

Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
Issue Five June 2007



Bringing information that matters to the people of Aylesbury



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

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Opening hours:
Monday - Thursday 8.45 am - 5.15 pm
Friday 8.45 am - 4.45 pm

Cover photograph: Aylesbury Branch of the Grand Union Canal. Photo by Roger King.

Welcome Note

Welcome to the Summer issue of Aylesbury Town Matters. What is probably the oldest building in Aylesbury, the King's Head, features strongly in this issue. Also we have articles about: forthcoming events in the Town Centre; the Allotments and Gardening Competitions; and Aylesbury's entry to Britain in Bloom.

As the Town Council is taking over the administration of the Cemetery we thought residents might enjoy learning something of its history. We have updates on grants given by the Town Council in support of community groups and good causes; the Town Council's efforts to find a new logo; Aylesbury Credit Union and the Residents' Health Forum. We also cover changes in key personnel at Mix 96, which means that Aylesbury says goodbye to Richard Carr and Rachel Faulkner, but welcomes in new faces.

I hope you will enjoy this edition. If you or your friends and neighbours have issues that you would like to bring to public awareness, please write to us and we shall do our best to help.

Cllr Steve Patrick
Leader of the Council

Aylesbury welcomes a new Mayor

Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, Deputy Mayor for 2006 – 2007, has been elected Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2007 – 2008. Cllr Puddefoot has a long history of serving the local community, both in a civic capacity and also in the area of education and special needs, and working with disadvantaged young people.



For five years she has been a hard working member of the team which provides regular weekend Events in the Town Centre and recently she led the establishment of a Patients' Health Forum. She looks forward to a busy year, and to raising substantial funds for next year's Mayor's charities.

Aylesbury Town Council is a member of English Historic Towns Forum and twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse.

Time out for all the family? It is always worth visiting Aylesbury

Aylesbury Town Council has put together a programme of events for its residents to enjoy. All are free of charge except for the John Wilkes event.

John Wilkes 250th Anniversary - Sunday, 8th July

An event is to be held in the grounds of Prebendal House to celebrate 250 years since John Wilkes, who lived at the house, became MP for Aylesbury.

The theme will be a Baroque style garden party with singing, dancing and minstrels strolling around the gardens in period costume. Tickets will be sold on the day (£6.00 approximately) and numbers limited to 250 people. Cream teas/refreshments will be provided by Aylesbury College.

Aylesbury on Sea/End of Pier - Sunday, 15th July

A pier and stage will be constructed in Kingsbury for the above event to capture a seaside theme. Stalls will include Hoop La, Rifle Range, Candy Floss, Roundabout, Popcorn and Chocolate Fountain.

Acts taking part will include a stilt walker, comedy act, Terry as Charlie Chaplin, puppet show, performing clowns and a live band.

Star Attraction: Tupele Dorgu, better known as feisty factory worker Kelly in Coronation Street will open the event and sign autographs.

Proms in the Park - Saturday, 1st September

This event will be held in Vale Park with Aylesbury Community Concert Band and other artistes.

Charter Day - Sunday, 9th September

This event will be held in the Market Square. Attractions and entertainment throughout the day will include the Singing Plague Victims, the Rat Catcher and Barber Surgeon.

Ghouls 'n' Villains - Friday 26th & Saturday 27th October (to be confirmed)

Take a ghostly walk around the town and old Aylesbury. Further information will be made available nearer the time.



Photographs courtesy of Ray Ghent

The King's Head – 'where a relaxed atmosphere prevails'

'Probably one of the nicest inns in Aylesbury with a great open courtyard'; 'By far and away the best pub in Aylesbury'; 'Excellent house in interesting & historic building, with excellent beers'; 'I have been impressed with this place'; 'beer and food are both excellent'; 'a relaxed atmosphere prevails'. These are just some of the comments on various blog websites, and they sum up people's feelings about the King's Head. It holds a special place in the history of Aylesbury and both are intertwined. Nowadays it is also more than just a pub. The Tourist Office, a coffee shop also selling secondhand books, and a florist can all be found off the Courtyard.



Sketch by Nick Carter, courtesy of the Aylesbury Society

History records that the King's Head has always been multi-functional. The building dates back to 1386, and perhaps even earlier. The first buildings on the site were where the Farmers' Bar is now situated and consisted of 3 shops and a cottage. There was a cellar underneath one of the shops, accessible by steps from the street. This was a tavern called the King's Head (Kynghshede) and would almost certainly have been named after the reigning monarch, Richard II. The shops and cottage would have had lesser buildings attached, with a ground level hall and parlour, and sleeping quarters on the first floor. All that remains of these buildings is the cellar underneath the Farmers' Bar. These early buildings would

actually have overlooked the Market Square. In mediaeval times Kingsbury was the centre of the town and would have been much larger than it is today. The same was true of Market Square. Market stalls gradually became permanent and eventually became shops, houses and inns. The area between Kingsbury and Buckingham Street were a later encroachment as are the shops in front of the King's Head and on the west and east sides of that square.

In 1382 the 2nd Earl of Ormonde, James Butler, granted the Friars Minor of England 10 acres in Aylesbury to found a Grey Friar's or Franciscan Friarage. It was located in an area near to the current Friarage Passage, Rickford's Hill and Friars Square Shopping Centre. As the King's Head buildings were adjacent they would certainly have been used as lodgings for passing visitors to the Monastery. A commemorative plaque in Friarage Passage, erected by the Town Council and Aylesbury Society, marks the location.

In the mid 15th century Sir Ralph Verney, the Lord Mayor of London who played a major role during the War of the Roses, acquired the King's Head properties. The properties had been purchased in 1455 by William Wandesford who had served in the household of Margaret of Anjou. Unfortunately for him, he was a Lancastrian during the War of the Roses and had to forfeit his estates in 1465 to Verney.

Between 1485 – 80 Verney set about demolishing some of the older buildings and acquiring adjacent land to build a Great Hall to house his important guests who, like Verney, were invariably successful London merchants.

Visitors to the Great Hall today marvel at the stained-glass window. Each of the five panes commemorates a connection with the period when the inn was built:

- (i) Edmond Beaufort (? – 1455) Royal courtier, soldier and supporter of Henry VI in the War of the Roses.
- (ii) Henry VI (1421 – 1475) The King at the time of the construction.

- (iii) William de la Pole (1396 – 1450) Earl of Suffolk. Played important role in marriage of Henry VI to Margaret of Anjou.
- (iv) Margaret of Anjou. Henry's Queen. The owner of the King's Head, William Wandesford also served in her household.
- (v) James Botlier. 4th Earl of Ormonde, (White Earl) (1390 – 1452). Descendant of the 2nd Earl of Ormonde Shield, founder of the Grey Friar's monastery nearby.

Other features of the Great Hall include a case on the wall showing the original wattle and daub under plasterwork, evidence of the original smoke hood inside the chimney and steps used by sweeps, hazel nuts for insulation found between the floor boards and glass in the door dated circa 1700.

By the late 15th century Verney had extended the Great Hall with a parlour, a secret room above and a kitchen. With the addition of the first gatehouse and stable accommodation, the area around the Courtyard was complete. Traces of the past can still be seen in the courtyard today: an 18th Century mounting block, a lamp holder for burning rags, hooks for unloading meat (which was used until the early 20th century), and some original cobbles. The old hotel reception office was originally used as an early Post Office. The stables, which are the only remaining example in Aylesbury, were built in the early 19th century replacing the 16th century originals. They were nearly destroyed in the 1930s to provide space for garaging, but fortunately survived.



Sketch by Nick Carter, courtesy of the Aylesbury Society

In addition to the court of Henry VI, the King's Head has been connected to other famous people such as Anne Boleyn, Oliver Cromwell and the Rothschilds. Today that connection carries on in the tales of ghosts and 'presences' such as a lady in grey seen in the Great Hall, a pint pot seen to float mysteriously, an apparition of a nun seen in the old panelled dining room (now the Tourist Information Centre), an aroma of spices in the corridors and a 'presence' in Cromwell's bedroom.

The subject of Oliver Cromwell and the Civil War connection is a story in itself, and we will leave that for another time.

Roger King

Walton Pond

As residents may be aware, it is the Aylesbury Town Council's intention to secure the future of Walton Pond and take possession of this important part of the Town's heritage, to turn this neglected pond into an environmental area. The pond is more than just part of our history, it is a vital aspect of the natural environment of the town.

Progress in actually taking possession of the pond has been slow, but other work has been taking place. A small pond has been created by taking a water inlet from the road to allow run-off to be filtered before entering the main body of the pond. Sections of weed at the front of the pond have been removed to allow a view into the main body of the water.

Once Aylesbury Town Council has taken ownership of the pond, an action plan can be put together that will ensure the survival of this historic wildlife environment.

Mark Willis

Allotment and Gardening Competitions



Judging on allotments takes place on 5th and 6th of June. Winners are to be publicised shortly.

Aylesbury in Bloom is a celebration of the natural environment we live in. The competition enhances nature's work by encouraging residents to brighten up the town with the imaginative use of trees, shrubs, flowers and landscaping.

Environmental issues and global warming are items of major concern, and this year's competitions will take these issues into consideration. By taking part in the competition you can make a contribution and help encourage others to respect the environment. There is also the added benefit of fresh air and exercise, as well as the pleasure gained from watching your garden develop.

It doesn't matter whether your garden is large or small or just a window box! There are all kinds of categories – everyone can join in. **The competition closes on Wednesday 20th June 2007, so you could still be eligible to enter.**

So why not pick up a form from the Town Council Office at 5 Church Street, Aylesbury (next door to the County Museum) or telephone: **01296 425678** or visit **www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk** Fax your entry to **01296 426134** or e-mail: **info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk**



Old House Grounds.
Photograph courtesy of Alexander Turner

Britain in Bloom

The Town Council was awarded a Silver Medal at its first attempt for the Britain in Bloom competition last year. The judges visited a number of gardens, allotment sites, residential areas, public areas, etc., and considered criteria such as biodiversity, floral displays, environmental issues and community involvement.

You too can do your bit to make Aylesbury more beautiful by using the bins provided for the disposal of litter and cigarette stubs.



Vale Park. Photograph courtesy of Alexander Turner



Florence Nightingale Hospice

Bring some colour into their lives – show off your garden to the public

Do you have a garden that you might consider opening to the public to bring some tranquillity in the lives of the residents as well as to raise funds for the Friends of Florence Nightingale House?

The Friends have pledged to raise £450,000 to support patients cared for at Florence Nightingale Hospice, and are looking for any help towards this.

If you feel you can help by opening your garden to the public or by any other means, please contact Susan Cato, the Fundraising Manager, on 01296 429975.

Educational Partnerships

Aylesbury Town Council is working with local schools and Aylesbury College on a number of projects. In three local schools garden plots have been created and are now being used by the children to grow a varied selection of vegetables. In two of these schools existing biodiversity areas are being enhanced by further planting and the installation of bird and bat boxes.

Working with the arts and horticultural sections of Aylesbury College a number of projects are underway. The horticultural section has taken over an allotment on the Crown Leys site. Both the Art and Horticultural Teams are working together in partnership with Aylesbury Town Council on an innovative arts project which will be sited in Aylesbury Town as part of the Britain in Bloom campaign.

In the future it is hoped that a programme of work placements can be created that will allow students to work with the Town Council's ground force.



Gardens at Aylesbury College cultivated by students

ARE YOU REGISTERED BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED?

If you are registered blind, a copy of this publication can be made available to you on CD. Please contact the Town Council on 01296 425678 or e-mail: info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

St. George's Day Celebrations

England's national saint, St. George, came to Aylesbury to rescue the traditional damsel in distress on Saturday 21st April this year. The play was enacted before an enthusiastic crowd and the children forming the participating audience were enchanted by the story, joining in vociferously at every chance. A jolly green dragon was more cuddly than scary but he still got his comeuppance from the hero. The fun day in Kingsbury, held in glorious sunshine, was organised by the Events Group of Aylesbury Town Council, led by Councillors Ray Ghent, Graham Webster, Mrs Joan Poole and Mrs Jenny Puddefoot.



Photograph courtesy of Ray Ghent

On Sunday 22nd April the largest gathering of Scouts that Aylesbury has seen in recent years mustered outside the Civic Centre in Aylesbury, where they were joined by members of the Town Council and other prominent people in the community. The parade marched to St. Mary's Church where a ceremony was held to re-dedicate the Colours and to re-affirm the Scout's promise. This year is the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the movement.



Photograph courtesy of Ray Ghent

Election 2007

The May elections brought several changes to the composition of the Town Council. The Council is very sad to bid goodbye to last year's Town Mayor, Cllr Niknam Hussain. He was an outstanding Mayor and put an enormous amount of effort into supporting the work of Aylesbury's community and voluntary groups and the Town's business sector. Also leaving the Town Council are Councillors Mrs Angela Turner, Mrs Joan Poole, Raj Khan, Julian Newman and Mohammed Nazir. Mrs Vivienne Young left some weeks ago when she relocated in Yorkshire.

The Council bids a very warm welcome to newly elected Councillors Mrs Jenny Bloom, Mrs Sue Chapple, Mrs Noreen O'Sullivan, Mrs Julie Ward, Amjad Mohammed and Brian Roberts, all of whom will be great assets for the Town.

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Have you ever wondered what the Town Council does?

Aylesbury Town Council is served by twenty-four ward Councillors who, in law, act as a corporate body making decisions for the benefit of the community. The Town Council works within the overall structure of local government to get the best deal for local people. Council meetings are managed by the Chairman, who is also the Town Mayor, with the support of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk implements the decisions of the Council and provides independent, objective and professional advice, information and administrative support to the Council.

The Council is an "it". In law Aylesbury Town Council is a single corporate body and decisions it takes are the responsibility of the Council as a whole. No individual councillor (including the chairman) can make a decision on behalf of the Council.

The Town Council is the tier of local government closest to the people of Aylesbury. The Town Council is there to look after the interests of local people and has an important role to play in supporting the local economies and community groups.

Law determines what the Council must do (its duties) and what it can choose to do (its powers), and what it cannot do.

Below is a list of some of the Town Council's functions:

- Management of six allotment sites (approximately 600 plots)
- Management of Aylesbury Cemetery
- Provision of dog litter bins
- Provision of litter bins
- Awards of small community grants
- Town Centre events and Civic Functions
- Scrutinising Planning Applications
- Town Hanging Baskets
- Maintenance of six central roundabouts
- Servicing of the Town Council's Committees and Working Groups

The Town Council hopes to manage other functions on your behalf sometime in the near future. These would include:

- Parks and open spaces
- Community Centres
- Grass/verge maintenance

Aylesbury Town Council is your Council. Its meetings are open to everyone to attend. Come along to find out what is happening in the town, and see how decisions are made by Councillors on your behalf.

Shirley Francis
Deputy Town Clerk



Travel problems?

If you would like to voice your opinion on the service being provided by the local bus and train operators, both good and bad, you can do so at the public meetings of the Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group. **The date of the next meeting is 10 July at 7.30 pm in County Hall (Tower Block), Aylesbury.**

If you have any issues regarding the Broughton Pastures area, please address them to the address below.

BROUGHTON PASTURES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chair: Alison Harrison, 15 Shaw Close,
Aylesbury, HP20 1JQ
Tel: (01296) 331974 Mobile: 07795 210808
e-mail: chair@hp20.org

History of Aylesbury Cemetery

'Levelling the ground' was the first entry, on 1 April 1858, in the Cemetery Superintendent's logbook for the newly opened Aylesbury Cemetery, and on 5 April he dug his first grave for 'Sarah Hedger, daughter of Charles and Sarah Hedger of Market Place, Aylesbury, just a few days old'.



Aylesbury Cemetery c 1900 © from the collections of Buckinghamshire County Museum

Cemeteries are one of the earliest examples of municipal open space areas, although justified by public health issues such as the cholera epidemics of the 1830s. Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries church graveyards were overflowing, which created insanitary conditions and spread disease, and St. Mary's in Aylesbury was no exception. The Burial Acts 1853 – 1859 empowered Burial Boards to establish civil burial grounds, and in 1855 the Aylesbury Burial Board was set up specifically to create the town's first cemetery in New Road (now Tring Road). In March 1858 the Bishop of Oxford consecrated the Church of England area of the cemetery.

Of course cemeteries had existed before 1853, but there was no national movement or legislation for cemetery creation. Instead, most were created by private companies, set up expressly to profit from interment of the dead. However, after the acts of the 1850s there was a boom in the creation of public cemeteries by Burial Boards run by parish vestries.

In many cases, chapels and layouts were designed by famous architects and landscape designers, incorporating elaborate entrance gates, chapels, lodges and catacombs, with sweeping drives

and trees lining drives and pathways, all typical of the Victorian era. Aylesbury was no exception and was in the forefront of Victorian design and architecture. The Burial Board commissioned Reading based architects W F Poulton & Woodman. Listed buildings credited to them include Wokingham Town Hall (1858), Batsford & Bourton on the Hill (both near Moreton on the Marsh) parish churches and the Le Sueur Monument in Jersey (1854). The architects planned ornamental gates and decorative walls, a lodge for the superintendent, a mortuary, and two chapels; one for Episcopalians and one for dissenters.

Victorian cemeteries were not only resting places for the dead. It was envisaged that townsfolk would spend a Sunday afternoon strolling in the grounds and, as towns expanded, these areas of green spaces became even more important.

In 1908 the cemetery management was transferred to Aylesbury Urban District Council and at that time serious consideration was given to extending the cemetery. In 1916 Aylesbury became a Borough and in January 1917 the administration was taken over by the Market, Allotments & Cemetery committee of the Aylesbury Town Council. A planned extension due to the 1914 – 18 war was delayed until 1921, when improvements, including public conveniences, were installed. A further extension was mooted in 1932 when allotments on land owned by Hazell Watson & Viney were identified as being suitable, but despite land being purchased in 1934 it was never used and remains allotments.

After the Second World War Aylesbury's population was expected to grow and more burial space would be needed. In 1954 the committee considered an extension incorporating a 'Garden of Rest' on land in Turnfurlong, and it was agreed that 1.85 acres should be developed as a 'Lawn Cemetery' with memorials limited in size. It would be a further 8 years before this extension would become reality and the extension included a car park with vehicular access from Turnfurlong, a lawn cemetery section and a Garden of Remembrance for cremated remains with landscaping including an ornamental pond. The work was carried out

by J S Bishop and Co Ltd for a cost of £8,314. In the summer of 1964 the cemetery extension was consecrated by The Bishop of Buckingham.

Because of the increasing numbers of cars in the 1960s, car parking space was needed on the Tring Road entrance, as it had been noted at a meeting of the Parks and Public Spaces Committee in May 1963 that unauthorised vehicles were parking on the forecourt. It was therefore agreed that the existing wall to the cemetery forecourt be demolished and rebuilt along the back of the footpath. The lodge was also causing some concern to the Borough. It was costly to maintain and was often empty. The elaborate chimneys had already been dismantled and in 1965 the lodge and entrance gates were finally demolished. Their demise went unnoticed in the mass demolition of old buildings in Aylesbury at that time despite the fact that they were part of the town's heritage and together with the chapels were part of a group of historically important buildings.

In 1974 AVDC took over management of the cemetery and, despite vandalism and a period of decay, a concerted effort was made to maintain the upkeep of the cemetery. Today it is administered by Aylesbury Town Council, and provides a welcome oasis of green and tranquillity close to the town centre.

Roger King



Photograph taken by Roger King

Fairtrade – what is it?

It means that the consumer is able to buy goods at better prices direct from farmers or producers, helping farmers to receive a fair price for their produce, thus improving their wellbeing. It was recognised that consumers could play a very important role in improving the wellbeing of producers. These are often poor farmers and producers, and by marketing their produce directly through fairtrade shops and catalogues, give consumers the opportunity to buy products on the basis of a "fair trade."

The Town Council is a Fairtrade Council, which means it will serve only Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and functions. The Town Council's next step will be to work with Aylesbury Fairtrade Initiative (AFTI), organisations, supermarkets, shops, restaurants and other retail outlets in order to promote Aylesbury as a Fairtrade Town.

Aylesbury Fairtrade Initiative (AFTI) was formed in 2005 to promote awareness of Fairtrade in Aylesbury and to pursue Aylesbury's bid to become a Fairtrade Town.

In 2006, AFTI, with the support of the Bucks Herald, introduced an award scheme for local businesses which make a commitment to Fairtrade. The first AFTI Fairtrade Business Award was presented to ESRI (UK) Ltd in May 2006.

AFTI is also introducing an Aylesbury Directory of Fairtrade Suppliers & Outlets to help people find where to buy fairly traded food, drink and gifts locally. AFTI Fairtrade Business Award winners will be listed in the directory along with local shops, cafés and restaurants which serve or sell Fairtrade products.

If your company has already made, or intends to make a commitment to Fairtrade, and would like to apply for the AFTI Fairtrade Business Award, or if you would like a representative from AFTI to visit your organisation to give a short talk to employees about the benefits of Fairtrade, please write to: AFTI, 44 Northfield Road, Aylesbury, HP20 1PB, or e-mail: afti.coordinator@ntlworld.com

Grants awarded to good causes



Chair of Grants Committee, Cllr Mrs Joan Poole, making a presentation to Oakfield Ladies

The Town Council recently awarded the following grants to good community causes:

Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers - £1,000. A leisure and learning project which benefits disabled people living in Aylesbury.

Songbird Productions - £1,000. A drama and production project that gives young people the opportunity to stage manage and star in a production of their own choice.

Aylesbury Rivets Bowls Club - £1,000. Funding towards the purchase of an automatic watering system for the playing surface.

Friends of Quarrendon School - £1,000. Funding towards costumes for a national dance competition.

Vale Volunteers - £1,000. Funding towards co-ordination of volunteer work.

Queens Park Centre - £1,000. Funding towards a pottery festival.

Time Out for Seniors (TOFS) - £300. Funding towards a summer event.

Aylesbury Credit Union - £1,000. Funding of equipment.

Aylesbury Cricket Club - £1,000. Ground maintenance equipment.

Aylesbury Vale Pregnancy Crisis Centre - £1,000. To provide literature, training and equipment.

If you feel your project would benefit from receiving a grant, contact Mrs P. Phillips on 425678 for further information or visit the website on www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

New Logo for the Town Council

Many groups working in partnership with the Town Council have suggested that they should show the Aylesbury Coat of Arms on their letterheads. Unfortunately the Town Council is not able to agree to this, as the Town's Coat of Arms should only be used by the Licensee, in this case the Town Council itself. Nevertheless, the Council would like to have a logo which could be used by the various organisations it co-operates with to show that they are working in partnership. When this idea was first suggested, some Councillors were concerned about the cost of commissioning a new design to represent the Town Council. This was reported in the Bucks Herald.

The Council was immediately contacted by Carl Dakin and Theresa Navarra of Fineye, a new graphics and design company in Aylesbury. They offered, as a gesture of goodwill to the Town, to create a range of logo designs free of charge. The Council was delighted with this offer. Carl and Theresa submitted their ideas, which were interesting and attractive and these were reported in the Bucks Herald. Since then a number of other designs have been offered to the Council, which will make its decision in September.

If you have an idea that you would like to put before the Council for consideration, please send your design, before the end of August, to Mrs M. Wagstaffe at Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP.

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY!

Date & Time: 26 July 2007, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm
Venue: Alfred Rose Park, Dunsham Lane, Aylesbury

Free activities for the children (bouncy castle, face painting, football shoot, arts & crafts)

Bring a Picnic

**Further Information: Future Inspiration,
Yasmin Younis 07734 528044**

Mayoralty

To be the Town Mayor you must first be voted onto the Council. The election of the Chairman is the first item on the Agenda and it is the Chairman who subsequently becomes the Town Mayor. The role of the Mayor is seen as one that is "closest to the public". Last year the Town Mayor, Cllr Niknam Hussain attended approximately 80 public events, in support of the work of voluntary organisations and local businesses.



Photograph courtesy of The Bucks Herald



Photograph courtesy of The Bucks Herald

Our photograph on the left shows last year's Town Mayor, Cllr Niknam Hussain, at the Buckinghamshire Stop Smoking Service campaign in Friars Square Shopping Centre in March 2007. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage smokers to pledge a quit date and use Stop Smoking Day as the opportunity to stop. Our photograph on the right shows the new town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, at the opening of the National Schoolwear Centre in Kingsbury Square.

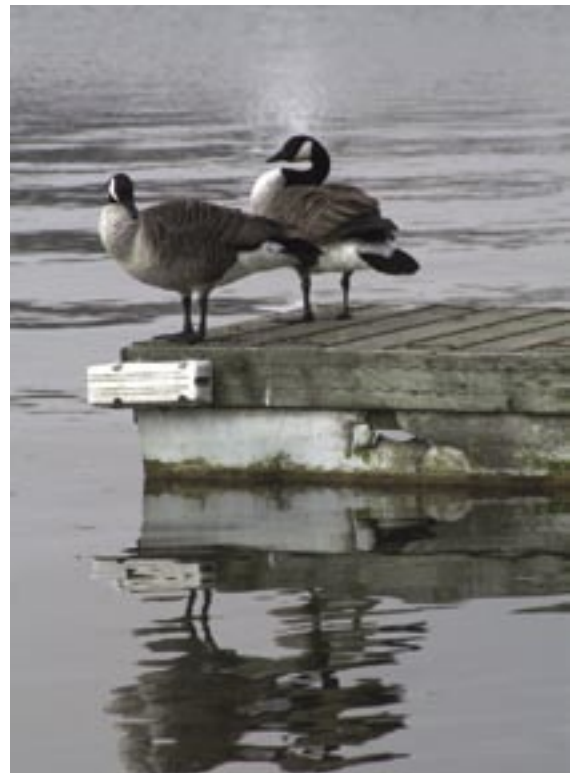
Judith Ashby
Mayor's Assistant

Aylesbury Ladies' Friendship Circle is a group set up to enable women of Aylesbury to widen their social circle. If you would like to join or to find out more information, please contact the Circle via the internet:
<http://groups.msn.com/Aylesbury-Ladies-Friendship-Circle> for further information.



Bucks Photography Group

These photos are an example of the work of the Bucks Photographic Society Co-ordinating Group of the e-photozine website. This group is led by Cllr Ray Ghent and meets once a month for an organised photo shoot. If you would like to join and go along for the experience, please contact Ray on 01296 489327. All photographs on this page are courtesy of Ray Ghent.



Aylesbury Credit Union

Aylesbury Credit Union (ACU) is a not-for-profit organisation, which offers high quality and low cost financial services to its members, in an effort to improve the financial wellbeing of the community.

It is run by members for members. Each member has an equal voting right, irrespective of the amount of their savings. It has a Board of Directors (elected at the AGM), a Credit Committee, and a Supervisory Committee whose responsibilities are set out in the Rule Book. All officers undertake over 65 hours of training approved by the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd. This is necessary to maintain accreditation and registration with the Registry of Friendly Societies and to satisfy the recent changes to the Financial Services Authority regulations for Credit Unions.

Aylesbury Credit Union offers the opportunity for regular saving and responsible borrowing to people whose accounts would be of little or no interest to the big banks. Many of our members have never had savings before. Loans are given in proportion to members savings and are taken out for such things as car repairs, or new cookers. There are instances of loans being used to pay rent arrears to prevent eviction, because the members had lost their jobs. It is an important alternative to loan sharks.

Membership is gradually increasing, and loans have been repaid without any bad debts. There is a very friendly atmosphere at the weekly collection points, which are held in community centres in Walton Court, Southcourt and Meadowcroft. Many savers become quite friendly with the unpaid volunteers and talk about their families, homes, and so on. Any member facing a potentially serious debt problem is recommended to contact AVDC's budget advice service.

During the last year Aylesbury Credit Union has moved office to the town centre, and opened a fourth collection point at The Healthy Living

Centre on Walton Court. As volunteers are recruited new collection points can be opened, although the common bond restriction placed on credit unions by the FSA does somewhat restrict expansion plans.

It is intended to carry out another campaign to attract new members this year, and it is hoped that some of these members will volunteer to undertake the rigorous training and stand as elected officers.

Public Pride

The Broad Leys Pub and Restaurant on the Wendover Road, Aylesbury, was recently nominated and actually got to the last six finalists for Pub Design of the Year, which is a national competition, run by 'The Publican'.

The current owners, Helen Wood and Andy Syrett, said "We are very proud of our achievements, as we are a small business. We did the design and paid for the work ourselves without any finance. Along the way, we have incorporated a lot of the pub's 16th century style, keeping as much as possible of the old materials as we could. We are currently redesigning the garden, and we are planning to enter the Aylesbury in bloom competition".

The couple are proud of their achievements and wish to share it with Aylesbury.

If you wish to find out more about them why not visit their website:

www.thebroadleysaylesbury.co.uk

Aylesbury Town Council Residents' Health Forum

Richard Mills, the Director for Systems Reform (including communications and future strategy) confirmed, at a meeting of the Health Forum held in early spring of this year, that the newly formed PCT has a combined budget of approximately £0.5 billion, £500m of which is to provide commissioned services such as GPs.

The PCT is responsible for 61 practices, 341 GPs, other support services, 5 community hospitals and provider services (i.e. drug, mental health and sexual health services). Some questions raised at the meeting:

Q1. Prevention is better than cure, and health education is necessary, therefore would not a health MOT be desirable?

A. Not all MOT tests are clear and informative and it has been found more anxiety can be caused than the benefit provided from regular health checks.

Q2. Are GPs becoming more impersonal in their care? Should not the accident and emergency department (A&E) at hospitals take the initiative to turn people away that do not require A&E services? Should not time wasters at A&E be charged?

A. People are not always aware of the services pharmacies can provide and how to access doctors out of hours. A&E cannot send people away.

Q3. Community nursing has been cut. Surely community services should be increased to relieve the pressure on GPs and hospitals?

A. Services have been reduced because of budget restrictions. The PCT hope to rebuild the services to meet the needs of the local population.

Please address any health issues you wish to be raised on your behalf to your local ward councillor.

Did you know that there is going to be a carnival on 15th September in Southcourt and Walton Court?



The Healthy Living Centre – in conjunction with a number of local partners – is planning a carnival this year to celebrate the local community and its history. The history of the area can be traced back to the early 1800s when two farms were located there and have now given their names to the local estates of Walton Court and Southcourt. From 1853 – 1926 a huge racecourse ran along the site from what is now known as Hartwell End through to the railway line. The first houses in the area were built in the 1890s for the railway workers just off the Stoke Road.

There will be a fun day on the Walton Court Playing Fields and a parade that will cover the last one hundred years of the local area and will incorporate key points of interest. The parade will cover history from around the world.

1900 – 1920 World War I, flappers, the local race course, railway workers and the new homes which were built for war veterans and were called "Houses for Heroes". The local POW camp called "Hartwell Dog Track Camp".

1930 – 1950 World War II and the local printing works

1960 – 1970 Punks, flower power, etc.

1980 – Present and the future

Everyone can get involved. There are free courses on costume design, costume making, make up, hair design, painting in public places, etc.

Carnival organisers are looking for musicians and dance groups to liven up our procession.

Contact Diana at the Healthy Living Centre on 01296 334562 or 07795 413295 if you would like to learn a skill, have a skill that you would like to share with others, or would like a stall.

Energy Efficiency

Are you using more energy than you need?

Are you using energy inefficiently?

Homes today contain more household appliances than three decades ago - microwaves, washing machines, fridges and freezers, TVs and videos (with multiple sets in many homes), computers and games machines. Imagine the amount of electricity needed to power these appliances.

Each year video recorders and televisions in the UK consume around £150m worth of electricity while on standby, and our homes have increasing numbers of electrical appliances and chargers for mobile phones permanently plugged in.

Electricity needs fossil fuel (oil and coal). Atomic energy needs the dangerous uranium. The processing of fossil fuel and uranium contributes to global warming.

You could do your bit to safeguard the planet by:

- Buying energy efficient products such as energy saving light bulbs
- Buying energy efficient electrical goods
- Not using your car for that short journey
- Not leaving TVs on standby
- Not leaving lights switched on
- Turning down your heating by a few degrees

Energy is often wasted because of poorly insulated buildings or where heating, ventilation, air conditioning and lighting are poorly controlled, or simply because we cannot be bothered to be more efficient.

For more information on energy efficiency please visit the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy, or speak to your gas or electricity supplier. Details on energy efficient appliances can be obtained from 'Which?' magazine.

Shirley Francis
Deputy Town Clerk

Kidney Research Appeal

As a charity the Kidney Research Appeal has limited resources and heavily relies on the goodwill of the public and individuals.

Over 3 million people in the UK, including residents of Aylesbury, will have their lives threatened by chronic kidney disease. The Charity has an ongoing need to fund research and to provide care for kidney patients and your contribution to the Charity's vital work is much appreciated.

If you need any further information on fundraising please call Elizabeth Wright, Community Fundraising Manager - Seven Shires, Kidney Research UK
T: 01933 650284, M: 07790 151983,
E: elizabethwright@kidneyresearchuk.org

Please visit the website at:
www.kidneyresearchuk.org

Organising an Event?

If you are organising an event for your community or activity group and would like some free publicity, why not put a notice in 'Aylesbury Town Matters'?

If you are interested please contact Shirley Francis, Deputy Town Clerk at Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP.

Call on 01296 425678 or email:
s.francis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



A day in the life of Aylesbury's Number One Commercial Radio Station

5.30 am: Nathan & Penny arrive at the Friars Square Studios on Bourbon Street, Aylesbury and prepare for the Breakfast Show. They are 'On Air' from 6.00 am until 9.00 am with local news, great music and interesting debate and observations. During the show listeners will call to play competitions, tell the presenters of any travel problems that have cropped up during the morning and join in the conversations too.

At 9.00 am the rest of the office staff arrive and get ready for their day. Currently Mix 96 has 4 people in the sales team and 6 in full time Programming. Between 9.00 am and 10.00 am Nathan plays ten songs from one year and gives clues out too so listeners can try to guess the year in 'The Time of Your Life'.

During the day, the Sales Team visit clients and liaise with the Programming Team about promotions and forthcoming competitions. Researchers Penny & Harriet compile local news stories by contacting the emergency services and press agencies and also responding to leads sent in to the Station. Matt is on the radio between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm followed by 'Hits & Headlines Drive' presented by Pete Denton, then the Evening Show with Fiona and The Late Show with Tony. Most of the staff have lunch on the go and the early starters go home at about 2.00 pm.

There is always a real buzz around the site. Radio is great fun and when there is lot of creativity in one place the atmosphere is great to work

in. All the staff of Mix 96 appreciate how lucky they are to work in the industry and do their best to provide the local news, information and entertainment our listeners need.

FOND FAREWELLS

Mix 96 has recently said goodbye to Richard Carr, the Station's popular presenter. Richard has moved to MKTV to host the Breakfast Show. He is much missed but Aylesbury's loss is Milton Keynes' gain. With his warmth, bubbly personality and wit Richard is sure to go a long way in television.

Sadly, Rachel Faulkner is also leaving Mix 96 after 6 years running Aylesbury's very successful local radio station. Rachel joined Mix 96 in 2001, having previously worked at radio stations in Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Rachel said "I'm very sad to be leaving Mix 96. I'm very grateful to all the people I've worked with, both in the station and the local area – it's been a lot of fun." Aylesbury will miss Rachel too, as she has made a great contribution to the Station. Rachel leaves to help launch a new radio station in Oxfordshire called Jack FM.



Broughton Junior School

Broughton Junior School PTA is holding a Summer Fun Day at the school on **Saturday 30 June 2007** and would like to invite you to join them for events and refreshments. For more information contact Mandy Chetland c/o Broughton Junior School, Broughton Avenue, Aylesbury HP20 1NQ Tel: 01296 423276 or email: office@broughton.bucks.sch.uk



Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Action Partnership

Quarrendon Ward Residents' Forum

In 2000, with considerable help from Thames Valley Partnership, AVDC and the Thames Valley Police, Cllr Ray Ghent was able to provide a residents forum which enables the local community to attend regular monthly meetings where they have the opportunity to voice their concerns and problems.

In addition, each month a visiting guest speaker attends to bring information or advice to the Quarrendon community. Guest speakers have given presentations which have ranged from 'Drug Abuse' to 'Leisure Facilities' and from 'Local Area Flood Plain Control' to 'Housing Maintenance'.

From time to time, initiatives are conducted to improve the local environment. Q&MCAP has been successful in obtaining amongst other things, an additional all-weather play surface and equipment in Meadowcroft and traffic calming along Meadowcroft. It is currently investigating the refurbishment of an open space that is habitually used as an area for fly-tipping. If successful this area will be put forward to the "Britain in Bloom" event in a bid to be awarded a certificate of commendation for the work carried out.

Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Action Partnership, chaired by Cllr Ray Ghent, with assistance from Jules Goodridge VAHT, now has 84 community members and some of these attend from neighbouring wards. The meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre on the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of August when a large majority of people are on holiday. In December the meeting becomes a Christmas Party where members enjoy some seasonal music, a 'drink and a bite' and take part in a light hearted quiz.



With the undeniable success of this style of forum, it has been rewarding that the idea has been copied in other areas, including Durham, Newcastle, Liverpool and as far away as New Zealand.

"I genuinely believe", said Cllr Ghent, "that it is important for the local community to get involved in projects which enhance their quality of life, to bring to the attention of the various agencies their concerns and ideas for improving the local area and create a sense of pride and respect for the area in which they live".

Aylesbury Town Councillors



Cllr Mrs
Jenny Bloom
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr
Alan Sherwell
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr
Graham Webster
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr Mrs
Penni Thorne
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr
Steven Mitchell
Ward: Central



Cllr Mrs
Denise Summers
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr Mrs
Sue Chapple
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr
Mark Willis
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr
Roger Surguy
Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Mrs
Pat Jamieson
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr
Tuffail Hussain
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Mrs
Jenny Puddefoot
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Mrs
Julie Ward
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr
Amjad Mohammed
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr
Steve Patrick
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr
Brian Roberts
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr Mrs
Freda Roberts MBE JP
Ward: Southcourt



Cllr
David Ralph
Ward: Southcourt



Cllr
Zulifqar Ahmed
Ward: Oxford Rd



Cllr
Mike Smith
Ward: Oxford Rd



Cllr Mrs
Ranjula Takodra
Ward: Walton Court



Cllr
Ray Ghent
Ward: Quarrendon



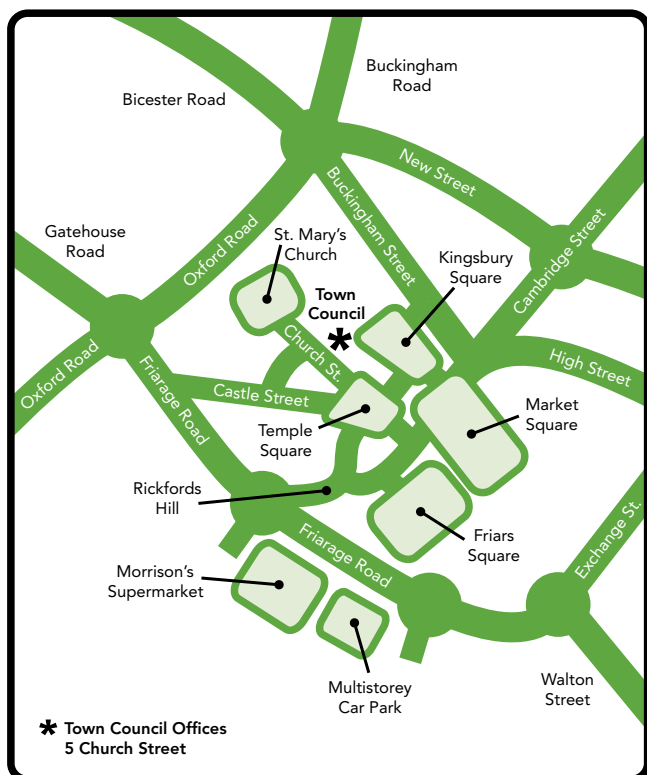
Cllr Mrs
Noreen O'Sullivan
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr
Kevin Peters
Ward: Gatehouse

Contacting your Councillor

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Noreen O'Sullivan	07796 804676	n.osullivan@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Kevin Peters	07989 892896	k.peters@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Where to find the Town Council

Members of the public are always welcome at the Town Council offices, however, as we are located through an archway, some people have found us difficult to find.

If you would like to come in and see us, go to Church Street in the Old Town. Bucks County Museum is our next door neighbour, at number 3 Church Street. We are through the archway at number 5 Church Street and once you have walked through the archway our door is directly facing you.

If you have an issue or problem you would like to discuss, do please call in to see us. You will be very welcome!

Margaret Wagstaffe

Dates for your Diary Town Centre events for 2007

Artists at Work

9th June, 10.00 am
Aylesbury Tourist Information Centre
(Tel: 01296 330559 for more info.)

Freedom Parade

Sunday 17th June
Buckinghamshire (The Rifles) Army Cadet
Force, Parade and Re-Badge Ceremony
Church Service at St. Mary's Church,
Aylesbury, 12.00 noon.

Parade starts from St. Mary's Church at
1.10 pm and into Market Square for
Inspection and Re-Badge Ceremony,
followed by the March Past.

Italian Market

Friday and Saturday 22nd and 23rd June
Kingsbury

Farmers' Market Bonanza

1st July, 12.00 noon
Kingsbury

Art Exhibition

6th July - 14th July
10.00 am - 6.00 pm (free admission)
The King's Head, Market Sq, Aylesbury

Roald Dahl Festival

Saturday 7th July
Aylesbury Town Centre

Wilkes Tea Party

Sunday 8th July
Prebendal House

Aylesbury Summer Fun Day

Sunday 15th July
Kingsbury

Farmers' Markets

26th July, Market Square
1st July (Tel: 07976 729455 for more info.)
24th July, Market Square
28th August, Market Square
25th September, Market Square

Aylesbury Street Festival

Saturdays throughout the Summer
in the Town Centre:
28th July, 4th August, 11th August
18th August, 25th August, 1st September
Musical entertainment in the
Market Square

William Shakespeare in Kingsbury

29th July, 2.00 pm
Hamlet

Summer Sunday Events

in Kingsbury and Market Square
5th August: Music
12th August: Music
19th August: Music

Hobble on the Cobbles

Sunday 26th August
Market Square

Park Life

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September
Vale Park

Proms in the Park

Saturday 1st September
Vale Park

William Shakespeare in Kingsbury

2nd September, 2.00 pm
Midsummer Nights Dream

Dates for your Diary Town Centre events for 2007

Heritage Open Day

Saturday 8th September, 10.00 am
Buildings Open and Tours.
Friends Meeting House, Rickfords Hill
Masonic Hall, Ripon Street
Kings Head Tours

Charter Day & Tudor Fayre

Sunday 9th September
Mediaeval fun in the market place

Oyster Workshop

Saturday 15th September, 10.00 am
Kingsbury

Courts Carnival

Saturday 15th September
Procession starts at 12 noon
Edinburgh Playing Fields

Oyster and Craft Fair

Sunday 23rd September
Market Square

Half-term Special Farmers' Market

Tuesday 23rd October
Market Square

Half-term Inflatables Fun

Wednesday 24th or Friday 26th October
Kingsbury
Climbing wall and bungee trampoline

Royal British Legion Official Poppy Launch

Saturday 27th October 2007
Friars Square

'Ghouls 'n' Villains'

Wednesday 31st October
Halloween tour of Aylesbury Town Centre...
...and Shakespeare too!

Christmas Light Switch On

Thursday 15th November
Market Square

Santa's Arrival

Sunday 18th November
Market Square

Charity Market

Saturday 25th November
Market Square

Christmas Gift and Craft Fair

Sunday 2nd December
Market Square

Traditional Continental Market

Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and
Sunday 9th December
Kingsbury

Christmas Farmers' Market

Sunday 9th December
Market Square

Festive Fun in Kingsbury

Saturday and Sunday 15th and
16th December
Ice rink, stalls, street theatre

Town Centre Carol Concert

Thursday 20th December
Market Square

Contact

If you would like any further information on anything in this magazine, or if you would like to contribute to the next issue, please contact: Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk at Aylesbury Town Council Offices, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP20 2QP Tel: 01296 425678 or email: m.wagstaffe@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

and Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Members and Staff of Aylesbury Town Council for their help in the production of this magazine.

Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk

Your Council Tax for 2007 – 08

Some facts about your Council Tax Bill

For every £1 of the Council Tax you pay, 1 penny is taken by Aylesbury Town Council!

The rest goes to Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) which takes about 74p, Aylesbury Vale District Council (about 11p), the Police (about 10p), and the Fire Service (about 4p).

The Government supports the two other Councils, Police and Fire Service by giving them additional money through Government Grants and the Business Rate. The Town Council does not receive any money from the Government and so must raise all its money through the Council Tax.

A band D property in Aylesbury will pay about 69p a week (**about the cost of a can of coke**) towards the Town Council, or just under £36 for the year. For the next financial year Aylesbury Town Council is asking the people of Aylesbury for £640,000. Compare this with Bucks County Council, which costs about £60,000,000 a year!

The money raised is used by the Town Council to look after the interests of the people of Aylesbury, and of Aylesbury alone. It can also be used by the Town Council to obtain match funding from some of the big funds, and when that happens your weekly 69 pence can be turned into £2.00.

Climate – it's the pace of change that should concern us

It is not unusual for the earth's average temperature to rise or fall over tens of thousands of years. However, climate scientists consider it 'very likely' that global warming is now being accelerated by the high volumes of man-made carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere. The ten warmest years on record have all occurred since 1995. Computer models explain this pace of warming only when man-made CO₂ is taken into account.

Whilst scientists predict that rapid climate changes will cause global difficulties in adapting, energy saving is something positive we can all do to prolong the availability of finite natural resources which will help us to adapt. Reducing CO₂ emissions is as straightforward as insulating our homes, switching off lights and taking our foot off the accelerator.

**For more energy saving information, contact the
Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012.**

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