

Serving the people of Aylesbury

AYLESBURY TOWN matters

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE | ISSUE 60 | MARCH 2021



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL



PUZZLE TIME

With many of us spending more time at home, we wanted to keep you entertained with a puzzle page. Enjoy! All answers are on page 12.



WORDSEARCH

Can you find all 15 springtime words in the wordsearch below?

E	A	H	F	P	A	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	J
L	A	M	O	W	E	R	S	O	Y	S	P	N	B
D	Y	G	O	J	C	S	O	L	F	R	N	O	L
D	K	D	B	H	H	E	E	A	I	W	S	W	O
U	A	E	U	E	I	V	A	N	F	F	A	D	O
P	Z	Q	L	C	C	A	G	S	B	S	L	R	K
I	S	I	B	B	K	E	E	A	T	B	U	O	E
L	C	R	S	L	B	L	C	V	S	E	T	P	N
U	W	A	I	O	G	K	I	R	A	L	R	T	I
T	A	D	P	O	L	E	H	N	P	E	D	S	H
S	B	L	O	M	R	E	B	N	G	M	U	R	S
I	T	N	H	K	S	H	I	P	S	S	C	D	N
D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	N	A	E	K	S	U
T	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	E	M	D	L	H	S

SNOWDROP
DUCKLINGS
BULBS
LEAVES
TULIP
BLOOM
EASTER
TADPOLE
RAINBOW
SUNSHINE
DAFFODIL
PUDDLE
CHICK
FLOWERS
SPRING

								6
		3				2		
		4		9	6		8	
4	9	6		5		1		
			2		8	9		
	1			6				
	6				5	7	4	
3	8	5	9		4			
	4				1			

SUDOKU

Fill in the squares so that each row, column and 3x3 square contains all the digits from one to nine.



LINKWORD

Find the four-letter word which can be placed after the first word and before the second word to make two new words. Enter the answers in the grid and rearrange the shaded letters to reveal a confectionery item.

ANISEED _____ BEARING
PLY _____ PIGEON
TUCK _____ LIFTER
CARE _____ RANGE
ROLE _____ TRUANT
LOVERS' _____ FROG
MINIMUM _____ PACKET
FRIEND _____ SHAPE
FAST _____ CHAIN
STAMP _____ FREE



Welcome



Welcome to our first issue of 2021 and our 60th issue of Aylesbury Town Matters. I hope despite the circumstances we faced that you were able to have a warm and peaceful Christmas.

With all the uncertainty we are living in at the moment, we hope you enjoy reading your Town Council magazine. You may have noticed a change to its design. For our 60th issue we thought it would be a

perfect time to give our magazine a bit of a refresh. We are delighted to have worked alongside local design agency, Bluepepper Designs, for all 60 of our issues. It is important now more than ever that we, as a community, continue to support local businesses.

Inside you will read about all six of our incredible Key Worker Duck winners who were nominated by you and picked by the Town Mayor. From delivery drivers to shop workers, the hand-painted Aylesbury Ducks were dedicated to those members of the community who are continuing to go above and beyond through this pandemic.

We're also delighted to share with you that our first ever Community Radio Christmas Toy Box Appeal, where we worked closely with Tring Radio, Red Kite Radio and Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio, received over 4,000 toys which were distributed to local charities and organisations. A huge thank you on behalf of the Council for your support with this as it was a huge effort by all involved.

We have news from you, our fantastic community. Aylesbury & District Ramblers remind us of our local walking routes, Rotary Club of Aylesbury share their festive fundraising news and we've spoken to one of our Youth Town Councillors, Ryan Hobbs, who tells us how he's looking after our environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all residents who have continued to support us at the Town Council while we are continuing to support you. A thank you to our Town Councillors and all Council staff for their ongoing work as well as their community work which is supporting the efforts to reduce COVID-19 across our town.

Please keep safe and reach out to those in your community if you are in need.

Keith Gray, **Town Clerk**

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Keep up to date with all things Aylesbury Town Council via our social media channels.

@aylesburytc @aylesburytc @aylesburytowncouncil

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Aylesbury is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse

MEET OUR QUACKING **KEY WORKER DUCKS**

You helped us to recognise some of Aylesbury's amazing key worker heroes. We received over 60 nominations across six "duck-egories" and it was the Town Mayor, Cllr Mike Smith, who had the tricky task of choosing the overall winners. The beautiful Aylesbury ducks, which were hand-painted by the super talented Tina Fox Pearson from Aylesbury Community Workshops, were placed in shop and café windows. We asked you to follow the Key Worker Duck Trail map around town and see our shining key worker stars. The winner of our Key Worker Trail competition was Marion Maples who selflessly chose to pass her prizes on to the key worker winners. She said: "The people who the ducks were dedicated to deserve these prizes. I would like them to receive them instead of me as my thank you to them."

So here they are, our Key Worker heroes.

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MAYOR:

"The fact we received so many nominations just goes to show how incredible all key workers are in Aylesbury town. It was a difficult task to pick just six from all the incredible nominations. On behalf of Aylesbury Town Council, we hope it put a smile on your faces reading about the dedicated work of those in our community."

Cllr Mike Smith, **Mayor of Aylesbury**



DELIVERY DUCK, SCOTT MCEVOY, JUST BAGUETTES

Scott delivered food to vulnerable and elderly people during lockdown at no cost as well as making free school meals. For Scott, receiving this recognition means so much to him. Six years ago, he began rebuilding his life after being in prison for petty crimes. "I have spent almost all of the time since my release doing what I can to help people in need, guiding people away from a criminal lifestyle, raising money for charity and in times like this being there for friends, family, neighbours and the community. This is a time when we should all help each other where we can. I'd like to say to the community thank you for recognising me for who I really and truly am."



NURSE/CARING DUCK, SARAH BULLIMORE, SOCIAL SERVICES STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL

Sarah started a clothes bank, campaigned for Christmas presents for elderly patients and is studying to become a qualified social worker all while supporting discharges back into the community during the pandemic. "I feel greatly honoured to have been picked by the Town Mayor. My heroes throughout have been and always will be all the amazing staff at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, they have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic looking after very sick people and working extra-long hours. They are an inspiration! I just hope that 2021 is going to be a much better year for all of us, as long as we follow the rules, we will get through this together."



TEACHER DUCK, GEMMA PRICE, BEARBROOK COMBINED SCHOOL

Mrs Price guided 120 students through lockdown with regular Zoom calls. When rules permitted, she would visit families at a distance to check how they were and gave out WOW cards to her students. "I was surprised when I found out I had won because there are so many teachers who went over and above in lockdown who also deserved it! I think for teachers as a collective group to be recognised for the work that goes on after school hours is important. We will get through these tough times and one day it will be a distant memory!"



NEON ARMY DUCK, STEVE RICHARDSON, OPENREACH

Steve has continued to work fixing phone line faults to get and keep people connected to the internet during the pandemic. Keeping in touch during lockdown has been key and something we have all relied on from shopping, to talking to family, to doing homework. "I first found out that I had been nominated and won when I was stood outside The Grill Steakhouse looking at a duck with a hi-vis jacket on. When I saw the name my first thought was 'Ah, someone else in Aylesbury has the same name as me!' It was only when I started reading all the information that I realised that it was me. I felt extremely proud and surprised. I feel honoured to be recognised for the job I do. I see this as a team win for Openreach, as we are all working together to keep people in service."



TRANSPORTATION DUCK, MARK HARE, CHILTERN RAILWAYS

Mark has been driving trains, training new recruits and ensuring staff are tested daily for COVID-19 throughout the pandemic. His efforts ensure trains can run for all other essential key workers. *"It's very nice to be recognised by the Mayor although really I'm just doing my job and didn't expect any recognition or fuss, dealing with COVID-19 testing is just part of my daily routine at work these days. My hero during lockdown is my girlfriend Sarah, she really is on the 'front line' as she works as a night nurse in a care home. She doesn't complain but just gets on with her job, despite in the beginning not having adequate PPE to carry out her duties safely. My meagre contribution to the fight against COVID-19 is nothing compared to what she has done and continues to do."*



SHOPWORKER DUCK, KATHRYN MARTIN, MCGRUMPY & SNUFFLES

Katy was able to safely keep her shop open throughout lockdown. She has faced many challenges but continues to go above and beyond for her customers and even arranged private viewing times for those most at risk. *"The COVID-19 situation has shown Aylesbury to be full of kindness and generosity and to be included in that is really lovely. It hasn't been easy, but this was a positive experience that really helped to keep me going. The whole idea of the ducks was a great way to recognise how we can all work together to keep the town going during a crisis - of course those frontline medical workers have been heroes and deserve praise to the hills but the bus drivers getting them to work and the supermarket staff filling the shelves, and so on, have all been vital cogs in keeping them going."*



Find the full list of nominated key workers at bit.ly/KeyWorkerDuckTrail

SEE YOU SOON! A MESSAGE FROM THE EVENTS TEAM

As you know, we usually bring a whole host of community fun-filled events to our town every year. It will be no surprise to you that we, like so many others, can't be certain of how this year will unfold due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, we can't plan for physical events right now but we do hope we're able to provide some virtual events to you one way or another. The best way to keep up to date with us and our event plans is to follow us on social media.

 @aylesburytc  @aylesburytc  @aylesburytowncouncil

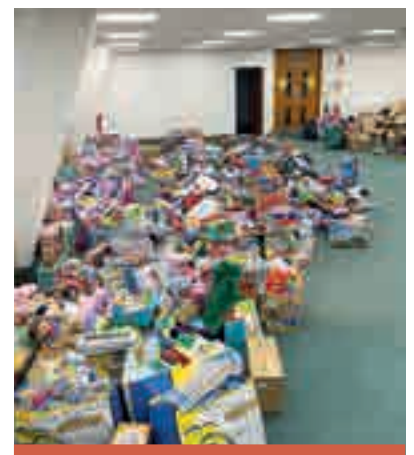
Thank you for your continued support, keep safe and we hope to see you all very soon! The Events team

4,202 TOYS = 4,202 EXTRA SMILES

We worked in partnership with Tring Radio, Red Kite Radio and Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio to collect as many brand-new donated toys as possible for local charities and organisations to provide a gift to children in need over the Christmas period.

Donation stations were dotted all around Bucks and Herts from Amersham to Aylesbury and Tring to Thame. The Community Radio Christmas Toy Box Appeal toy total reached a whopping 4,202! From art and craft kits, puzzles, games and sensory toys – charities and organisations were given three times the amount they had hoped for due to local communities coming together after a challenging year.

All toys were picked up from the 31 donation stations, prior to COVID-19 restrictions, in a special Community Radio Christmas Toy Box Appeal van courtesy of Perrys, before they were sorted by voluntary elves and then quarantined for a COVID-safe period in time for collection.



The charities and local organisations who benefited from the donations are **Florence Nightingale Children's Team Florrie's, CHAT Children's Respite, Young Carers Bucks, The Pepper Foundation, Go Holiday Club Southcourt, Paediatrics Bucks NHS Trust – Stoke Mandeville Hospital, MPS Society, Roman Park Community Trust, Griffin Place Aylesbury, Life Link, Bucks Activity Project – Action For Children and Vineyard Church Storehouse Aylesbury.**

"Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered and helped us spread the word. A special thank you also to Tring Radio, Red Kite Radio and Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio for their support."

BOB'S BENCH CHAT

Hi there young man. That's your allotment over there, isn't it? Your family busy digging over a bed? For the onions, eh... mine have been in for months, over there under the enviromesh. Well, strictly speaking they're not **my** onions, they're Michael's. He lets me share his allotment – I've been here for a year now, sitting on this bench, keeping an eye on things for him.

What's that you say? You'll have to speak up, I've got cloth ears! Tell you what, why don't you sit safely at the other end of the bench and I'll tell you all about it. Your parents don't seem to need your help at the moment. My name's Bob, by the way.

I'm a builder. Well, I used to be until the plague arrived a year ago. They threw me out, put me on the scrap heap. Said they had no work for me to do as everything had closed down. No furlough for me, I had to retire – nothing to do all day but hang around. I hated it – stuck indoors, daytime TV, no company. I'd always been a builder; busy making things. Look, I've still got my tools, could go back to it tomorrow if they wanted me to.

Anyway, my next-door neighbour offered me a share in his allotment. He says he's had it for ten years now. It's been a lifesaver for me. There's always lots to do. Weeding the beds. Watering the crops. Wandering around other plots. It's lovely in the open, even when the sun doesn't shine. It's quiet, peaceful and productive. Lots of birds, lots of bees, lots to make you think, lots of people out every day working their plots. It's probably stopped me going crazy from doing nothing...

Of course, Michael turns up every other day. I like to think we're partners, but he doesn't take kindly to my advice. Take a look at his sprouts! Pathetic, aren't they. I told him they were too close together. You don't like sprouts anyway? Well, we've got lots of other winter veg. There's our cabbage. We've got leeks and spinach as well. Have a look in the cold frame and admire the lettuce. And there's rocket in that polytunnel. He keeps the potatoes, onions and squash in his garage along with all the pickles and jams that he made. He says it all tastes delicious.

Is this your sister? Come and join us young lady, plenty of room on the bench for another one. Didn't Michael let you help yourself to the raspberries during the summer? They were good, weren't they! And he gave you some cucumbers... my name's Bob, by the way. I used to be a builder. I'm a grower now. I spend my days making food out of plants instead of houses out of wood, bricks and metal. Even just sitting here on my bench is good. I'd go mad if I was stuck indoors all day.

As overheard by Michael Brimicombe



AYLESBURY GARDENING SOCIETY IS STILL SAFELY OPEN

Gardening is known to boost general wellbeing and keep our minds positive. We would like to reassure our members that we are still open during the current difficulties as garden centres are allowed to open.

With lockdown in place, we are operating a click and collect or shopping list system, with no one allowed in the Trading Store, all goods are brought out to the customers. We feel this reduces the risks to everyone, whilst satisfying members' requirements. We do have a website which is frequently updated which is aylesburygardeningociety.co.uk

During the Christmas closure the shop counter has been renewed and the area decorated, making it much brighter. Why not pop down to have a look? New members always welcome.





AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL'S OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE TEAM

GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE

It's nearing that time of year when our Outdoor Maintenance team will be out and about in Aylesbury, and surrounding parishes, cutting grass.

This year they plan to begin cutting in the first week of March (all weather dependant of course) and will continue cutting through into the summer months. They cut grass verges within the 30mph areas in town under the Devolved Services Agreement we have with Buckinghamshire Council. Depending on the weather, the team repeat this up to nine times per year.

The team begin cutting grass in Havelock Street, then head down towards Quarrendon, through Haydon Hill then into Southcourt and through to Hawkslade. They then dip into Stoke Mandeville and back down Rivets area. Next, it's up Wendover Road into Elm Farm, straight up the border of Weston Turville, into the top of Bedgrove then through into Broughton. Lastly, it's then up to Coppice Way, straight through Bierton and Broughton and down into Elmhurst.

As the Council is the cluster lead under the Devolved Services Agreement, other members of the Outdoor Maintenance Team members go out to several parishes – Dinton with Ford and Upton, across to Weston Turville then down into Aston Clinton.

Other grass cutting work the team does is to cut vehicle access areas, which lead up to allotment sites, and are known as rides.



A friendly reminder to all residents: Please do not park on grass verges at any time. This will ensure that our team doesn't get delayed with the grass cutting round and prevents damage to the machinery and the verge itself, both of which are very costly to repair.



WALTON POND

We acquired Walton Pond in 2009 after it was neglected for some time. It was a difficult one for us to take on initially as it was unclear who owned the area but it was important for us to gain ownership and maintain the area that was frequently used and loved in the 1800s. The vision was to revive the pond back to an important town asset. Which is what we did.

Now we regularly maintain the area by cutting reeds and unwanted weeds back and clearing algae.

KEEP THE WALTON POND DUCKS HAPPY

When passing the pond, you will likely see ducks enjoying the water. We'd like to remind you not to feed the ducks bread. They will happily gobble up oats, rice, vegetable trimmings, frozen peas and sweetcorn – all of which have a much higher nutritional value than bread. Leave those slices for your lunchtime sandwich. We as humans can digest this food much better than ducks can. For them it provides them with empty calories with no nutrition.

Bread type foods can also attract rats which feed off leftover food, risks polluting waterways and encourages harmful algae to increase. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND



We've loved hosting Dementia Friends sessions online over the last few months. Thank you to everyone who has joined us. We have a couple more dates planned so please book your free place and learn about dementia and how it can affect our community.

Monday 15 March | Monday 12 April | Monday 17 May

These sessions will take place on Zoom at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there! Register by visiting our website at bit.ly/DFSessions2021



CARE TEAM AT HOME INSTEAD GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

The team at Home Instead Aylesbury Vale have been out in the community looking after vulnerable clients who live with dementia. This has caused some challenges with PPE with the caregivers having to cover their face. They were able to obtain some clear masks for dementia clients, so they could see the caregivers faces to help them feel safe and secure. The team have also arranged FaceTime calls for clients with their family members so they could stay in contact during the lockdowns. The team have also walked dogs for clients, got shopping and medication so clients did not have to leave their homes.

NEW CARE PROVIDER, RIGHT AT HOME, JOINS AYLESBURY'S DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN PROJECT

Right at Home Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern is a new care provider operating in Aylesbury and surrounding villages. We support vulnerable people with outstanding care to be able to continue living in the comfort and security of their own home. Our sole purpose is to improve the quality of life for our clients and their families.

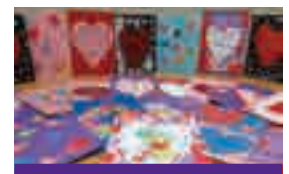
Our wonderful, compassionate and gifted team of carers live in the communities that we serve across Aylesbury, and we want to take an active part in helping the wider community understand and engage with the people we support. Many of the people we support live with dementia in various stages, and it is vital that our carers have a deep understanding of how to engage with and care for those special people. Specialist dementia training is part of ongoing training for our carers, and we are all Dementia Friends.

At Right at Home, we plan to deliver Dementia Friend workshops and events to community groups and businesses across the Aylesbury area, to raise awareness and understanding about dementia, how people can live well with it, and importantly how our town can challenge the stigma and misconceptions that surround this disease.



Despite the lockdown we are still operating and welcoming key worker and vulnerable children to our After School Club and the Holiday Playscheme. The children have been busy making new year resolutions, talking about winter, making woolly hats and paper plate robins. They talked about animals and made animal masks, created CD peacocks and hot air balloons out of paper plates. To save up their pocket money they made money boxes and have been playing a lot of games. Their favourite one is Guess The Animal and Pictionary on the big board.

One of the big projects the children have been working on is "Share Your Love". They created Valentine's Day cards for local care home residents to brighten their Valentine's Day. The children are all very proud of their creations and the joy they will bring to the community. In February half term we have been bird watching with the children and counted the birds flying in and out of our beautiful garden whilst they enjoyed the delicious food the children prepared for them. We even spotted a green woodpecker on our climbing wall! But most of all, the children had lots of fun.





**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
There is no charge for community groups and charities.

**KEEP ON WALKING,
AYLESBURY!**

With the Chilterns and the rolling countryside of the Vale, and 15 national and recreational paths on our doorstep, we have a fabulous area to walk in.

Established in 1966, **Aylesbury & District Ramblers** are a friendly local club of over 200 members. We walk together in the Aylesbury area, but members can walk with any of 500 groups across the country.

We have been instrumental in establishing the 'Rings of Aylesbury', three fully way-marked walks with Aylesbury at their centre – the 12-mile Round Aylesbury Walk, the 32-mile Aylesbury Ring and the 54-mile Outer Aylesbury Ring, with its 23 additional circular walks.

In normal times we have a year-long programme of weekly led walks, anything from a leisurely 4 mile ramble to a strenuous 16 mile hike. But most are somewhere in between. At present our programme is curtailed by the COVID-19 restrictions, but you can still join us and get walking as soon as we are allowed.

The club also organises group holidays and social events. We check local paths, making sure they are kept clear and adequately way marked, and report problems. We monitor all local building developments to ensure that the path network is protected and improved, liaising with the Buckinghamshire Council. We have supported the Ramblers national initiative "Don't Lose Your Way" to identify lost historic paths in our area. Nationally, 49,000 miles of lost paths have been found!

Find out more about us and walking in our area at aylesbury-ramblers.org.uk



**YOUR COMMUNITY
BOARD – WORKING
WITH YOU TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE**



The Aylesbury Community Board launched in September 2020 and brings together Buckinghamshire councillors, town and parish councils, voluntary groups, charities, businesses and residents to understand what is important to our community and find ways of improving them together.

The board's areas of focus this year are:

- Improving the environment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Community safety
- Enhancing the lives of our youth
- Road safety, highways and infrastructure
- COVID-19 economic recovery

Action groups bring people together to look at creative solutions to local issues for each of these areas. The Environment group is exploring innovative environmental projects to empower our community to take action together. The Health & Wellbeing group is looking at supporting mental health initiatives.

The board meets formally four times a year and gives residents an opportunity to hear from local partners,



including charities and Thames Valley Police, about their work in our community. The board also has money available to support local projects and has recently funded Street Wardens to provide a reassuring presence across the town.

The board was pleased to award Dayo Olowosale from Daytop Multicultural Centre the Proud of Bucks Community

Impact Award for his continued efforts to support the community during the initial coronavirus lockdown in 2020.

We're keen to hear from local residents and voluntary groups with a passion to improve their community. To find out how you can get involved visit our webpage at bit.ly/AylesburyCommunityBoard, or email Aylesbury's Community Board Coordinator at aylesburycb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Photo credits: David Gibbs and Derek Green

IMAGEZ CAMERA CLUB: CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Many of us have a camera and enjoy using it, often using only a small fraction of its capabilities – including increasingly capable smart phone cameras. Most cameras today are digital and there is no constraint on taking images. Most of us are guilty of taking large numbers of images, but then: So, what...? What to do with all those images? The family photos have a natural home in the Family Album. After that there is a substantial folder of redundant images.

Wouldn't it be more engaging and enjoyable to be part of a community where you can share knowledge of how to better use your camera? Also, gaining insights into the art of composing creative images, making better and better appreciated use of your images and, engage with people who share your photographic interests. **ImageZ Camera Club**, based in Weston Turville, is a friendly, wide ranging community of people interested in photography. Club members include novices tackling the challenge of how to use that new camera, through to highly capable professional photographers.

The Club's program runs for most of the year, with a short summer break. The annual program includes workshops, presentations – including external expert speakers, internal and external competitions, occasional site visits and last but not least the coffee and biscuit break! The Club meets Tuesday evenings at 8pm. Normally at Weston Turville Community Hall but, because of COVID-19 restrictions, we are currently meeting online using Zoom – the link can be found on the Club's website: imagezcameraclub.co.uk

If interested and would like to speak then please contact Kathy Chantler **07738 112775** chairman@imagezcameraclub.co.uk or Mike Perry **07901 915598** publicity@imagezcameraclub.co.uk

DO YOU HAVE HEARING LOSS, SIGHT LOSS, OR BOTH?



Buckinghamshire Integrated Sensory Service is a free Sensory Service.

We take referrals from individuals, family, GPs, health and many more and currently due to the COVID-19 pandemic our new assessments and routine follow-ups are being carried out via telephone. We continue to offer equipment that can support you to remain more independent in your own home. If you would you like to know more about the equipment and support available, please contact us **01296 479970** Bucks@rnid.org.uk



STEP UP TO PACE'S BIG WALK CHALLENGE

This year's Pace BIG Walk routes will be circular routes taking part of the Ridgeway Trail. All routes start and finish in Wendover at the John Colet School. There is a choice of 18 mile, 12 mile, 6 mile route or the new one mile accessible route, The Superhero Mile route, all along the infamous Ridgeway.

There is something to suit all ages and abilities. This is a great opportunity to set yourself a challenge for 2021 and have some outdoor fun. By taking part in the BIG Walk, you will not only have the opportunity to explore this beautiful countryside in a completely unique way, but you will also be helping us to provide life changing support to the children and young people who access Pace services.



Walk for Pace and make a huge difference to inspirational children who face mobility issues every single day. To sign up visit thepacecentre.org/thebigwalk



AYLESBURY LIONS

Little did we think when we drafted last year's programme of fundraising events that we would have to cancel most of them because of a virus.

During the year we have spent time overhauling a Santa's Sleigh all the time wondering whether we would be able to use it. Fortunately, we were able to conform to social distancing and use it Haddenham in December. This was a challenge, but Santa's appearance proved very popular with the young children. We look forward to visiting the village again this year.

We were pleased to make a contribution to the Bedgrove Scout & Guide hut fund and we are pleased to hear that they have now reached their target. Many of our Christmas activities including our Tesco can collection, which funded our Christmas parcels, had to be cancelled. Despite this setback we were pleased to be able to continue our tradition of Christmas parcels although parcels were smaller.

It has been a challenge holding meetings by Zoom but at least we can participate from the comfort of our own home. We eagerly await positive results from the inoculation programme and are optimistically planning our calendar of events for the year ahead.

We would welcome new members to help with our activities and maybe bring new ideas on fundraising.
aylesburylions.org.uk 01296 484492

AYLESBURY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Vice-Chairman Phil (Topsy) Turner, Aylesbury Royal British Legion, would like to thank the people of Aylesbury and District for their support of the Poppy Appeal. Somehow, the staggering sum of just over £13,000 has been raised so far under very difficult circumstances. Thank you to the Rotary Club for their help in distributing poppies and tins in the town, members who helped during the Appeal, and the RBL Riders for their valuable contribution, when they held a stall selling poppies and memorabilia on a Saturday in October - it rained and blew a gale all day. We would also like to thank the school children and staff for the outstanding amount they contributed.

We can only hope that this year, being the centenary of the inauguration of The Royal British Legion, will be a much better year for everyone, and that we shall be able to celebrate the centenary in due course. The new year got off to a sad start when we lost our Padre on 3 January 2021. Ivor Rickard MBE will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We shall especially miss his blessing at the start of our monthly meetings, it will not be the same without him. RIP Ivor.

The Aylesbury Branch Royal British Legion looks forward to welcoming our members back when we can, and we would welcome new members also. Please contact **Barbara Tattam** on **01296 421790** if you would like to become a member as and when things get back to 'normal'.

HS2 UPDATE

During the current lockdown all sites remain open as long as they can continue to operate using local COVID-19 compliant plans. We are strictly limiting the number of people on site to those that are business critical or whose work cannot be done from home. The safety of our people and communities remains our most important consideration at all times.

Over the coming months you will see works progressing around the A41, A418 and Risborough Road, where the compound set ups are becoming operational. You can expect to see the arrival of welfare and office spaces, concrete batching plant, and security teams as well as activities such as surveys and site clearance. Essential works may have the need for associated traffic management to be in place for the safety of staff and road users. During these times, please allow a little extra journey time, and where possible we will try to ensure we work outside of peak traffic hours.



If you have a question about the work around your area, then book into an online 1-2-1 session with our engagement team. We can answer your questions from construction queries to information about funding and job opportunities.

For more about what's happening in the Aylesbury area and to receive regular email updates, sign up to your local community website on hs2inbucksandox.co.uk

If you have a question about HS2 or would like to book an online surgery session, please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team on **08081 434 434** or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

NEWS FROM ELM FARM

As with most of the country, much of 2020 saw residents of Elm Farm struggling with loneliness, homeschooling, depression and uncertainty. VE Day celebrations gave a glimpse of the will of a community to come together. As summer turned to autumn, the hope of an end to restrictions was shattered.

Dannielle Stapleton was the catalyst for turning the community Facebook group into a hub for hope. Dannielle put lots of effort into creating a Halloween trail for the estate which provided a fun distraction for the kids whilst respecting the wishes of those who didn't want to take part. It was a big success!

Come November, Dannielle suggested repeating the idea for Christmas. The fuse was lit. A Christmas Facebook group was created and it was suggested we have a coordinated Christmas light switch on. The idea gained momentum and people joined the new group. I asked which date would be best for the switch on, and my involvement began! Just a week before the switch-on, I suggested we do a community raffle. The idea was very well received and lots of people came forward with donations of prizes. We got local businesses involved and suddenly we had a free raffle with some very impressive prizes on our hands.



Whilst all this was going on, we were also busy convincing Father Christmas to visit. After the switch on, he duly obliged with several of his helper elves, touring

the estate and giving out gifts to those who'd really struggled over the pandemic. The raffle was streamed live on our Facebook group later the same evening. The efforts everyone made with their lights made the light trail amazing. Father Christmas visited nearly every road on the estate and we're now looking to continue with more community events in 2021.

Justin Byrom



VISIT LINDENGATE AS PART OF YOUR REGULAR EXERCISE ROUTINE

It is important that you look after yourself during these challenging times, from getting enough sleep, keeping stress levels down, eating well and exercising outside.

- We are open Mondays 9am–12pm, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 1pm–3pm for free drop-ins, giving you time and space to “be” in a calm, safe environment, whilst relaxing in beautiful natural surroundings.
- Regular exercise has been proven to fight fatigue and boost energy levels, so wrap up warm and visit us where you will be able to take time for yourself in our 5-acre therapeutic gardens and wildlife haven.
- Why not bring someone from your household or support bubble, or meet a friend safely for your daily exercise? This can improve your mental wellbeing.
- Whether you are a key worker, or home schooling, we have space for you to bring supervised children and quiet areas for those seeking peace and a safe space.
- We have plenty of sheltered areas dotted about our 5-acre site and being amongst nature boosts your health and wellbeing.

Lindengate is a well-known mental health charity, near Wendover. Whilst we are currently unable to keep all our services open, our free drop-in Rest and Reflect sessions, which have been running since June 2020 and welcomed over 1,500 people, are open to anyone who may be struggling with their wellbeing, or just want a safe space to enjoy nature. Take a look at our website for full details and other ways that you can look after your wellbeing.

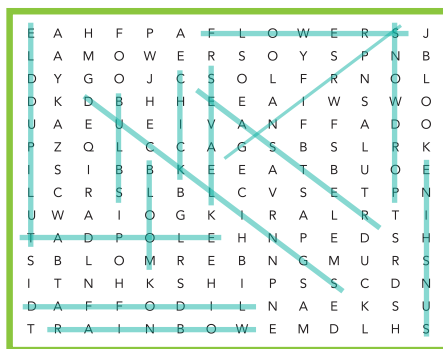
lindengate.org.uk

PUZZLE TIME ANSWERS ?

9	7	8	1	3	2	4	5	6
6	5	3	8	4	7	2	9	1
1	2	4	5	9	6	3	8	7
4	9	6	7	5	3	1	2	8
5	3	7	2	1	8	9	6	4
8	1	2	4	6	9	5	7	3
2	6	1	3	8	5	7	4	9
3	8	5	9	7	4	6	1	2
7	4	9	6	2	1	8	3	5

B	A	L	L
W	O	O	D
S	H	O	P
F	R	E	E
P	L	A	Y
L	E	A	P
W	A	G	E
S	H	I	P
F	O	O	D
D	U	T	Y

GOBSTOPPER





AN INTERVIEW WITH... SARA LIVADAES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE FREMANTLE TRUST

"Years of experience working with older people and people living with dementia has taught me that delivering great care is all about providing, individual choice, companionship and freedom from worry."

What is The Fremantle Trust?

We are a well-established, local provider with years of experience providing high standards of care to people with nursing or dementia needs.

At what point should a care home be considered?

There comes a turning point, when you or a relative realise that living alone is not safe. Loss of mobility or stress about managing and maintaining your home, through to feelings of isolation and loneliness are often triggers.

What advice would you give to people looking for a care home?

Choose a home where you can maintain contact with friends and relatives, in person or online. Select a home that respects individual preferences, cultural and religious beliefs.

What is life like in your care homes?

There's a real sense of community. There are plenty of opportunities to socialise, but also time to have your own privacy or spend time with a friend or relative. All our rooms are en-suite, there's home cooked food available 24hrs a day, it's cosy, warm and health and medical needs are monitored and met.

What's different about The Fremantle Trust?

We look after people not beds. We truly value the uniqueness in everyone and recognise that our residents are individuals with hopes, desires and aspirations regardless of their age.

fremantletrust.org

AYLESBURY ROTARY DONATES THOUSANDS TO LOCAL CHARITIES

Thanks to the amazing generosity of residents, the Rotary Club of Aylesbury has been able to donate over £8,500 to local charities. The Rotary Club of Aylesbury was able to complete a full programme of Santa Float duties this December before the town was plunged into Tier 4 COVID-19 restrictions just before Christmas. They have now distributed the money to over a dozen local charities including local foodbanks.

For two weeks Santa and his elves toured the town giving local children of all ages a chance to exchange seasonal greetings with him. Their online tracker meant hundreds of families were ready waiting in their gardens. Heads of local junior schools played their part by emailing parents to let them know when to expect the carol float.

The incredible people of Aylesbury donated in their thousands and almost £9,000 has been collected. This is significantly more than in recent years and so it's been agreed the extra cash should go to local foodbanks.

Other charities who received grants are Lindengate, The Gateway Club, Heart of Bucks, ScannAppeal, The National Paralympic Heritage Trust, Wheelpower, Medical Detection Dogs, several Scout and Guide groups and local branches of The Alzheimer's Society and Motor Neurone Disease.

A spokesman for the Rotary Club said: "We'd like to say a big thank you to all the drivers, collectors and others who helped us out, as well as the public for their tremendous support."



WE INVITE 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 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.



HEALTHWATCH BUCKS

What is Healthwatch?

We are one of 148 independent Local Healthwatch organisations set up by the government under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Healthwatch Bucks is the Local Healthwatch for Buckinghamshire, under contract to the Buckinghamshire Council.

What do we want?

Our **vision** is that your experiences, ideas and opinions make a positive difference to the way health and social care is provided in Buckinghamshire.

How will we make that happen?

Our **mission** is to ensure that the collective voice of people using health and social care services is heard, considered and acted upon.

Our objectives are to:

Listen to you, the residents of Buckinghamshire, so we understand what you think about health and social care.

Influence the right people so that your views make a difference to health and social care services.

Change the way health and social care services are commissioned and delivered for the better.

Your feedback is vital in helping us to understand how services are performing. Your stories and experiences feed into our strategy, guiding us to investigate issues within your health and social care services, and help us to shape services better so that they work for you.

If you want to let us know what you think of a service, get involved or just find out more, visit our website

healthwatchbucks.co.uk. You can subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date on our activities by visiting the website. Other ways to get in touch are by calling **01844 348 839** or email **info@healthwatchbucks.co.uk**

CALM, CUSHION, CALL HOW TO SUPPORT SOMEONE THROUGH A SEIZURE

You may not be aware that 1 per cent of the population has epilepsy. That's 600,000 people in the UK, living with seizures, some daily, some weekly, sometimes causing serious injuries.

Epilepsy is a hidden disability and one that is generally poorly understood. And this is not surprising. Unless someone is having a seizure, it is unlikely that you would know they had epilepsy and might require support.

But the Epilepsy Society is campaigning to make sure that everyone knows how to support someone through a seizure. 26 March is Purple Day, the international day of epilepsy, and a good time to remind ourselves of three simple steps that can really help.

Epilepsy Society's Calm, Cushion, Call campaign aims to educate everyone in basic first aid techniques which we can all follow if we see someone having a seizure. The three simple steps are: Stay calm. Cushion the person's head. Call for help.



Seizures can be distressing to witness but as long as you remember those three key points: calm, cushion, call, you can help. If someone is having a seizure, it will help to remove their mask but only if it is safe for you to do so and will not put you at risk.

The Epilepsy Society also offers a confidential helpline service, for information about all aspects of epilepsy and for the chance to talk things through. Call the Epilepsy Society Helpline on **01494 601400** from Monday to Friday 9am-4pm, Wednesday 9am-7:30pm

To support the work of the Epilepsy Society you can donate at **epilepsysociety.org.uk/donate**



NEW YEAR, NEW YOU, NEW VENTURE

If you're thinking of starting a new business or want to extend your existing creative venture into a new area, a stall at the market could be exactly what you need. From only £17.90 bring your own gazebo and furniture, set up and trade, it is an affordable and flexible way to test your business idea.

Want to know more? Email us at **paul.kirkham@buckinghamshire.gov.uk** or phone us **01296 585880**.

BECOME A PARAMEDIC AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

A new course for aspiring paramedics will give Aylesbury residents the required skills and training to be a frontline healthcare professional and make a difference to their local communities.

With intakes in September 2021 and February 2022, the new three-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) Honours undergraduate degree in Paramedic Science at Buckinghamshire New University combines academic theory, simulated patient care and practice-based learning to help students meet the standard required for registration as a paramedic.

The University partners with South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust and London Ambulance Service NHS Trust to offer frontline placement opportunities in each year of the degree so students can develop their confidence and ability to care for patients who require urgent and emergency care.

Some of the course's topics include advanced life support and resuscitation; anatomy, physiology and pharmacology; and clinical decision-making and reasoning skills. A training grant of £5,000 each year is available for eligible students.

Will Broughton (pictured), newly appointed Associate Professor of Paramedic Science, said: *"Paramedics continue to demonstrate their value, capability and skills across a number of settings, such as ambulance services and in primary care. Working across the Thames Valley and London regions, Bucks will now be a critical partner in ensuring the UK will have paramedics able to provide excellent care to a wide variety of patients."*



Director of the University's Institute for Health and Social Care, Professor Karen Buckwell-Nutt, added: *"We have extensive experience of delivering quality healthcare courses and I'm thrilled with the addition of paramedic training."*

Please contact william.broughton@bucks.ac.uk for further information. Read more online at bit.ly/ParamediaScienceBNU



FUNDRAISING DURING A PANDEMIC

Living during a pandemic, has made us all realise just how important our local community is, and how much we value opportunities to come together, whether it is to celebrate, or to support vital services.

At Aylesbury High School, December has traditionally been a focus point for the school, with our annual fundraising week and Community Christmas Party.

Despite not being able to hold these events in our usual way, our Year 12 students rose to the challenge of the moment to hold three virtual fundraising events including The A-Factor talent show, the school Panto and the ever popular Staff Karaoke.

These events raised over £1,500 of online donations, which will be split between three charities all chosen for having connections with the school - Maggie's Centre (in memory of a beloved teacher Meg Thomas), The Epilepsy Society and Breast Cancer Now.

Our annual Community Christmas Party has long been a staple of our school calendar, and we always thoroughly enjoy welcoming residents into our school to celebrate with us. Although we were so sad not to be able to hold this in school last year, Year 12 Students were keen to keep the connections going by making parcels and sending out letters.

We are so looking forward to when we will be able to welcome our guests into school once again.

GRAB AN AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL GRANT

The past year has been tough – and for many groups their planned activities and events haven't been able to take place, creating even more sadness for the most vulnerable and lonely in our town.

Aylesbury Town Council wants to help community groups and organisations see their way out of the pandemic and come out stronger on the other side. **What challenges has your group faced? How could Aylesbury Town Council help you?**

Aylesbury Town Council support projects and activities for small groups such as weekly social groups for those of all ages that give respite to so many and much needed social interaction. We support larger organisations that run essential not for profit services in the town for those suffering from mental health issues, homelessness, domestic abuse, or those that have had their lives turned upside down through physical or mental illness.

Get in touch and see if you are able to apply for a grant from Aylesbury Town Council.

Visit aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk, email Jane Eden, Grants Officer jane.eden@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01296 425678.

The next Grants Committee meeting will take place on **Wednesday 24 March 2021**.

The deadline for grant applications to be considered at this meeting is **Wednesday 10 March 2021** at 5pm.

Aylesbury Town Council Grant scheme support many worthwhile charities and organisations. The funds given really do make a difference to the community of Aylesbury and the residents that need the support that these fantastic organisations provide.



(Photograph taken pre-COVID-19).

NIGHTINGALE'S RAINBOW APPEAL



We are thrilled to be a Build Sponsor for the construction of Nightingale's Rainbow at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. It has been an extremely challenging time for many, from families being unable to visit loved ones in hospitals and hospices to key workers working extremely hard throughout this pandemic, and everything in between. We believe Nightingale's Rainbow will allow the community to remember the strength of Aylesbury town during this unprecedented time while also commemorating those who were lost this year. We are proud to support this special community project.

Nightingale's Rainbow Appeal said "Nightingale's Rainbow will be a physical monument to acknowledge the hard work, suffering and sacrifices of the whole Buckinghamshire community during the pandemic and will be a permanent symbol of hope in adversity, and of community spirit and kindness in the face of a shared threat - the construction of the Rainbow is being funded by our Build Sponsors meaning all the money raised by the sale of Rainbow Tiles will be shared between the two charities, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust."

Read more at fnhospice.org.uk/nightingales-rainbow

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As I write this update, we yet again find ourselves in the third lockdown, tackling home schooling and working from home where we can, with memories of a different than usual Christmas for many, catching up with friends and relatives via a telephone or Zoom call.

We have all had an exhausting, worrying and stressful past year, whether that's because of financial difficulties or job worries, the effects of loneliness and isolation, or for some, having been ill or seeing those you care about suffering physical or mental illness.

But during 2020 we have also seen the very best of our town. So many people going out of their way to help others – whether their immediate neighbours, complete strangers, or the wider community – with an incredible list of acts of kindness. Helping with the shopping, a phone call to someone on their own, a note popped through the door to say if you need anything let me know, a small gift put on the doorstep to show someone you care... the list is endless. I am delighted to have this chance to say another huge thank you to our town – for all you've done, and all the tough months you've gone through to help keep yourselves and all of us as safe as we possibly can be.

Now, even though restrictions have had to continue, I hope we can look forward to a more positive year ahead. I am delighted to update you on my Charity of 2019/20, Aylesbury Youth Concern, who, despite a few delays due to the pandemic, was able to open its doors to their first residents at Merryville at the end of 2020. Hannah Asquith, Youth Concern's CEO was delighted to share with you her thoughts on the opening:

"The Next Step Project has been years in the making – so it's very exciting to announce it's now open! The project started when my predecessor, Fran Borg-Wheeler, realised how few opportunities there were for local homeless young people to find somewhere safe and affordable to

live. Youth Concern has helped homeless young people access accommodation for years, but we were determined to offer our own longer term accommodation support. We welcomed our first residents to the Next Step Project in December 2020 and have vacancies for a further seven homeless or at-risk-of homeless 18 – 25-year-olds from Aylesbury Vale. During their 12-18 month stay with us, residents will benefit from bespoke one-to-one support focussing on health, skills, employment and resettlement. The whole point of The Next Step is to ensure a smooth transition to independent living."

One of our new residents said: *"I wasn't considered a priority by the Council, and private landlords didn't want to rent their rooms to me. They didn't like the fact I'm on housing benefits – and anyway the rent was so high in Aylesbury! Landlords will look at me differently once I've lived at The Next Step. I'll be a safer bet for them."*

It has been an honour to support Aylesbury Youth Concern over the past 18 months and I wish them all every success for the future.

We don't know as yet what the coming year will hold, what events we can attend, holidays to enjoy, places we can visit. I am hoping that my postponed charity concert from last March with The Dung Beatles can go ahead later this year. Keep an eye on social media channels for updates and thank you to those of you that have still got hold of your tickets and are patiently waiting to enjoy the live music again.

I look forward to again welcoming our local youth groups, like the Scouts and Brownies to the Mayor's parlour, visiting the residents in our supported living homes and enjoying a picnic in the park, appreciating live music, fun and laughter in the summer months.

Be positive, stay safe and enjoy the summer ahead, whatever it may hold.

Cllr Mike Smith, **Aylesbury Town Mayor**
 **@MayorOfAylesbury**





AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL WARD MAP

WARD: GATEHOUSE



Cllr Anders Christensen
07834 995690



Cllr Tuffail Hussain
07832 913171

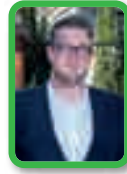


Cllr Gurinder Wadhwa
07840 151444

WARD: CENTRAL

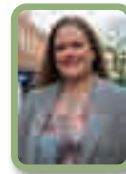


Cllr Barbara Russel
01296 431314



Cllr Tim Dixon
07849 757492

WARD: ELMHURST



Cllr Susan Morgan
07799 074411



Cllr Ashley Morgan
07799 878059

WARD: COPPICE WAY

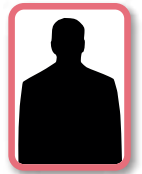


Cllr Mark White
07771 877488

WARD: OAKFIELD

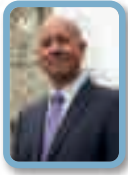


Cllr Mark Willis
07723 091637



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 425678** or visit **aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk**



**AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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**



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

AUDIO ADVENTURES WITH PROFESSOR CHRONOMIER



In 2019, Aylesbury Town Council and Queens Park Arts Centre's production company Unbound presented a hugely successful interactive play entitled 'Lost in Time', featuring the debut appearance of inventor, explorer and time-traveller Professor Chronomier.

Whilst work on a follow-up live show is on hold, the Professor has been continuing her exploits in 'The Chronicles of Professor Chronomier' – a special series of audio adventures produced remotely by QPAC's Unbound team.

Erika Sanderson reprises her role as the Professor, with stories written by 'Lost in Time' co-writer Dario Knight. Three stories were released episodically last year, with a fourth due out in spring 2021. The show has proved popular with audiences and has even been nominated for three Audio Verse Awards.

So far the Professor has travelled back to the sixteenth century to meet Christopher Marlowe in 'The Tudor Assassin', investigated a fiendish plot to re-write history in 'Temper & Temporality', and visited the far future in 'The Cottage on the Moor'. The fourth adventure – 'From the Depths' – is an exciting crime drama featuring another famous writer!



"We missed not being able to bring the Prof back for another live show last year," says Dario. "Whilst we're hoping to revisit the project once circumstances allow, it's been great fun to create these new audio adventures. Erika's beautiful performances make them perfect listening for adults and children alike – a much-needed dose of escapism!"

'The Chronicles of Professor Chronomier' are free to stream and download from soundcloud.com/unboundtheatre

AYLESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

Aylesbury Choral Society rose to the pandemic challenge in the Autumn 2020 term by creating a virtual online choir. Part of our weekly rehearsals culminated in a video recording of sections of Britten's St Nicolas cantata, along with singers from other choirs and for Chiltern Arts. A short preview can be viewed online at bit.ly/VirtualChoirSneakPeak.

In addition, they enjoyed singing through a selection of popular songs and short sacred pieces, with piano accompaniment.

During the spring term, they are learning works by Brahms (Marienlieder), Bruckner (Motets) and Haydn (Little Organ Mass), as well as a selection of songs by modern composers. Rehearsals are taking place online via Zoom and involve singing individually in our homes led by our director and accompanist.

Choral singing makes a major contribution to community culture and personal well-being. Aylesbury Choral Society will continue with its virtual choir until life gets back to a more normal way and we can present our Messiah concert which was so near ready for performance when lockdown started in March last year.

The Society welcomes everyone interested to join them online on Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9pm.

For more details, please contact the membership secretary moira.membership@gmail.com or our chairman, Chris Dalladay acschairman@gmail.com



AYLESBURY
Choral Society





AYLESBURY FESTIVAL CHOIR

Yes, we're still here and as you can see from the photograph, faithfully practising online every Thursday evening, definitely not the same as being together in one room but we live in hope that we will soon be able to sing together.

We did an online concert and also 'performed' our usual Carol Concert but although we enjoyed the singing, we did miss having an audience to give us a boost. Our MD, Nick Austin and Rowena Gibbons, our pianist, are both working with us as we rehearse Haydn's Nelson Mass and also Mozart's Requiem, in the hope that we will be able to give a live concert later this year. Failing that, it will have to be an online concert. For more information visit our website at: aylesburyfestivalchoir.net



ART ONLINE AT BUCKS COUNTY MUSEUM



© Christine Bass - The Ridgeway, Steps Hill (Bucks)

We were sorry to have to close the Bucks Art Society and Tony Hart exhibitions so soon due to government restrictions in December.

Bucks Art Society were celebrating their **100th anniversary** and it really was a lovely exhibition with some wonderful art created by so many talented Bucks artists. The display of Tony Hart artwork was also a fascinating insight into someone who was so familiar on TV during our childhoods. Did you know he designed the Blue Peter ship logo? We are delighted to announce that we have put the exhibitions online and Melanie Czapski, our keeper of art, has filmed a tour where she talks about a selection of the work on display.

You will also find some of the artists talking about their work and inspirations. Please take a look as whilst the museum has been closed, we have been running more events online which are proving very popular, particularly a family science show and some fascinating talks.

Please check our website for online events and news of reopening: buckscountymuseum.org
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP





SURVIVORS ARE THE REASON WE RELAY!

Let us introduce ourselves, we are Relay for Life - Aylesbury. It is an annual event which sees teams of individuals walk in relay for 24 hours. This unique activity is designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for life saving research. It unites and mobilises communities committed to fighting back cancer. It also enables us to increase the visibility and generate cancer awareness.

Central to Relay for Life is the Survivor's Lap, with those who have successfully fought cancer, or undergoing treatment, or have received cancer diagnosis, complete one lap of the track to launch our event.

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

We would like to invite all local Survivors to join us at The Pavilion, Halton on **24 July at 12 noon** for our opening ceremony and celebratory Survivor Lap and then to be our honoured guest (with a guest/carer) for complimentary lunch. **We look forward to welcoming you.**

To register as a Survivor please visit our website at relayforlifeaylesbury.org or contact Paula Kirby, Relay Chairman relaypaulak@hotmail.com



THE SEARCH FOR A STADIUM

In the last update I talked about the waiting, this waiting focused not just on decision making but also the waiting that forms a natural part of playing and watching sport. The global pandemic has unfortunately meant that for long periods there has been no sport from grassroots through to the professional levels.

Understandably this has had an impact on our progress with a new community sports facility for Aylesbury. We're still actively engaged with landowners and in recent months have presented to both Aylesbury Garden Town and Coldharbour Parish Council. As residents will recall from our previous article, we have identified our preferred site adjacent to the current pitches in Fairford Leys.

We're still waiting on HS2 to finalise their local land usage but are in open dialogue with them alongside our regular discussions on how the new railway line is affecting the residents of Aylesbury both now and in the long term.

So, what happens next should we get the go-ahead from the landowners? The next step would be to arrange a feasibility study on the site, this would involve detailed discussions as to what the facility might look like and would give rise to the first set of drawings. This we'd then use to launch a public consultation ahead of any planning application.

We are still happy to hear from any sports and recreational clubs in the town, in recent months we've spoken to representatives of both Aylesbury Vale Dynamos, Aylesbury United, Aylesbury Netball Club and many more. In addition, whilst this is not solely about football the Football Foundation's Local Facility Plan for Aylesbury Vale has been published and includes the Town Council's project within it.

To be continued...

Richard Lloyd

Correct as at 1st February when we went to press.

AN INTERVIEW WITH... YOUTH TOWN COUNCILLOR RYAN HOBBS

While we're not physically together at the moment, Aylesbury Youth Town Council are continuing to connect online via MS Teams. We're talking about things we've enjoyed in lockdown, some of our challenges and things that we really miss. To help you (our community), connect with us, we've caught up with Youth Town Councillor, Ryan Hobbs, to find out about some of his interests and passions including his involvement with the Aylesbury Wombles sub-group, Wombleteens, a voluntary litter-picking group.

How did you get involved with the Wombleteens?

I originally got involved with the Aylesbury Wombles after discovering them on Instagram during summer. It seemed intriguing and a rather worthwhile activity to participate in. For Wombleteens exclusively however, that started after I joined and took on the role of leading it. The idea of Wombleteens developed after my NCS group decided to do a sponsored litter pick up to Coombe Hill to raise money for the local charity Lindengate. That was a major success and everyone seemed to enjoy it so why not create a group solely for young people? It makes perfect sense; especially with the fact that the wombles was founded by a local young person, Abigail Walker!



That's great! How many bags of rubbish have you collected?

The Wombleteens have collected 30 bags of rubbish since launching on 19 September 2020. Aylesbury Wombles, however, have collected a whopping 3,121 bags last year alone! This year, we will for sure surpass this!

Why is the environment so important to you?

The environment is important to me as it is the only one we have. It's full of all sorts of life forms but only one species seems to be consciously destroying it. Once we've completely ruined it, which is probably not too far off, we're stuck with it. Eventually, we will end up destroying ourselves too as there will be so much destruction for us to not feel it too.

What are your hopes for 2021?

I hope to make the Wombleteens more mainstream by getting local schools and organisations involved! Our numbers are of course ever growing but it will be great to see if we could start having school-led litter picks as well as assemblies to spread the word! There are also potential plans for a few collaborative litter picks in the works but they are currently put on hold due to the most recent government guidance unfortunately but I look forward to them going ahead when it's safe to!



Any advice for those interested in getting involved with Wombleteens?

To any student out there wanting to get involved, I say do it! It's a rather addictive hobby that benefits both your own state of mind, which is rather needed with the lock downs, and your local community. Keep an eye out on our social media for any and all updates as well as to borrow equipment for your own solo womble! It's our world to inherit so we need to look after it!

Follow the Wombleteens on Instagram [@aylesburywombleteens](#) or search 'Aylesbury Wombles' on Facebook.



'Here's to the next 60 issues!'