bicester, among many others, helping to extend the hand of friendship to communities and their representatives all around our area.

Everywhere I've been, I've been made hugely welcome and I hope my presence will have helped raise the profile of the event and enjoyment of the people involved. My job of Mayor is pretty easy in many ways. After others have done all the hard work to achieve – whether in sport, charitable work, education, business or the arts – I just trot along at the end to join the celebration, eat the cake, maybe say a few words and appear in the photos! On so many occasions people have said "it's a privilege to have you with us" when actually I am the privileged one, to get the chance to join such wonderful gatherings.

I enjoyed working closely with my charity, Youth Concern – particularly Fran the CEO up to February, and Hannah the new CEO from then on. The more I learned about this amazing group of people and what they do for young people in really difficult circumstances, the more delighted I am that I chose this charity to support. It remains to be seen how much money in total we manage to raise – we'll find that out a bit later in the year, when hopefully some of our postponed fundraising events can be rearranged. However I've been delighted so far with the incredible generosity and support from our residents. I must also thank every Councillor and staff member who has attended my events or helped make them happen, made a donation or helped by sharing details on social media.

This has in more ways than one, been a year I will never forget. Having intended to be standing down from the Council a couple of weeks before today, recent events and specifically the postponement of the elections this



year, have changed that situation, for me and a number of others. So I will get this opportunity to directly thank those members who, shall we say, 'worked on me' over many years, to persuade me I could do the job of Mayor and that I should put my name forward. Cllrs Puddefoot and Takodra in particular, as well as Cllr Willis who was a great role model when I was his deputy Mayor last year. To step into his shoes – not literally, as of course Mark's shoes are totally unique to him! – it was some challenge but one that I have really enjoyed taking up.

I am very grateful to the Town Clerk and all the Town Council staff, particularly Sue Carpenter my PA, for their support and guidance throughout the year – and even more so when my role had to change so much in the last couple of months. From being thrust into the limelight to being taken totally out of it just as rapidly, was quite some transition. Now I have been focusing on supporting the Town Clerk and his team in making difficult decisions as to how to maintain our most crucial services, support our staff in stressful times, and help to ensure the public can be well informed in a challenging situation, where advice and best practice can change almost from day to day.

The last two months have been a clear demonstration of something I said about Aylesbury in my inauguration speech last year – a town that knows how to 'Be More Kind'. Whether that's people just keeping in touch with their neighbours and helping them out with small but essential tasks, or stepping up to volunteer time and commitment to support the wider community and our essential services – the people of Aylesbury have made us all so proud with their response to this crisis.

I will continue doing the best I can to support and represent our town during this unexpected extension of my Mayoral term as well as my time as a Member of this Council.

On behalf of myself and Mayoress Kerrie Jackson, thank you all very much.

Cllr Mike Smith
Aylesbury Town Mayor

UK Astronomy offer lockdown activities

Over the past few weeks, the coronavirus crisis has brought a lot of sudden changes and people are being asked to stay home to protect our NHS. Lockdown may mean we have to stay home, and it may have stopped UK Astronomy outreach events, but coronavirus cannot stop us enjoying the delights of our night sky.



We know that many families are finding lockdown a real challenge for so many reasons – restricted space, bored children, slow broadband, working at home and managing children, not being able to see family... the list goes on and on. In recognition of this UK Astronomy have put together some free information and advice to help you and your family to learn more about the skies above whilst staying safe under lockdown.

On our website we have uploaded some children's activity sheets. These are a fun and educational way of keeping little ones occupied for half hour or so. On our Facebook group we are also posting regular ISpy in your garden sky guides – these are fun things that you can spot in the night sky from the comfort of your own garden. These will save your sanity while entertaining and educating yourself and the kids.

So pop along to www.ukastronomy.org "because there are a billion worlds in your back garden..."



Lockdown Stories

To connect residents across Buckinghamshire during these challenging times, the University of Buckingham and Buckinghamshire Culture have teamed up to create 'Lockdown Stories' – a website where county residents can share their thoughts and experiences through creative writing.

'Lockdown Stories' is designed to help individuals tell their story, explore their creativity and build connections. Stories are posted online at www.buckingham.news and shared on social media using the hashtag **#lockdownstories**.

Submissions so far have included, a poem from the Bard of Buckingham, Dean Jones, a comical left-field view of isolation, an example of how you can create a happy moods board and a virtual walk. There's also the collaborative story, 'Beginnings', which encourages readers to write the next chapter themselves before letting the next person continue the tale.

The intention is to celebrate the power of stories and storytelling as ways to escape and relax, fire imaginations, make sense of the world, pass on information and traditions, share experiences, feel accepted and valued, and make new connections.

If you would like to submit your story please email camilla.zingari@buckingham.ac.uk Stories can be submitted as video, film, voice recording, images, text (please note: stories must be suitable for audiences of all ages). If you need some prompts to fire your imagination and creativity, your story might be inspired by: seeing something or someone in a new light, an unexpected 'silver lining' from your isolation, or an old memory or story given a new life.



VE Day

On Friday 8 May the country marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day: the day that WW2 ended across Europe.

At the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, we took a look at some of our archive holdings, to put together an idea of how the day was celebrated in Aylesbury. Here's what we found.

- Victory did not come completely out of the blue: Aylesbury Borough Councillors had been planning since mid-April when Victory in Europe started looking certain.
- Formal VE celebrations in Aylesbury included a procession of councillors, clergy and other dignitaries, an open-air service at the War Memorial in Market Square, with choirs and the brass band from Hazell, Watson and Viney printing works; culminating in a broadcast of Churchill's speech at 3pm.
- Injured servicemen from a local hospital were given pride of place at the front of the audience for this service: one serviceman in a wheelchair had painted the plaster cast around his leg red, white and blue.
- These proceedings were filmed from the back of a truck by a unit from the Ministry of Information, based at Cliveden: we don't know if this film survives today – we are on the hunt!
- The Market Square was packed full for the celebrations, including balconies and rooftops.
- One source suggests that the bugler who was supposed to play the last post at the end of the service did not turn up! (maybe he had started his celebrations early?).
- Around the town people held street parties, but we only have one photo: this photo of a children's party in Regent Road is the only one we have of VE Day in the town.

Please get in touch with your memories, photos and family stories of VE Day in Buckinghamshire, so that we can preserve them for the future: archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Queens Park Arts Centre launches 'Live Creatively' campaign

Queens Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury has launched a new campaign encouraging people to 'Live Creatively' whilst the organisation's building is temporarily closed to the public.

The Centre aims to inspire local residents to let their creativity flourish even in the most uncertain times by establishing its social media accounts (and a new blog) as a hub, which shares and celebrates the many ways people are still engaging with the visual and creative arts during self-isolation.

Response to the campaign has already been positive, with all manner of photos and videos being shared covering pottery, patchwork, woodcarving, drama and mixed crafts. The Centre has been sending out 'Creative Challenges'; simple craft ideas for anyone to have a go at and share their creations online.

The biggest reaction so far has been to the 'Origami Butterfly' challenge, which solicited responses from as far as 200 miles away! To get involved in the challenge visit the launch video at: www.tinyurl.com/qpac-butterflies

Anyone wishing to join the campaign can send their content to info@qpc.org or post online and tag in Queens Park Arts Centre's social media accounts; most importantly, though, they need to use the **#LiveCreativelyQPAC** hashtag.

To see the campaign in action head to www.qpc.org follow us on www.twitter.com/queensparkarts or www.instagram.com/queensparkarts like us www.facebook.com/queensparkartscentre





Aylesbury Town Council Ward Map

Ward: Gatehouse



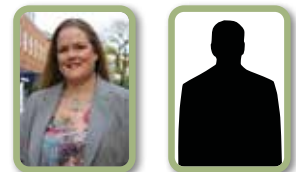
Cllr Anders Christensen 07834 995690
Cllr Tuffail Hussain 07832 913171
Cllr Graham Moore 07886 369565

Ward: Central



Cllr Barbara Russel 01296 431314
Cllr Tim Dixon 07849 757492

Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Susan Morgan 07799 074411
VACANT

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



VACANT
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

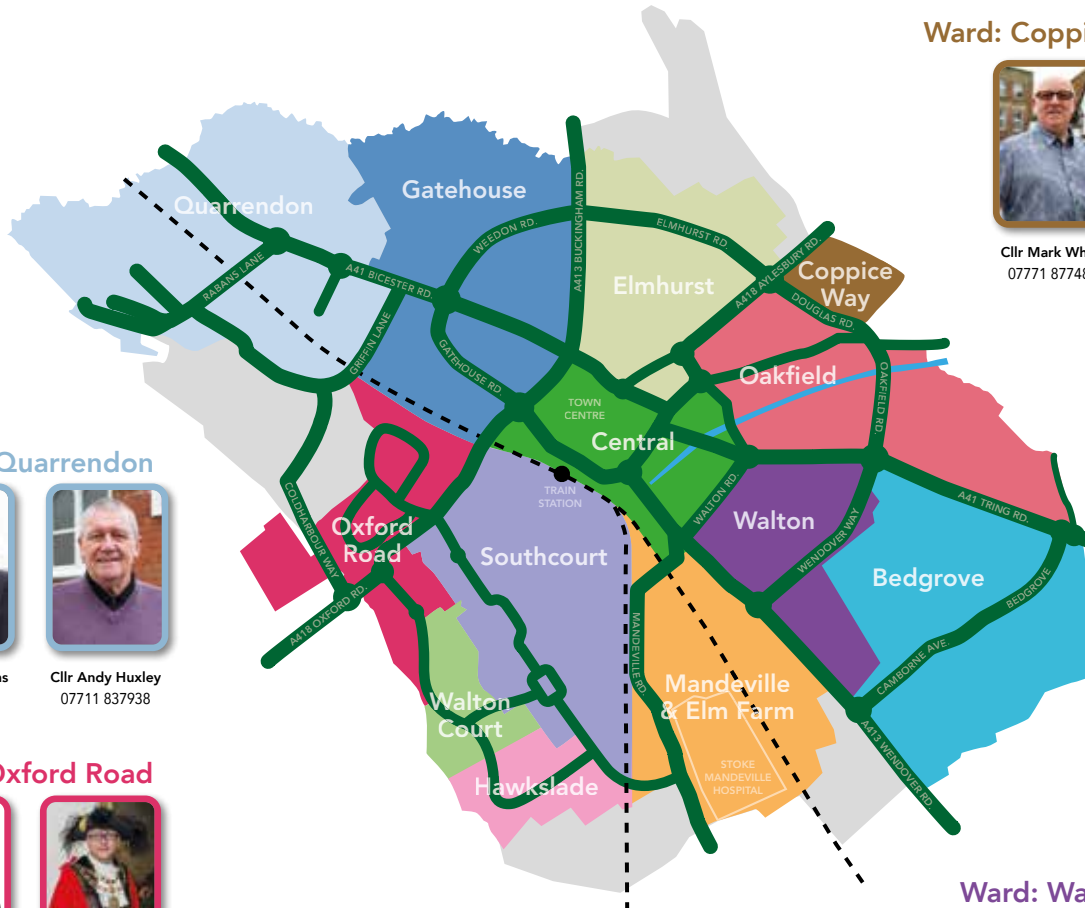


Cllr Sue Chapple 01296 426814
Cllr Richard Lloyd 07887 685345
Cllr Denise Summers 01296 424903

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:

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



- Office of the Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- Management of all allotment sites
- Local Burial Authority - management of Tring Road Cemetery
- Devolved Services including 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, Soapbox Derby, 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)
- Partnership working and engagement with other community stakeholders and Buckinghamshire Council

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL is responsible for:

Buckinghamshire Council provides services on a county-wide basis and has a very regulatory remit. Call **0300 131 6000** or visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk



- 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
- 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

Aylesbury High School

When AHS first heard that the NHS were short of PPE they scoured the school to see what they could donate.

Thanks to their Science and Technology departments, they were able to give the Bucks NHS Trust ten boxes of goggles, gloves and lab coats to help those wonderful people in the NHS carry on with the amazing work they are doing for us all.

AHS Technology teachers Mr Potkin and Mr Cook have also been using the school laser cutter and 3D printer to create face shields. So far they have made over 200 masks, but the generous parents have donated over £3,000 to allow them to purchase more PLA filament, sheets of polypropylene and acetate sheets so they can continue to make more.



These face shields have gone to various destinations, including Stoke Mandeville Hospital, local care homes and the fire service. Headteacher, Giles Scoble says: "A huge thank you to our staff and parents for coming together at this time. If you are a local organisation in need of masks, please do get in touch on gscoble@ahs.bucks.sch.uk so that we can get these to you."

Petals on the Ground written by Lesley Poon

Petals in the shadows
fallen to the ground
Withering flowers fading
making not a sound.

Pretty orange rosebuds
still as yet unheard
No more petals falling
hush not a word.

Solitary flower
First ever bloom
Hides her face before me
See her from this room.

Suddenly a wind rush
Trembling leaves cascade
Rather an embarrassment
to still be on parade.

Never would I think that
my roses were to stay
Each and every picture
I take every day.

A record for my keeping
to illustrate my rhyme
Lovely to reflect on
time after time.



Sunshine in my garden
making it shine
Glistening and shimmering
looking so fine.

But dark clouds are looming
Heavy is the air
holding the very life
of my treasures out there.

Thunder is a rumbling
A lightning flash
Soon there'll be a downpour
Rain will lash.

Poor little rosebuds
Will we only see
just glimpses of their beauty
photographed by me.

Downpour has ended
Danger is past
Snap what I can now
Memories to last.

Ducks take on The 2.6 Challenge for WheelPower

On Sunday 26 April, what would have been the 40th anniversary of the London Marathon, charities across the UK asked the public to take part in The 2.6 Challenge to help plug the shortfall in their fundraising due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the many charities affected is WheelPower who expect their fundraising to be reduced by around 50% this year.

Aylesbury United Ladies & Girls FC have supported WheelPower for several years – they were the top team fundraisers in the Mix 96 Tour de Vale in 2016, 2017 and 2018 – and put together a '26 Points Skills Challenge' and invited players, coaches and families to take part.

The challenge consisted of a series of skills which were scored according to age. The target was to score 26 or more points and everybody who took part received a certificate from WheelPower.

The challenge raised £819. The highest individual fundraiser was U13 Whites player, Enya Plant. "I took part in the challenge so that I could improve my football skills as well as raise money for an amazing charity," said Enya. "It was a great experience as it was fun and for a good cause."

The highest combined fundraisers were sisters, Evie and Maisie Pigram. Evie trains with the Wild Ducks while Maisie plays for the U13 Greens. "We wanted to help WheelPower as they do great work," said Evie and Maisie. "It was also good for our practice at home and for keeping us fit and healthy."



Maxwell Juniors return to the top

After six weeks of highly competitive swimming the Aylesbury and Buckingham based Maxwell Swim Club's junior team triumphed at the Oxon and North Buckinghamshire county championship. The junior championship, competed for by 9-13 year old swimmers, was won by Maxwell for the first time since 2012, beating City of Milton Keynes and Oxford into second and third place respectively.

Head coach Noel Horton commented, "I am so proud of all of the swimmers and coaches who have made remarkable progress over the last two years." Noel also noted that "the success of our county, regional and national level swimmers is matched by fabulous progress at every level of ability within the club. Maxwell swimmers all show great teamwork, hard work and a positive attitude. In this environment success always follows".

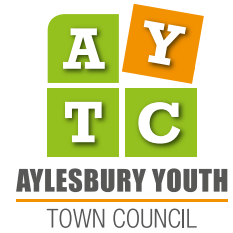
Maxwell's victory in the junior division was followed up with third place in the overall competition, up one place from last year. Maxwell has continued to rebuild under coach Horton, and this year increased the number of events in which Maxwell had swimmers competing from 371 in 2019 to 477 swims in 2020. In total they made the rostrum seventeen times. Gracie Hudson, Poppy Baybutt, Rowan Cyster, Imogen Walton and Izzy Ford won multiple podium positions for the girls. Sam Pyefinch and Jamie Prince's podium positions were the highlights of a strong showing from the boys.

In total Maxwell won 96 individual age group medals, 40 Gold, 26 Silver and 30 Bronze. If you are interested in competitive swimming contact us for a free trial via the Maxwell Swim Club website.

www.maxwellswimclub.org

Copy submitted pre COVID-19.

Aylesbury Youth Town Council



Our welcome so far into 2020 as Youth Town Councillors has been an experience... and it's these experiences we want to share as we come together to support one another.

Like many pupils, it's been a juggle balancing school work/pressures of exams and free time with limited options as we #staysafe, but we've managed to come up with some novel ways we'd like to share with you...

Life as a Digital Volunteer

A few of us have teamed up with the amazing Rafiq from Aylesbury Youth Action to become Digital Volunteers (see below). We've just had our induction and will now be working on ways to help the local community work through social isolation by creating some tech-based activities as well as becoming Letter Buddies (penpals) in the hope of bringing people together.

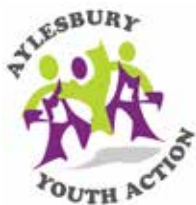
The Diary of a Student in Lockdown by Cllr Meiyang Jiang

So, this is 'quarantine'... knowing that this was going to last a long period of time, I was prepared for the hardships and determined to be productive. Right from the beginning, I have a routine - waking up at 8:30am, and try to study for 4 to 5 hours a day, making sure that I cover revision and finish my lessons on time because all that spare time is what we never used to have so why not use it properly? Other than studying (although that is what I'll be doing most of my day because I am a sixth-form student) I also do a lot of exercises.

During quarantine, we are pretty much repeating the same cycle so it is most important for us to keep fit, ready to shine as the 'new self' after it! Due to the difficulties of not being able to go outside, many of my work experiences have changed to virtual ones. I am a participant of the 'Pathway to Law program under Sutton Trust' and they have kindly organised virtual work experience for us, inviting barristers, solicitors and paralegals to share their experience with us and prepare students for university which is also another thing I have been keeping an eye on. Quarantine does not mean a *time freeze* - there are so many opportunities right now, so why don't you try them as well? But after all, the top priority should always be keeping yourself safe, wash your hands then enjoy this special time at home! Wonder what my next instalment will bring? #staytuned #staysafe

Living & Learning in Lockdown by Cllr Madeleine Smith

As well as getting on with school work and revising for any mocks that may still happen, I've been enjoying getting into baking. My mum is a master baker and with her help I have been making a variety of cakes/scones/biscuits for my elderly neighbours. Not the biggest gesture but hopefully just a little something to brighten their day! As well as trying to learn some new skills, I've given watercolour painting a go and have started trying to make friendship bracelets and facemasks. It's been really good getting to spend time on old hobbies like running and embroidery. I know this may not be the same for everyone, but, overall I've taken many positives from this unusual time.



Aylesbury Youth Action

The Aylesbury Youth Action team would like to say a big thank you to all of the youth volunteers who are helping us to provide remote digital services to the local community to keep spirits lifted.

The remote activities we are offering are based around the following items:

- **Activity Pack Downloadables** – Fun and creative puzzles, games and challenges, designed and produced by AYA volunteers and brought together in Activity Packs for children and the older generation.
- **Digital Socialising** – A range of different remote activities created by the AYA volunteers like; shared knowledge through video tutorials in hobbies or interests, musical activities, social conversations through video chats, exercise tutorials, keeping both mind and body active.
- **Letter Buddy** – AYA volunteers keeping in contact with the community organisations we support through recorded messages or pen pal style connections offering a more conversational element.
- **Newsletter** – We are also offering the opportunity of bringing together experiences of young people's self-isolation through the coronavirus period and what is important to them in a newsletter. These will be written by the AYA volunteers or filmed in a blog format, for others to read or watch as an alternative perspective on life at the moment.

So if you are aged between 14-24 years and would like to get involved with any of the above activities to support the elderly, young children and your peers in the local community, please let us know by registering your interest on our website <http://aylesburyyouthaction.co.uk/digital-volunteering/>

