

# AYLESBURY TOWN matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine  
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*Serving the people of Aylesbury*



*'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'*

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



# STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Discover the origins of the story  
with the experts from UK Astronomy

**Sunday 13 December**

**Virtual presentation 6pm**

(approx. 30 mins)

Followed by a **virtual tour of the night sky**  
weather depending (approx. 30 mins)

Further information and essential pre-registration at  
[aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/StarOfBethlehem](https://aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/StarOfBethlehem)



Photograph © Jeff Whitehill



**AYLESBURY  
TOWN COUNCIL**





## Welcome Note

**Welcome to our latest edition of Aylesbury Town Matters, the last of what has been a testing year for everyone associated with the town but hopefully we can give you some cheer as we rapidly approach Christmas.**

I'd like to begin by again thanking all those residents and Council staff who have been going 'above and beyond' for their communities. The highlights have continued to be that community spirit and pulling together for everyone that needs help. As we head into the shorter days and likely wetter weather, I would urge people to keep looking out for their neighbours and communities and asking for help where you need it.

Christmas is usually a time for some of the Town Council's most popular events and this year we have had to adapt our programme due to the pandemic, however the team have come up with a range of Christmas events that will either get you out or allow you to follow from home. Look inside the edition for Cyber Charades (online family game from Unbound Theatre), Star of Bethlehem with UK Astronomy and Key Worker Duck Trail.

The Bucks County Museum also has two winter art exhibitions, marking both the Bucks Art Society's 100th anniversary and the private works from the late Tony Hart

which I'm sure not only children will enjoy but also adults who remember him from TV (like myself!).

Since our last issue, Mix96 is no longer on air and many of you will be asking after the Toy Appeal, we're really excited therefore to be backing the new "Community Radio Christmas Toy Box Appeal" which a number of brilliant people and local radio stations have come together to provide with the support of Aylesbury Town Council. Further details inside as to how to find where you can drop toys off.

In conjunction with the Allotment Society the Town Council's first surplus produce donation station at Crown Leys was a great success. Thanks to all the allotment holders and general public who took part with the produce given to the Vineyard's Community Fridge.

Last, and by no means least, one of the real successes of the Town Council over the last few years has been our Dementia Friends programme, this has moved virtual, as many things have and we have dates for the 2021 sessions inside.

Stay safe and please ask for help if you need it.

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

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# ATC News

As the festive season and the New Year fast approaches, it's only natural to think "what a year we've had", and we totally agree. The town, nation and entire world have faced a challenging "storm" – with us all in very different boats. Our events team have been disappointed to not be able to bring you our usual calendar of events.

This year we've missed The St George's Day Parade and Historical Fayre, Laws of Time play, Feel The Force Day (which was going to be a new event for us), Soapbox Derby, Aylesbury on Sea, Live in the Park, Proms in the Park, Festive Family Fun and Carolfest.

Our events are all about you, the residents and community of Aylesbury. We provide the events to bring us all together and to improve everyone's sense of wellbeing and pride in our town and greater community. As we cannot have mass gatherings and we are very conscious of the ever-changing government guidelines, we have come up with a plan to celebrate the festive season, our town and you, our local residents.



This year we have missed working with the talented actors from Unbound Theatre, and we couldn't let the year slip away without bringing them on board. So, get your family ready, split into teams and prepare yourselves for loads of giggles, playing the classic Christmas game, but with a twist in – **Cyber Charades**, the actors do all the acting, all you have to do is beat your opposition to get the right answer. To be released to our Facebook page and YouTube channel on **Saturday 19 December**.

As always, we bring these events to you without charge. We hope you enjoy all we have on offer. If you enjoy any of the activities, then please do let us know – [f @aylesburytc](https://www.facebook.com/aylesburytc) [t @aylesburytc](https://www.youtube.com/aylesburytc) [@aylesburytowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/aylesburytowncouncil) or email [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)



We're proud to announce the first ever **Aylesbury's Key Worker Duck Trail**. From **5 – 13 December** you'll be able to find six very special Key Worker Aylesbury Ducks hiding around the town. The ducks will be dedicated to some of our amazing key workers who live and work in the Parish.

Follow the trail around the town centre and complete the quiz. All submitted answers will be entered into a draw to win some fantastic prizes kindly donated by The Works, Stay & Play, The Flower Bar, The Grill and New York Deli. Trail sheets and further information is available on our Facebook page and [aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/ducktrail](https://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/ducktrail)

Join Ross, the amateur expert from UK Astronomy, as he guides you round the night sky and explains the astrology behind the **Star of Bethlehem**. This is a virtual event and must be pre-booked. It starts at **6pm on Sunday 13 December**, the first part will be an informative talk and if the clouds stay away, Ross will then talk you through what you can see from your very own back garden. If you don't have a



We are proud to be part of this amazing legacy, assisting with the logistical side of the appeal. If you can, please donate a toy or two this year. See where your nearest donation station is at [aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/toyboxappeal](https://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/toyboxappeal)

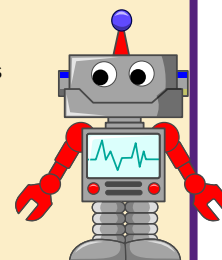
*What 2021 will bring, remains to be seen. But for now, the Communities Committee and Events team wish you a very Happy Christmas and we sincerely hope that we'll be seeing you (safely) next year.*



## Summer at JPPC

We all know that this year has not been the same as any other year and we all had to change and adapt and that's no different for us here at the Jonathan Page Play Centre. The summer playscheme was a great success even though we had to work it very differently to comply with regulations and to ensure that we were COVID-secure. The children still had a great time during the six weeks at the centre and most of the time we were able to play in our great outdoor area.

We covered topics such as camping and seaside holidays as many of the children went on staycations to the British Riviera or went on a camping holiday in places such as the Peak and Lake Districts. They all had wonderful holiday stories to tell on their return. We also explored what animals live on a farm and we made our own robots. Just before everyone had to go back to school we talked about friendships and the older children assured the younger ones, who were starting at school for the first time, how great school is and how much fun you can have.



We all know that things are ever changing at the present time so whilst we don't know yet how many children we will be able to welcome it is our full intention to run our **Christmas Playscheme from 21 – 24 December** and on **4 January 2020**. It will be all about Christmas and making new year resolutions. Bookings will be open from mid-November. Please do keep an eye out on our Facebook page [@jpplaycentre](#) and the Town Council's social media for further information nearer to the time.

## Feeding the Community and Preventing Food Waste - Aylesbury Town Council's first Surplus Produce Donation station

**Our first Surplus Produce Donation Station project, which aimed to reduce food waste and contribute produce to Aylesbury Vineyard's Community Fridge, was a success.** Members of the public came to Aylesbury Town Council's Crown Leys allotment to donate their surplus homegrown produce to support the project and allotment holders from all seven of our sites contributed.

Apples, beetroot, cabbages and marrows were just some of the delicious array of produce that was donated during that first wet weekend in October. Thank you to everyone who donated their surplus produce. The Community Fridge received over 45kg of fresh donations!

A special thank you to Aylesbury Waitrose for loaning crates for us to distribute to all seven allotment sites which allowed allotment holders to contribute too.



## Memorial Safety Testing at Tring Road Cemetery

**Unstable memorials can pose a hazard by falling over unexpectedly.** Please take care not to touch any memorial or rely on them for support during your visit. We are conducting memorial safety tests to assess the risk of memorials falling over and causing injury. This consists of a visual inspection and simple hand test to check for movement. Any memorial found to post an immediate hazard will be laid flat and the grave owner contacted.

Memorials remain the property and responsibility of the grave owner. If your memorial has been laid flat you will need to contact your stonemason to have it safely re-fixed.

## Dementia Friendly Aylesbury



### Dementia Friends Update

**We're so happy to announce that our first public virtual Dementia Friends' sessions have been a huge success! We can't thank you enough for continuing to support our work in the community.**

Janet S took part and said: *"The session was full of smiles, energy and enthusiasm. I learned several new things for me to think about that are all very practical and helpful."*

Congrats to the Southcourt Church Pastoral Team who have now become Dementia Friends.



Our next public virtual Dementia Friends' sessions:

**Monday 11 January 2021 @ 7pm**

**Monday 8 February 2021 @ 7pm**

**Monday 15 March 2021 @ 7pm**

**Monday 12 April 2021 @ 7pm**



Aylesbury Town Council's successful Dementia awareness project, Dementia Friendly Aylesbury, has created the Bucks Dementia Friendly Community & Alliance Group during lockdown. With representatives from communities in Marlow, Wendover, Wycombe, Chepping and Buckingham it's been really helpful for us to come together virtually and share successes and challenges along the way to promoting support for carers and people whose lives have been affected by Dementia.

### Technology Enables Everyone to Connect Video Calls with Loved Ones

**For many of Bartlett's Care Home residents, the visits from their family, friends and loved ones are treasured moments.** In these uncertain times, they've come to appreciate the investment we made in 2017 to provide super-fast, comprehensive, secure WiFi throughout our homes. It's allowed residents to speak regularly with family and friends via tablets.



#### VIRTUAL TOUR OF BARTLETT'S RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

As part of our collaboration with NHSX, we recently hosted a virtual visit to Bartlett's Residential Care Home from Minister for Care Helen Whately MP, who commented on Twitter: *"Thanks @PevelCourt Care homes – and the staff at Bartlett's care home particularly – for my virtual visit this morning. So impressed by all I saw, and good to see the @NHSX Facebook trial for #Carehomes in action, helping residents stay in touch with family & friends."*

### Heritage & Sons Community Update



**Heritage & Sons have been providing virtual quizzes and 'afterzoom tea' calls for residents in and around Aylesbury.** UK care homes have borne the brunt of lockdown restrictions, which has impacted the wellbeing of residents and their carers as visits from friends and family have been restricted and, in many cases, stopped altogether. For residents living with dementia, a visit is a vital support lifeline. With many unable to receive visits and usual routines being interrupted or stilted, our virtual quizzes and 'afterzoom tea' calls have provided an opportunity for connection; something to look forward to and a reminder that there is a network of people and support around.

It's evident from the photos and anecdotes from colleagues and our communities that these efforts have made a difficult time that little bit easier; connecting and supporting those vulnerable and isolated. We're thrilled to be welcoming new and familiar faces back for our virtual sessions with a trophy recently being awarded off the back of our inter-care home quiz. If you would like to get involved, or know someone who would benefit, please contact Maria Butler at [Community.Bucks@cpjfield.co.uk](mailto:Community.Bucks@cpjfield.co.uk)



# Community News & Events

## Changes to Shopping Hours in Aylesbury Town Centre

**FREE parking in Buckinghamshire Council's town centre car parks from Thursday 3 December - Thursday 24 December from 3:30pm and Sundays from 6 December - 20 December in Walton Street Car Park**



| DATE                  | HALE LEYS        | FRIARS SQUARE    | AYLESBURY MARKET       |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Friday 27 November    | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 2pm              |
| Thursday 19 November  | 9am – 7pm        | 9am – 5:30pm     | No Market              |
| Thursday 3 December   | 9am – 7pm        | 9am – 7pm        | No Market              |
| Thursday 10 December  | 9am – 7pm        | 9am – 7pm        | No Market              |
| Thursday 17 December  | 9am – 7pm        | 9am – 7pm        | No Market              |
| Friday 18 December    | 9am – 6pm        | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 2pm              |
| Saturday 19 December  | 9am – 6pm        | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 2pm              |
| Sunday 20 December    | 10:30am – 4:30pm | 10:30am – 4:30pm | No Market              |
| Monday 21 December    | 8:30am – 6pm     | 9am – 7pm        | No Market              |
| Tuesday 22 December   | 8:30am – 6pm     | 9am – 7pm        | No Market              |
| Wednesday 23 December | 8:30am – 6pm     | 9am – 7pm        | 9am – 2pm              |
| Thursday 24 December  | 8am – 5pm        | 9am – 4:30pm     | Pending no. of traders |
| Friday 25 December    | <b>CLOSED</b>    | <b>CLOSED</b>    | <b>CLOSED</b>          |
| Saturday 26 December  | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 5:30pm*    | No Market              |
| Sunday 27 December    | 9am – 5:30pm     | 10:30am – 4:30pm | No Market              |
| Monday 28 December    | 10am – 5pm       | 10:30am – 4:30pm | No Market              |
| Tuesday 29 December   | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 5:30pm     | No Market              |
| Wednesday 30 December | 9am – 5:30pm     | 9am – 5:30pm     | No Market              |
| Thursday 31 December  | 9am – 5pm        | 9am – 4pm        | No Market              |
| Friday 1 January      | 10am – 5pm       | 10am – 4:30pm    | No Market              |
| Saturday 2 January    | Normal trading   | Normal trading   | No Market              |

\* NEXT Sale Open 8am – 6pm

*The Town Mayor Cllr Mike Smith, Town Councillors & Staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



## The Warden's Week



**"Hi. I'm a warden. Welcome to the Bedgrove allotments. Is it OK if I ask you a few questions before we start? It will help me show you the plot that best meets your needs. So... have you done this before?"** Thus starts another viewing, where the person at the top of the waiting list makes a guided choice of the untended and overgrown plots. Although I've enjoyed doing scores of these over the years, their long-term outcomes are quite variable. Some people prosper, others fail. Perhaps it depends on the day they make their choice?

**Monday's viewer is fair of face.** Some viewers look the part. They arrive dressed for the weather, wearing serious boots. It's a good sign that they will appear come rain or shine to keep their plot looking good.

**Tuesday's viewer is full of grace.** Some viewers are strongly motivated to be green, wanting to be self-sufficient with organic produce within their first year. They are often young, wear thin clothing and sandals. Those that make it to the second year usually go from strength to strength.

**Wednesday's viewer is full of woe.** Some viewers make excuses for their lack of progress. Their soil is too stony. Or it is too dry. The weeds are seeded from other plots. They are too busy. They haven't got the right tools. They started too late. Whatever the excuse, they fail to respond to their weed letters and lose their plot.

**Thursday's viewer has far to go.** Lots of tenants at Bedgrove can walk straight out of their back gardens onto the allotments. The house that comes with this arrangement can make the whole thing quite expensive. In recent years, new tenants have come from all over Aylesbury, especially the new estates to the north as Bedgrove has been the only site with vacancies.

**Friday's viewer is loving and giving.** I was one of these. My plot is my passion and I usually manage to grow too much of everything. Fortunately my wife is happy to give away surplus produce to friends, neighbours and fellow plot-holders.

**Saturday's viewer works hard for a living.** Some viewers, in my opinion, work too hard. They may invest heavily in a Rotavator which turns out to be of limited use on our heavy stony soil. I always advise a spade-and-pickaxe approach for the preliminary dig-over. This allows you to remove the white weed roots which a Rotavator chops into tiny pieces so that they sprout up many-fold next spring. Some buy lots of fruit trees; they may even water them regularly so that they survive. Some buy large sheets of black plastic to smother the soil over the winter months; it may not help the weeds, but it probably suffocates many beneficial soil organisms. Serious spending on their plot is a good sign of staying power, but some starters go over the top buying state-of-the-art raised beds, fruit cages and bean supports. For me, half the joy of an allotment is the chance to repurpose materials, make do with the minimum and do things the way my ancestors may have done.

**And the viewers that come around on Sunday are bonny and blithe and good and stay.** These are the best. The whole family comes, including experienced members of older generations. While their parents pace out a plot, sift the soil through their fingers and delight in what they see around them, the children explore the grass, enjoy the sunshine, listen to the birds and chatter excitedly. They do their homework, plan their plot for rotations and plant at the right moment. They net their cabbages to thwart the pigeons. They are out every weekend, digging, sowing, watering, weeding and waiting patiently for their crops to ripen. They compost all their organic rubbish, respect their soil, keep their paths mown, watch out for their weeds and pick all their produce. They enjoy themselves, whatever the weather, and are a joy to be with.

Michael Brimicombe







## Aylesbury Town Council's Outdoor Maintenance Team

Despite being a small team, Aylesbury Town Council's Outdoor Maintenance team fit in a lot of jobs throughout the year. Here are just some of the things they get up to:

- In the summer months they are cutting grass verges in Aylesbury and several other Parishes under the Devolved Services Agreement. The areas are cut around nine times per year and are within the 30mph zones across town.
- In addition, the team cuts the vehicle access roads to the allotments, known as rides, six of the grassy roundabouts in town and the grass areas at the Jonathan Page Play Centre, where they also look after the maintenance.
- In more 'normal times', the team assist with the Town Council's events by assisting with road closures and helping with crowd management.
- Hedges are cut in all seven of the Town Council's allotment sites and those under the Devolved Services Agreement. Due to Bird Nesting Season which is March to September they are only able to cut outside those months.
- The team have cultivation licenses for various 'grot spots' in the town which they manage.
- Clearing weeds, maintaining trees and all their equipment are other vital jobs they complete each year.
- The team carry out tree work on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council.
- The team are now in charge of the flood defence equipment deployment at the Willow Estate, when instructed by Buckinghamshire Council.
- During the winter months the team are on call 24/7 to de-ice the Bourg Walk Bridge in line with Transport for Bucks' gritting schedule.
- The team acted fast on Sunday 4 October when the Willows Estate became heavily flooded. Alongside the Outdoor Team, Town Councillors and members of the Willows community helped. A special thank you to everyone involved including Bux and Oxon 4x4 Response Group, Councillors and Parish Councillors from neighbouring Fairford Leys community and Aylesbury Pizza and Southcourt Baptist Church for providing hot food and drinks on the day.

DID YOU KNOW due to the size of Tring Road cemetery, it takes four team members around three and a half days to complete a full grass cut?

## Aylesbury Gardening Society

**This summer has proved a challenge.** We felt that we had to close the trading store to protect our members from the virus but we have now felt able to return to normal opening times. However, we are restricting the number of persons allowed in the shop at any one time. Unfortunately, this year's show had to be cancelled, as were so many others in our area. We look forward to a bigger show in 2021.

A number of people contributed to the purchase of a bench in memory of Joe and Marian Benham. We were eventually able to "unveil" this on Saturday 12 September; the proceedings were witnessed by a small gathering which included members of the family. The unveiling was carried out by the Town Mayor, Cllr Mike Smith aided by the Society's President, Alderman Ray James.

The seed catalogues and potato order forms are now available in the trading store and provided that we sell over £1,000 worth of seeds, members will receive a 50% discount on the catalogue prices. Last year our sales were over £2,000.

To become a member, visit the Store at Old Stoke Road Allotment (accessed by Old Stoke Road) on a Sunday between 9am and 12 noon to sign up and have a look around. Membership costs just £2 per year. Plenty of friendly gardening advice also available.





**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 Rachel 01296 425678 or email [rachel.noon@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.noon@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) There is no charge for community groups and charities.

## Lindengate – Using Nature to Nurture

Lindengate Mental Health Charity is located at a stunning five-acre site, near Wendover, where nature breathes new life into anyone who is struggling with their wellbeing. The garden lends itself to supporting people in recovery from a range of common mental health needs. Finding time to give yourself space can be difficult in the best of weather, but in winter, the challenge becomes even greater.

There are many benefits to spending just a few minutes a day outdoors. Here are just some of them:

- 15 minutes outdoors every day can improve both our moods and our physical health, leading to reduced stress and increased self-esteem.
- Builds our immune system, as the cold weather actually kills off bacteria.
- With the current restrictions in place, we can meet up with a friend, which will improve our mental wellbeing, through social interaction.

During the past few months, Lindengate has opened its gates as part of our Rest & Reflect programme, supporting anyone who has been struggling with their mental wellbeing and to date, have welcomed well over 1,000 people.

We have plenty of sheltered areas dotted about our therapeutic gardens and space to meet with a friend for a chat, or to enjoy the peace, amongst the wildlife.

Our latest project is the development of a 1.25 acre nature reserve which will be specifically a place where young people can benefit from learning about and experiencing nature in a supportive community, gaining much needed work and life skills.

Take a look at our website for full details and other ways that you can look after your wellbeing.

[lindengate.org.uk](http://lindengate.org.uk)



## P3: Preventing Homelessness in Buckinghamshire



**Right now as a country, we are going through a housing crisis, with a lack of suitable properties, poor living conditions, financial instability and often people are unaware of their eligibility for support, benefits and housing rights.** Conflicts with landlords and eviction notices being served leave people fearful and often feeling alone.

Since we have all been hit by COVID-19, jobs and incomes have been reduced or lost, putting homes at risk. A secure and safe home is something each and every one of us should have and at P3 we have been working with private landlords, housing associations and, most importantly, the people at risk of homelessness throughout this time.

P3 is a nationwide charity, tackling homelessness and social exclusion across the UK. We have an experienced team of Tenancy Sustainment Workers in the Buckinghamshire area who can offer support to anyone over the age of 18 who may be feeling overwhelmed with their housing situation, unable to cope or on the brink of losing their home, often through no fault of their own.

In the past year we have prevented homelessness/ evictions for 319 people or families. We supported 68 people in setting up a new tenancy and have helped 307 people access the appropriate income. Out of the 801 referrals we received in the last year, we were able to provide a positive intervention for 87% of them. We really can help!

Do not suffer in silence, if you or someone you know is at risk of losing their home visit [p3charity.org/bucks](http://p3charity.org/bucks) and click 'make a referral', or give us a call for a chat on Freephone **0808 1641810**.





## Aylesbury Town WI would usually meet on the third Thursday of every month, but sadly not this year.

We were not going to be put off though and with a bit of determination, some internet savvy members sorted out Zoom meetings and we were in business again. We could see our friends, chat together and share our hobbies and news. WhatsApp gave us another communication tool.

One of our members has been posting a tune a day. Over the last 200 days she has worked her way through the 60s 70s and 80s, to date we are up to 280 songs. It's a great way to start the day with a bop in the kitchen.

At our Zoom meeting in July we were able to see craft demonstrations from two members, and then in September we had a game of Zoom Bingo. We are planning activities for November and December Zoom meetings - we can still all raise a glass together at Christmas even if it is virtually.

If you would like to come and join in and see what the WI is like now and into 2021 there is a special offer, £10.75 for six months membership if you join between October and December. Contact [aylesburytownwi@gmail.com](mailto:aylesburytownwi@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to an inspirational year in 2021. It's been a difficult year for everyone, we know that we are strong enough to come out of all of this and meet again.

## Help keep us in line – join us as a District Secretary

**Are you interested in volunteering to help young people? Are you a natural organiser? Do you know what's happening, not just next week, but next month and year too? Is your electronic diary always perfectly in sync?**

If this sounds like you, then we'd love you to consider supporting us as District Secretary. A great communicator and team player you'll be as good a listener as you are at taking accurate minutes and keeping us on track.

We're only able to help young people step up, play their part and gain great skills when our groups are well managed and run. A District Secretary is absolutely essential to this, which is why, as one of our Trustees, you will be responsible, supportive and have our best interest at heart at all times. In return you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping us prepare so many young people for the future.

**Interested?** Let us know by contacting Ian Westgate, District Chairman on **07428 936333** or email: [ian.westgate@virginmedia.com](mailto:ian.westgate@virginmedia.com)



**Calibre Audio is a charity that provides free audiobooks to those who are unable to read print, whether this is because of sight loss, dyslexia or another disability.** Books can be borrowed online 24/7 with our streaming service, but there is also a free postal service for delivering MP3, CDs and memory sticks direct to your home.

Throughout this year we have worked hard to ensure our members continue to receive their audiobooks, aware that the books are a valuable companion during what has been a lonely and isolating time for so many. We remain open and new members are always welcome.

*'I would like to add my heartfelt thanks to those of others for sending out my requested books over these past difficult months. I get very excited when they arrive as I can then leave the world outside and drift into another. You all do such a wonderful job, thank you.'*

There are over 12,000 unabridged audiobooks across all fiction and non-fiction genres in our collection, although crime writers such as Lee Child, Val McDermid and Agatha Christie constantly top the adult charts - while David Walliams, Roald Dahl and children's laureate Cressida Cowell are always popular with younger members. Our members help shape our service, so our audiobooks reflect the diversity and interests of our members.

Calibre Audio is free to join for everyone with a print disability and provides a lifetime of unlimited borrowing.

Please visit [calibre.org.uk](http://calibre.org.uk) or call membership services on **01296 432 339** to join or for more information.



## English and Maths Courses for Adults



### Do you need to improve your English or maths skills? Do you need a qualification to get a job?

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning and our experienced team of highly qualified and friendly tutors offer free part-time courses in English and maths. Courses are available in the daytime or evening to anyone who lives in Buckinghamshire. The courses are mostly free of charge and are based at centres in Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Chesham and online.

You can work towards a nationally recognised Functional Skills qualification at Entry level, Level 1 or Level 2. A Functional Skills qualification in English and/or maths may help you progress in your career or to go to college for further study.



Teresa Meredith, Skills Manager at Buckinghamshire Adult Learning, said: *"There is no better time to gain new skills or a new qualification. Our English and maths teams have worked incredibly hard over the summer to create COVID-friendly learning*

*environments in our centres and to build online learning platforms. I would urge anyone interested to visit our website at [adultlearningbc.ac.uk/english-maths/](http://adultlearningbc.ac.uk/english-maths/) or telephone us on 01296 674463. We welcome new learners all the time".*

We offer you a free and confidential pre-course assessment before you begin. This ensures that you start your learning at the correct level.

## CarersBucks

**Carers Bucks has continued to offer information, advice and emotional support to unpaid carers during the pandemic.** Although we've not been able to run face-to-face activities, our telephone and email support for adult carers has been unaffected and we're delivering support groups virtually. Carers Week in June included a music request show for carers, hosted by DJ Dan Blaze, a WordCloud using carers' contributions about what epitomises being a carer and poetry penned by members of our carers writing group.

If you're looking after someone who cannot manage without you, due to illness, frailty or disability, Carers Bucks is here to support you, so we'd love to hear from you. For young carers and young adult carers the impact of the pandemic has been far reaching; educationally, socially and on their general wellbeing due to increased concerns about their vulnerable family member. Support Workers have been busy providing respite from worries by delivering fun activities via Zoom such as: scavenger hunts, quizzes, yoga, crafts, singing sessions and much needed one-to-one chats.

We're thrilled that we can now meet up with young carers and young adult carers - we've really missed them! A socially distanced walk in the park and contact in schools and colleges helps to remind young carers and young adult carers that we are here. Coronavirus may have caused our lives to change but the support provided by Carers Bucks remains consistent. If you're a carer and would like support contact us on **0300 777 2722** or [mail@carersbucks.org](mailto:mail@carersbucks.org)

# awa

supporting women and children  
against domestic violence

**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart" Elizabeth Andrew**

**At Aylesbury Women's Aid we offer a range of services to support and advise women affected by domestic violence and abuse, including Counselling.**

The Counselling Services offer a confidential and supportive safe space for survivors to explore their experiences, thoughts and feelings. We have a huge demand for the service and we would like to be able to support more women. We are looking for volunteer counsellors/psychotherapists who have an understanding of domestic abuse, experience of working with survivors, and able to work from a feminist perspective.

We have some placement requirements, including being a member of the BACP, UKCP or other recognised body, in the second year of a recognised training programme, have completed a minimum of 40 clinical placement hours and able to commit to a minimum of 9 months. If this sounds like you, we would love to hear from you.

Further information can be found on our website about becoming a volunteer counsellor, or about domestic abuse and our services [aylesburywomensaid.org.uk](http://aylesburywomensaid.org.uk) You can also email [enquiries.awaid@outlook.com](mailto:enquiries.awaid@outlook.com) or call **01296 437777**.

*"Counselling has allowed me to address personal issues ... empowered me and developed my self-esteem. This has genuinely been life changing."*





## Show your support for Lymphoma Action this Christmas



Christmas is coming, and at Lymphoma Action we are excited to be holding two fun events in December to raise funds to support people affected by lymphoma, the fifth most common cancer in the UK.

Our **Festive Fashion** day on **Friday 4 December** encourages everyone to get in the Christmas spirit by donning their jolly jumpers, festive frocks or wintery waistcoats! Get your friends, family and colleagues to join in the festive fun and raise money to support our work. On **Saturday 5** and **Sunday 6 December**, we will be holding our first ever **Virtual Santa Run!** Walk or run 5K at your own pace, in your preferred place with family or friends. Don't forget to dress in your best Christmassy gear to spread some festive cheer!

There are many other ways to support Lymphoma Action over the festive period. Our Christmas cards are now available to purchase from our website, and our Christmas Appeal asks for your much-needed support following a year where our income has been affected significantly. Any gift that you can give this Christmas – be it a one-off donation, or a regular gift, will be greatly appreciated.

We are the only charity in the UK dedicated to supporting people affected by lymphoma. Your support will help us to continue our work in making sure no one has to face lymphoma alone. For further details on all our Christmas events, visit [lymphoma-action.org.uk/Christmas](http://lymphoma-action.org.uk/Christmas)



## Santa Float



The Rotary Club of Aylesbury hopes to be touring the town in the run up to Christmas with the Santa Float – the details of routes and dates will be published on the Aylesbury Rotary Club Facebook page and website and in the Aylesbury & District News nearer the time. We also intend to have static displays in the High Street on Saturday 12 and 19 December during the day time. All such activities will be subject to the Government regulations.

## Add some sparkle to a child's Christmas by donating to The Community Radio Christmas Toy Box Appeal

Three local community radio stations have come together to spread plenty of Christmas cheer this festive season. Tring Radio, Red Kite Radio and Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio have joined forces with us, Aylesbury Town Council, to launch our first ever collaborative appeal – The Community Radio Christmas Toy Box Appeal. The partnership means a large area can be covered to maximise the scale of the appeal and donations coming in.

Charities from across the region including Florrie's Children's Team, Young Carers Bucks, Roman Park Community Trust, Red Kite Family Centre and others will distribute your generously donated toys to a wide range of children who are in need this year.

Find the full list of Donation Stations across the region and all the receiving charities on our website and Facebook page. Toys must be new and unwrapped so that our volunteer elves can allocate all the toys to the appropriate deserving child.

Thank you in advance for your support of this appeal. Together we can make a difference.

Picture shows Max & Martha receiving gifts from last year's appeal which was led by Mix96.





Daytop Multicultural Centre, a multi-culture minority ethnic group based in Aylesbury, channels its energy and resources to help add positive value to the community through brilliant community integration, cohesion and commitment to great service delivery, enabling equal opportunities for all regardless of sex, race, ethnic origin, disability, religion or belief.

Since inception, fuelled by a sense of mission and total commitment to the cause, Daytop Multicultural Centre launched the "Feed the Community Project," which is geared towards helping to cushion the adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financially inactive and vulnerable people within the community. In collaboration with retail organisations Daytop (as it is fondly called) helps redistribute donated food items (which would otherwise have been wasted) by giving back to the community.

Having collected and redistributed over 6 tonnes of food items, equivalent of about 14,000 meals within Aylesbury in this time of COVID-19 pandemic since April 2020, we strive to continue immensely to add positive value by giving back to the community.

Lots of thanks to Fareshare, Morrisons, Tesco, Waitrose, ASDA, Greggs, Marks & Spencer Foods, Aldi, Lidl, Buckingham Park Community Centre, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust and everyone that has supported and contributed to the success of this project. We look forward to more support within and outside the community, working together to achieve greater success.



## New Physiotherapy Course coming to Buckinghamshire

A new physiotherapy course coming to Buckinghamshire will help residents of Aylesbury with the relevant experience or qualifications to achieve their goal of becoming a physiotherapist. Starting in September 2021, the new two-year accelerated Master's degree in Physiotherapy will give participants a blended style of face-to-face and online learning, with no more than three days a week required on campus. This flexibility is ideal for those with part-time jobs or other responsibilities.

The first year of the course offers an observational learning placement, while the second year sees students primarily on clinical placements in various settings, including acute hospitals and outpatient clinics. We work closely with NHS and Primary Care Trusts across Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas.

The course will be held at either the Aylesbury or High Wycombe campus of Buckinghamshire New University. It is the latest addition to the well-established range of healthcare and nursing programmes the University's School of Health & Social Work offers. This includes Master's degrees in Sports Therapy and the Physician Associate programme.

The course will be led by Aylesbury resident and new Associate Professor of Physiotherapy at the University, Dr Yetunde Dairo: "I'm delighted to lead this new degree at Bucks, which already has a fantastic reputation in delivering a range of health and social work programmes. This course offers the next generation of physiotherapists all the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a profession of vital importance to preserving people's health and wellbeing."



Please contact [Yetunde.Dairo@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:Yetunde.Dairo@bucks.ac.uk) for further information.

## ATC invites your comments...

If you have thoughts about the town we'd like you to let us know. 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.





## Update from the Town Mayor

**It's been a recurring theme of my extended Mayoral term but I am going to say it yet again – how proud I am that in recent months I've been privileged to see our town doing even more to pull together and help each other out at times of crisis and worry.**

One outstanding example is the community of the Willows Estate who were faced with potential flooding in early October. The community came out in huge numbers to assist Town Councillors and our staff with deploying emergency flood defences and pumps, as well as helping keep the water out (just!) from a number of houses that were under threat. You can read more about our involvement on page 9.

We were also delighted that many residents joined our 'Great British September Clean', run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy in September, following the amazing regular example set by the 'Aylesbury Wombles' who were featured in our last issue. Many areas of Aylesbury got a really good tidy up with an impressive number of bags of litter cleared from the streets by enthusiastic (but socially distanced) volunteers of all ages, every one a hero.

Speaking of local heroes, my own personal favourite of 2020 – Hilda Duncombe, who has featured in this magazine many times – reached the amazing age of 104 in October. As well as greeting each other with one of our now-regular video calls, Hilda decided to outdo her own incredible efforts earlier this year, and this time walked 104 laps of her nursing home with a group of fellow residents, once again raising an impressive sum of money for the Alzheimer's Society. Truly inspirational!

As I write this article, my thoughts turn to the festive season. It is with much regret that we are unable to celebrate in the usual way with the annual Mayor's Carol Service held at St Mary's Church in early December and a fun filled day of Christmas themed fun and games at Festive Family Fun day.

Many plans have had to be revisited to make it safe for all, but please do keep a look out on our social media channels for Christmas activities that will be happening such as our Key Worker Duck Trail, Cyber Charades and Star of Bethlehem events.

I am sure Christmas this year will be different for many of us, so whatever you do and those you celebrate with, I hope it will be a safe and peaceful time.

**Wishing you all the very best for the rest of the year. Stay safe and well, and keep looking out for each other!**

**Cllr Mike Smith  
Aylesbury Town Mayor**

### Did you know...

*in their civic role the Mayor meets with individuals and communities to honour them for their contribution to the life of the town, and to promote civic pride? The Town Mayor opens businesses and represents the residents of Aylesbury Town.*

*The Mayor also chairs meetings of the Full Council so that its business can be carried out, regarding the rights of the Councillors and the interests of the community. It is the duty of the Mayor to ensure that Council meetings are conducted in a seemly manner and in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, and Council Standing Orders.*



# 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 Ashley Morgan  
07799 878059

## Ward: Coppice Way

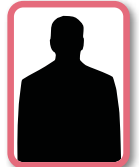


Cllr Mark White  
07771 877488

## Ward: Oakfield



Cllr Mark Willis  
07723 091637



VACANT

## Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr Chris Adams  
07968 444222



Cllr Andy Huxley  
07711 837938

## Ward: Oxford Road



Cllr Steven Lambert  
01296 395511



Cllr Mike Smith  
07854 178012

## Ward: Southcourt



Cllr Waheed Raja  
07969 056877



Cllr Niknam Hussain  
07540 842407

## 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



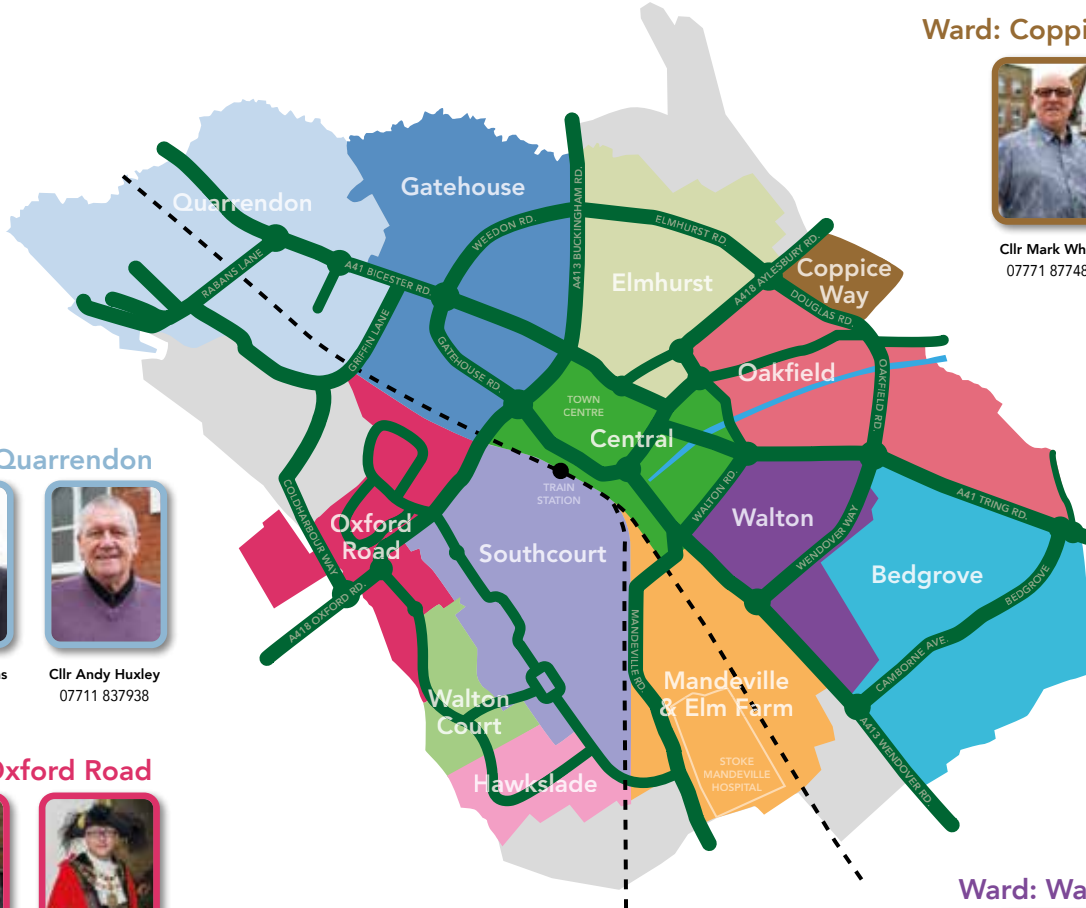
Cllr Jenny Bloom  
01296 434123



Cllr Tom Hunter-Watts  
07595 178660



Cllr Mark Winn  
01296 393304





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

### AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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

#### Aylesbury Town Council is responsible for:

- 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



**AYLESBURY  
TOWN COUNCIL**

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Buckinghamshire Council provides services on a county-wide basis and has a very regulatory remit. Call **0300 131 6000** or visit [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

#### Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for:

- Collection of Council Tax and business rates
- Waste collection
- Waste disposal and household recycling centres
- 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
- Grass cutting of rural highways/grass verges
- 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





## COVID-Secure Workshops prove popular at Queens Park Arts Centre

Aylesbury's Queens Park Arts Centre has been welcoming students back to its eclectic mix of visual and performing arts workshops this autumn, with all manner of COVID-secure creative activities taking place.



There are more than 50 different sessions on offer every week, including pottery, painting and drawing, needlework, jewellery making, woodcarving, music, dance and more. All activities are being run under

the Centre's COVID protocols and guidelines, with social distancing followed in each studio space and face coverings worn at all times.

*"Being able to see each of our studio spaces up and running again has been wonderful," says Queens Park Art Centre's Artistic Director, Sarah Lewis. "Our attendees have taken to the new way of working brilliantly, and our tutors, staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure the Centre remains COVID-secure."*

The Centre aims to help people of all ages 'kick-start their creativity' this autumn, with weekly classes for adults and children running every week of the school term.

*"Our weekly workshop programme aims to give people total flexibility to pick up a new creative hobby or continue practicing an existing one," says Sarah. "Although workshops do need to be booked before attending, there's no need to commit to a fixed-term course running all term, just book for the dates which work for you!"*

For more information - including the full list of available workshops visit [qpc.org](http://qpc.org) or email: [info@qpc.org](mailto:info@qpc.org)

## Urban Harvesting at Dawn at Bucks County Museum

**Many fruit trees across the county have come into their own this summer.** The warmer weather at the beginning of the year has meant that we are now spotting trees and bushes full of ripe berries and fruit. In fact, it was the pear trees at Buckinghamshire County Museum that caught the eyes of the Urban Harvest team over the last couple of weeks.

Tragedy struck when a bad storm brought down three laden branches of a tall tree in the courtyard; providing a carpet of discarded pears the next morning. Tony Mardell the Facilities Manager at the museum was quick to contact the team to come to rescue all the pears they could before they rotted away or became ruined by the weather or insects. The team collected over 190kg of pears with more sacks going to Orchard Farm to feed their deers and pigs. 198 bottles of pressed juice were created combined with some donated apples from other harvests in the south of the county.



The team returned to pick the ripe pears from a couple of trees in a mission to decrease the amount of fruit wasted in public spaces and private gardens across Buckinghamshire. Urban Harvest, run by Shelia Bees, received start-up support from Feedback Global who are currently delivering their

Food Citizens Project funded by the Rothschild Foundation. Rebecca Nutley the local Community Engagement Officer said: *"This was an exciting occurrence that went from a cry for help, to an inspiring opportunity for us to help redistribute surplus fruit. Urban Harvest is a great way for you to donate excess fruit or berries or invite the volunteer team in to glean your trees; rather than let them go to waste. It's great the scheme is being so well utilised so far."*

For more information about the Urban Harvest project contact Shelia on **07989 571380** or visit Foodspace Bucks Community Food Network on Facebook for food related schemes, projects and tips for those in Buckinghamshire.



## Bucks Art Society's 100th Anniversary Exhibition

**This December come along to the County Museum in Aylesbury Old Town to see some wonderful art on display in the Bucks Art Society's 100th anniversary exhibition.**

This is a superb selling show including paintings, prints and sculpture by many artists from across the county. Enjoy a show of unique creativity and talent. It is also an ideal opportunity to buy a new piece of artwork for yourself or as a present, whilst supporting our local artists and the museum during these difficult times.

We are also thrilled to be exhibiting the private works by the late artist Tony Hart which are on loan from his daughter. Tony Hart was famous for introducing many generations to art through his TV series such as Vision On, Take Hart and Hart Beat. Did you know that he designed the Blue Peter logo? His TV career spanned 50 years and we pay tribute to his enduring legacy of artistic inspiration. Come and see a genuine plasticine Morph and a Tonymorph tribute created by Aardman Animations.

Both exhibitions run from **14 November 2020 to 20 February 2021**. Open Thursday to Saturday, 10am – 3pm. Closed from 20 December to 6 January.

Entry is by prebooked tickets available online. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome to support the museum. Check our website for any opening changes and visiting information. Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP  
[buckscountymuseum.org](http://buckscountymuseum.org)



**Aylesbury Festival Choir is still rehearsing even though we can only hear ourselves singing, but at least it means that we all get a chance to sing some of the parts which would normally be sung by one voice part only.** There is one advantage in that our wonderful Music Director, Nick Austin, sends us off to different rooms for a chat with other members of the Choir.

Our accompanist, Rowena Gibbons has recently completed a 6km run to raise funds for the three Choirs she works with and 25% of the total is also going to the charity, Mind. Fantastic boost, thanks Rowena!

We achieved the 'honour' of a mention in a recent issue of The Sunday Telegraph where an article by our President, Sir David Lidington, was recently published. He warned that Britain could become a 'land without music', something that we, at Aylesbury Festival Choir, will do all we can to prevent.

You can find out more about Aylesbury Festival Choir by visiting our website [aylesburyfestivalchoir.net](http://aylesburyfestivalchoir.net)

# Aylesbury Town Council Grants

**Are you looking for help getting a new Not For Profit organisation off the ground or looking to develop a long running community project?  
Aylesbury Town Council may be able to give you support.**

Aylesbury Town Council welcome applications for grants from Not For Profit groups that provide projects or activities that are beneficial to the residents of Aylesbury Town.

Grants can be awarded to fund projects or activities as well as projects working in Aylesbury to improve public wellbeing. There are also grants to support young sports people representing their sport at a national or international level to help them achieve their potential.

For information on how to apply for an Aylesbury Town Council Grant visit [aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](https://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) email Jane Eden, Grants Officer [jane.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jane.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) or call **01296 425678**.

COVID-19 has meant that many groups and organisations have had to change and adapt the way they support those most in need in the town centre. Aylesbury Town Council would love to hear your inspiring stories on how your community group has risen to these challenges and how you are still helping those that rely on your help and support.



pictures from past grant recipients

The next Grants Committee meeting will take place on

**Wednesday 27 January 2021**

The deadline for grant applications to be considered at this meeting  
is Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 5pm.





## Aylesbury United

**On Saturday 17 October, five Aylesbury United fans walked from their old derelict ground in Aylesbury to where they currently groundshare in Chesham for their successful FA Trophy game with Tilbury.**

The 14 mile walk, which took five and a half hours, was to highlight the 14 years that the club have not had a ground in the town as well as to raise money for the club's partner charity "The Duckling Trust" who provide equipment for the maternity unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. At the time of writing almost £800 had been raised and there's still an opportunity to donate here [platform.nationalfundingscheme.org/DUCKWALK](https://platform.nationalfundingscheme.org/DUCKWALK)

Andy Martin, 21st Century Ducks and Director at Aylesbury United, said: "Taking part in this initiative is a brilliant way to raise awareness of the club being homeless for far longer than anyone anticipated. The fact the club is still going and is in fact a growing community club is remarkable, and only possible due to the fantastic support the club has received from supporters but also from many volunteers. The initiative will also raise funds for the club's fantastic and local charity partner, The Ducklings Trust."

Aylesbury Town Council's Leader, Richard Lloyd, who has been heading up the Town Council's search for a suitable location for a new ground said "Aylesbury, with all its recent development should have first class facilities and the Town Council will keep working towards a Community Sport Facility where Aylesbury United can play. We believe there are currently two potential locations but it will require a lot more hard work to get there."



## Aylesbury Town Bowls Club



**The club was founded in 1920 making this year our centenary with many special events planned.** While COVID-19 has prevented those occurring, planning is underway to shift the centenary one year on. Aylesbury Town has grown to become a welcoming bowls club with a mixed membership throughout, including most matches whether friendly or competitive against other clubs. We cater for all ages from 10 upwards. Players of all abilities and capability will find themselves included. Our juniors, who are encouraged to play in matches, represent the future of the game. On Saturday mornings junior coaching sessions are held for youngsters from 10 to 18 years of age.

The club hosted the Bucks Junior Academy event in 2019 and continues to support countywide development of our game. A junior experience day is planned for **2 June 2021**. There is an arrangement with Stoke Mandeville Hospital Spinal Unit for patients to play free of charge as part of our ambition to reach out to a wider community.

Look at what is offered and try outdoor bowling as one of the most social and pleasant ways of getting out and exercising to keep fit and active. Contact us through our website [aylesburytownbowlsclub.co.uk](http://aylesburytownbowlsclub.co.uk)

## Maxwell Swim Club receive AVCT Grant Support

**The dedication, determination and outstanding performance of the swimmers of Maxwell Swim Club has been recognised by Aylesbury Vale Community Trust (AVCT).** The trust, which supports local causes, encouraging the development of talented athletes has awarded training grants to nine of the club's elite young swimmers. Elite Athlete Funding grants were given to Poppy Baybutt, Jake Chesworth, Rowan Cyster, Eliza Hudson, Gracie Hudson, Sam Pyefinch, Mathew Readhead, Charlie Toms and Imogen Walton. These swimmers were on the brink of going to British or Home Nations national championships this year only to be prevented by lockdown.

Head coach, Noel Horton commented: "These are a mega bunch of kids; they train hard, showing grit and determination. They are a pleasure to coach and are totally deserving of this support."

Maxwell Swim Club has further reason to thank AVCT for its support. Maxwell needs to raise nearly £9,000 to replace the timing boards essential for competitions. AVCT has offered to support Maxwell in getting towards this goal by matching fundraising Maxwell achieves from other sources. The timing boards are essential for Maxwell to run competitions, which generate income that allows for the club to provide inclusive training for swimmers in the Vale. Maxwell, however needs further support to get to their goal and would appreciate anyone interested in giving support or anyone interested in competitive swimming to get in touch via the club website [maxwellswimclub.org](http://maxwellswimclub.org)

## National Citizen Service

**Action4Youth has worked with the National Citizen Service (NCS) since 2010, delivering the life-changing experience for young people in Buckinghamshire.** To date, Action4Youth has worked with over 4000 young people, helping them to realise their potential and smash their future goals.

Summer 2020 was supposed to be Action4Youth's biggest NCS programme with people attending from the whole of Buckinghamshire. Action4Youth had 1024 places booked by young people, spread across 8 waves, with each programme lasting three weeks in duration. These programmes should have included 5 days away on residential at an outdoor education centre, a 5 day home residential at Bucks New Uni and 5 days of social action working with local charities.

Action4Youth's traditional summer NCS format was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but like so many others, the NCS programme was adapted to our 'new normal'. To ensure Action4Youth kept supporting these young people, the NCS team delivered a face-to-face socially distanced 'Keep Doing Good' programme for 110 young people. The programme was offered over four waves in either High Wycombe or Aylesbury, with each programme lasting 8 days, free of charge for any young person aged 16-18 years.

During the programme, the attending young people worked with local charities such as Chiltern Rangers, Lindengate, Youth Concern, The Oasis Partnership, Wrights Meadow Centre, and The Healthy Living Centre to provide social action projects.

With COVID-19 still around and restrictions still in place the usual Autumn programme has also had to adapt. Action4Youth are offering the NCS Moving Forward programme, offering 120 places delivered across 6 waves. The Moving Forward programme is working in partnership with Pebble Brook, Stony Dean, Alfriston and Bucks UTC to deliver term time programmes and two open programmes being delivered during half term. The revised programme is five days long and incorporates teambuilding and a mini social action project.

In addition to the Keep Doing Good and Moving Forward programme, Action4Youth are also excited to be trialling a fully digital programme with Bucks UTC and their year 12 students. We hope that Action4Youth will be able to reach more young people and provide further opportunities.

For more information about the National Citizen Service and other programmes run by Action4Youth go to [action4youth.org](https://www.action4youth.org), call **0300 003 2334** or email [office@action4youth.org](mailto:office@action4youth.org), [ncs@action4youth.org](mailto:ncs@action4youth.org). Keep up to date with all of the latest [@Action4Youth](https://www.facebook.com/Action4Youth) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.





## Aylesbury Youth Town Council



**We're regularly checking in with our Youth Town Councillors with Zoom catch-ups.** Leading up to World Mental Health Day in October we had a catch up and spoke about the Hello Yellow campaign that supports mental health. We'd like to say a special thank you to Siemma, who is a Community Outreach Officer at Bucks County Museum, for being a special guest. We talked about some of our personal memories of visiting the Museum. We laughed at lots of shared memories and we're looking forward to working closer with Siemma and everyone at the Museum.

There's been a measured introduction back to school and college; and we wanted to share some of our experiences with you...

### Youth Town Councillor Conor Walsh (Year 10 student at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School)

*"I'm glad to be back at school, it's great to meet and connect with my friends again. I'm in my first year of studying my chosen options so I'm happy to be back in a classroom again. The teachers are really supportive. After a school day I relax by listening to a variety of music. I love cooking as well and even have a playlist called 'Music To Cook To'."*



### Youth Town Councillor Zahra Hussain (Year 12 student at Cottesloe School)

*"I've continued with classes and revising whilst in lockdown, but realise that in Year 12 you are responsible for managing your own workload. I'd say I'm more aware of the pressure of being back in the school environment. Being part of the Youth Town Council has given me another avenue to share interests, so I'm really glad to be involved. To relax I'd say self-care is definitely a priority as well as getting better sleep and dancing."*



Navigating your way through a global pandemic as well as studying can be difficult. Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community where you can share any problems you're facing in safe and confidential space. Visit [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) for more information.

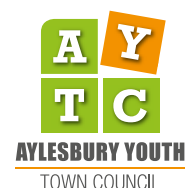
## Meet Youth Town Councillor Zahra Hussain

**Despite our temporary move to a more virtual world, we've been sharing ideas and opinions on some of the challenges young people are encountering now more than ever.** We'd like to introduce one of our newest Youth Town Councillors, Zahra Hussain, and catch up with her about why she wanted to join the Youth Town Council.

*"Hi, I'm Zahra, and I'm one of the newest members of Aylesbury Youth Town Council. This role was something that piqued an interest for me as I knew this was an organisation where I'd be able to make a change within the community; this is something that was very important to me because I am aware that improvements within the community need to be made."*

*"I am really looking forward to being a representative of the International Youth Mayors Association. This is because as a young person, I have found that the young people are constantly underrepresented and unheard in regards to important social issues, such as discrimination. I found by joining the International Youth Mayors Association, this problem could be improved by looking at national campaigns and seeing how they could be implemented at a local level."*

*"As well as this, I'm keen to look into issues that affect young people locally and find possible solutions that would not only help to benefit our community, but the country as a whole. No matter how big or small the improvement is, I knew that this was something that could potentially improve the quality of life for people. And it's for these reasons that I am happy to be on the Youth Town Council."*



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