

# Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine  
Issue Four February 2007



Bringing information that matters to the people of Aylesbury

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



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'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

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Buckinghamshire HP20 2QP

Telephone: **01296 425678**  
Facsimile: **01296 426134**  
Email: [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

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

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

Cover photograph: this year sees the  
250th Anniversary of the election of John  
Wilkes as MP for Aylesbury.

## Welcome Note

Welcome to the fourth edition of Aylesbury Town Matters.

In this issue we have articles about John Wilkes, elected MP for Aylesbury in 1757. Wilkes has sometimes been called the 'Father of English Liberty' since his courageous stance on many issues of individual liberty earned him a prison sentence, but later brought about changes in English Law.

We also have news on the Neighbourhood Action Groups, and appeals from the Samaritans and the South Central Ambulance Service Patient Public Involvement Forum, who both need more volunteers.

There is a report on why the Town Council and the Town Centre Partnership support events in the Town Centre, an article on recycling and a new, expanded list of dates for your diary.

If you or your group have any forthcoming events for which you would like free publicity, please let us know and we shall do our best to help.

We hope you will enjoy this issue.

Cllr. Steve Patrick  
Leader of the Council

## 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 Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk at Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP; call on 01296 425678 or email: [m.wagstaffe@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:m.wagstaffe@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Member of English Historic Towns Forum  
and Twinned with Bourge-en-Bresse**

## Community Grants awarded by Aylesbury Town Council in December 2006

In December 2006 ATC Grants Committee allocated the following sums:

**Haywood Way Senior Club:** The Senior Citizens Club was awarded **£225.00** towards taking members to Wickstead Park to celebrate the Club's 15th Birthday.

**Aylesbury & District Citizens Advice Bureau:** **£1,000.00** was granted towards the cost of training advisers on benefits, employment issues, debt management, etc.



Councillor Joan Poole presents a cheque for £1,000.00 to Aylesbury & District Citizens Advice Bureau.  
Photo taken by Ken Poole

**St. John Men's Club:** Held one day a week for men with mental health problems, they requested a grant to help buy TV equipment. They were awarded **£500.00**.

**Autumn Leaf Club:** **£294.00** for funding towards a Christmas meal for members.

**National Association of Widows** received **£101.15** towards the cost of a visit to David Austin Roses for their members.

**Indian Cultural Society:** **£795.00** was granted towards a Diwali function. The aim of the society is to reinforce social cohesion and to promote awareness of Indian culture and heritage in the population of Aylesbury and surrounding areas.

**Oakfield Ladies:** **£250.00**. A new club for Senior Citizens is to be set up to provide information and entertainment for elderly residents, and to raise revenues for charity.



Councillor Mark Willis presents a cheque to Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.  
Photo taken by Keith Turner

**Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust:** **£1,000.00** towards Helicopter Emergency Medical Service for the Thames Valley area. Since the launch in 1999 the helicopter has flown over 1,000 missions each year and saved many lives.

**Space, St. Mary's Church:** **£790.00** towards the Sunday afternoon 'Drop in' sessions. Space provides day-to-day support for people with relationship issues and others who struggle with life, many of whom suffer from stress and mental health problems. It encourages integration back into the community.

**Aylesbury Development Education Centre:** **£1,000.00** grant towards the cost of running workshops to impart knowledge and understanding of environmental issues, globalisation, interdependence and sustainable development to young people.

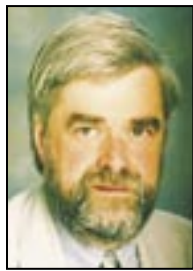
**Tuesday Tots @ Granville Street:** A new friendly and inexpensive Mother & Toddler Group. **£492.74** towards start-up costs, for play equipment and storage needed.

If you belong to a non-profit making organisation which provides a service for a section of the community, you may qualify for a grant. Please contact Mrs. Pat Phillips at Aylesbury Town Council Offices, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP, telephone 01296 425678 or email: [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) for application forms or further information.

## Aylesbury Town Councillors



Cllr.  
**Julian Newman**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Alan Sherwell**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Graham Webster**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Penni Thorne**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Steven Mitchell**  
Ward: Central



Cllr.  
**Denise Summers**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr.  
**Niknam Hussain**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr.  
**Mark Willis**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr.  
**Roger Surguy**  
Ward: Walton Court



Cllr.  
**Pat Jamieson**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr.  
**Tuffail Hussain**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr.  
**Jenny Puddefoot**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr.  
**Joan Poole**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr.  
**Raj Khan**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr.  
**Steve Patrick**  
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr.  
**Angela Turner**  
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr.  
**Freda Roberts MBE JP**  
Ward: Southcourt



Cllr.  
**David Ralph**  
Ward: Southcourt



Cllr.  
**Zulifqar Ahmed**  
Ward: Oxford Rd



Cllr.  
**Mike Smith**  
Ward: Oxford Rd



Cllr.  
**Ranjula Takodra**  
Ward: Walton Court



Cllr.  
**Ray Ghent**  
Ward: Quarrendon



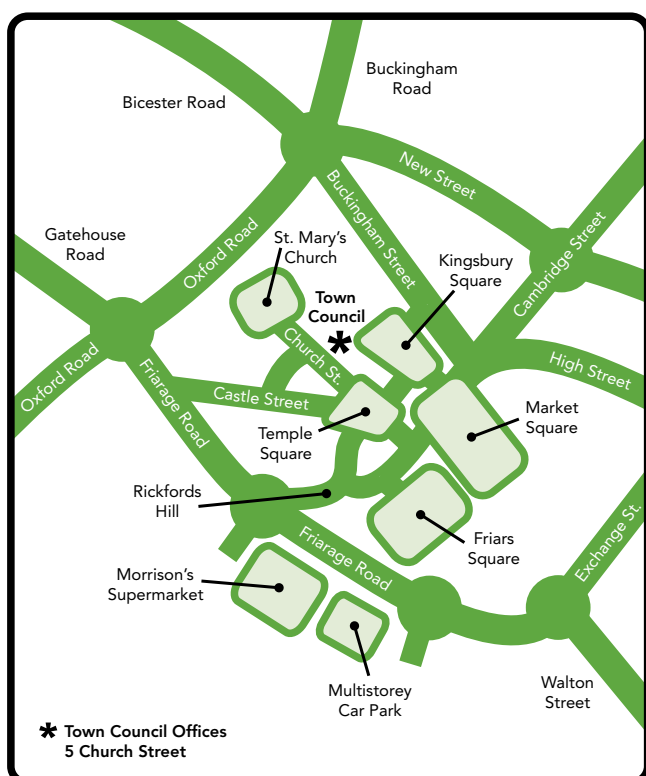
Cllr.  
**Mohammed Nazir**  
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr.  
**Viv Young**  
Ward: Gatehouse

## Contacting your Councillor

COUNCILLOR	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL
Julian Newman	01296 425678	julian.newman@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
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Viv Young	01296 718882 or 0786 661 6910	vivj80@yahoo.co.uk



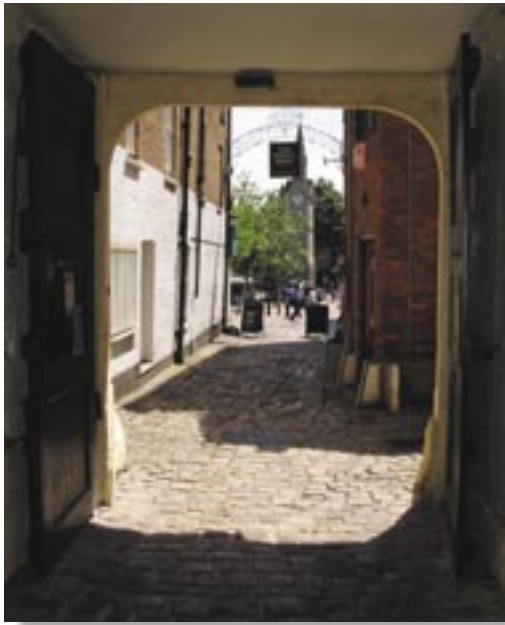
## Where to find the Town Council

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



## Our thanks to Bill Proctor and Mix 96

During 2006 Mix 96 invited their listeners to send in photographs taken locally to feature in their 2007 Desk Calendar. The CD style calendar was produced by local printers Driftgate Press and includes photographs taken in Kingsbury, Market Square, Watermead, Broughton and Bedgrove. This picture of the Market Square from the Kings Head was one of the entries. It was taken by Bill Proctor of Wendover and is reprinted by kind permission of Mix 96.

Mix 96 is offering a free calendar to 25 readers of Aylesbury Town Matters. Just send your name and address to:  
Mix 96, Friars Square Studio, 11 Bourbon Street,  
Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2PZ.

## Chiltern Samaritans needs volunteers – could you listen to people and save lives?

In 1953 Samaritans took its first call after the founder Chad Varah realised the value of trained individuals giving time to listen in complete confidence to people in distress and crisis. Samaritans was the first 24 hour telephone helpline to be set up in the UK.

Over fifty years later Samaritans are still providing a much needed service and receive over 5 million contacts per year, mainly by telephone but also by personal visits, email, text and letter.

Samaritans' vision is that fewer people will die by suicide because we are available at any time of the day or night to provide confidential, emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those that may lead to suicide.



Samaritans' volunteers operate from over 200 branches throughout the country with over 500 telephone helplines operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Chiltern Samaritans, covering 400,000 people in South and Central Bucks, was established in Amersham in 1969 as an independent registered charity affiliated to the national Samaritan organisation. The branch is run entirely by unpaid volunteers. In 2005 we received over 31,000 contacts by telephone, visits to our centre and e-mail.

To continue our work we need new volunteers to operate our emergency telephone lines on a 24 hour, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year basis. Excellent training and support is given to all volunteers. You will always work with at least one other volunteer and a supervisor available by phone. In each six week period we ask our volunteers to commit to four, three hour duties and one overnight duty at our comfortable well equipped centre in Station Road Amersham.

If you would like to know more about the valuable and rewarding work of Samaritans call us on **01494 432000** and ask for details of our next information evening or visit the Samaritans website at: [www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

## 'Heart and Sole'

### Health Walks in Aylesbury Vale, Winter / Spring 2007

Get fit and meet people on these free, led walks in the Aylesbury Vale area. All that you need is to turn up at the meeting point wearing comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. All walk leaders are trained volunteers, more are required. If you are interested in volunteering as a walk leader please contact Joe Houston at Aylesbury Vale District Council Tel: 01296 585173 or email: [jhouston@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:jhouston@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

#### **AYLESBURY**

**Bedgrove** – every Tuesday, 12.15pm

**2 January to 24 April (resumes 1 May)**

Easy walks, buggy friendly and take 30-45 minutes and **Bedgrove** – Fridays, 11.00am (fortnightly)

**12 & 26 January, 9 & 23 February, 9 & 23 March, 13 & 27 April (resumes 11 May)**

These walks are up to 4 miles long, may use stiles and take 1hour/1hour 20 minutes. Both walks start outside the Post Office, Jansel Square, Bedgrove.

**Walton Court** – every Tuesday

**12 noon, 9 January to 24 April**

Easy walks, buggy friendly and take 30-45 minutes. Walks start from the Healthy Living Centre, Walton Court Shopping Centre, Hannon Road.

#### **HADDENHAM**

**Sundays, 2.00pm (once a month) country walks, 14 January, 11 February, 4 March, 8 April**

These are up to 4 miles long, on footpaths in the countryside (for which suitable footwear and clothing is needed) and take about 2 hours. Meet outside the Library, Banks Road, Haddenham.

#### **WENDOVER**

**Every Tuesday, 10.00am, 9 January to 27 March (resumes 17 April)**

Gentle walks that take 45 minutes – 1 hour. Meet outside the Clock Tower, High Street.

#### **Wendover Woods**

**Thursdays, 11.00am (once a month)**

**4 January, 1 February, 1 March, 5 April (take approx. 45 mins to 1 hour)**

Quite easy, buggy friendly walks, with some gentle inclines. Meet at café by main car park. £2.00 car parking fee.

Vale of Aylesbury   
Primary Care Trust



## An opportunity to get involved

**Are you retired, or working part-time?  
Are you unemployed, or a full-time mum?  
Are you employed, but want to get  
more out of life?**

If you fit into any of these categories, you are over 18, have a few hours a week to spare and you would like to do something positive to benefit the community, perhaps you'd like to think about joining a Patient Public Involvement (PPI) Forum?

PPI Forums monitor and advise the Primary Care, Hospital and Ambulance Trusts on how they deliver their service to the community. They are the voice of the public, with statutory powers to ensure that they are taken seriously by the N.H.S.

Forum members are volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of their fellow citizens. The only recompense they receive (apart from expenses) is the satisfaction of knowing that they can really make a difference.

**If you would like to know more about  
Forum Membership in Milton Keynes &  
Buckinghamshire, please call 01908 266696 or  
email: [info@ppi-mk.co.uk](mailto:info@ppi-mk.co.uk) for the Primary Care,  
or Hospital Forums, or 01993 886643 or  
email: [sandybriscoe@oacppih.org](mailto:sandybriscoe@oacppih.org) for the  
Ambulance Forum.**

Dear Sirs

The South Central Ambulance Service Patient Public Involvement Forum is made up of a group of volunteers who feel passionately about our Ambulance Service. Following the recent re-configuration of the Ambulance Service, they now have the huge task of monitoring an Ambulance Trust that stretches from Milton Keynes to Southampton, covering 4 counties, and 12 unitary authorities.

At the moment they have only 3 members living in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, and feel that in order to represent Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes properly they need to recruit more members from this area.

**Mike Gower, Forum Support Officer,  
P.P.I. Forum Support Office, 6 Burners Lane,  
Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes, MK11 3HB  
01908 266696, [mike.gower@ppi-mk.co.uk](mailto:mike.gower@ppi-mk.co.uk)**

## 'For Wilkes and Liberty!'

### 250th Anniversary of the Election of John Wilkes as Member of Parliament for Aylesbury

This year 2007 will see the 250th Anniversary of the election of John Wilkes as the Member of Parliament for Aylesbury. He was one of the most colourful figures in English political history and 1757 saw the beginning of his career, here in Aylesbury. He is remembered as the father of the British free press and a defender of civil and political liberties.



Statue of John Wilkes by James Butler in Fetter Lane in the City of London

In the spring of 1757, an opportunity arose for Wilkes to stand for Parliament when William Pitt, a future first minister and brother-in-law of Richard Grenville, Earl Temple of Stowe, decided he preferred to represent Bath, instead of Oakhampton. This left a vacancy in Devon which was taken up by one of the two MP's for Aylesbury, Thomas Potter, a rich "libertine" son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury. Potter had introduced Wilkes to various debaucheries and the Hellfire Club – but that's another story! So there was to be a by-election at Aylesbury.

By that time, Wilkes had become a pillar of the community in Aylesbury. In 1752, five years

after his marriage, his in-laws, the Mead and Sherbrooke families, had amended the marriage agreement and allowed Wilkes 'husband's rights' to the ownership of the property his wife Mary had brought to the marriage. He had been made High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1754; he was also a Justice of the Peace, a churchwarden, a feoffee of the Grammar School, and a trustee of the turnpike. He had built up a large collection of books in his library at Prebendal House (almost half were in Latin, Greek and French), carried out improvements on the house and gardens, and lived the public life of an educated gentleman. Although not a scientist, he was elected a member of the Royal Society; became a member of the Sublime Society of Beef Steaks (a men's club notorious for indecent conversation) and a governor of the Foundling Hospital in London.

But by 1756 his marriage was failing and the Mead-Sherbrookes were tired of worrying about their daredevil, profligate, playboy son-in-law. They negotiated a separation agreement, with Wilkes gaining all the property and also custody of his 6 year-old daughter Polly. In the winter of 1757, his wife Mary had refused to nurse their daughter, when following the new practice of preventative inoculation, she had contracted smallpox – and this had finally severed their relationship.

In April 1757 Wilkes began his campaign for the by-election. John Dell of the Aylesbury brewing family became his agent, despite being one of the four returning officers who counted the vote, and who had been appointed by Wilkes. (As the owner of Prebendal House, Wilkes had the right to appoint two returning officers).

There was one additional candidate for the election: Edward Willes, the brother of the other Aylesbury MP John Willes. Wilkes and his supporters embarked on a canvas, calling on about 400 voters (all men of property which returned at least £40 per annum) to ask how they would vote. But many residents also farmed rented land, and voted as their landlords wished, more out of courtesy than fear. But the voting was



public and they prudently chose not to risk their livelihood. So the Willes voters were ignored and Wilkes concentrated on those who might vote for him.

At that time in many constituencies votes were exchanged for favours or hard cash. Aylesbury was a notoriously venal constituency where votes were sold to the candidate who would pay most. Bribes varied between £1 and £5, substantial sums at a time when an annual income for a voter might be £60 or £70. This "lending" continued until the 1832 Reform Act ended such practices.

About a quarter of the electors had promised, without any financial incentive, to vote for Wilkes, but he also paid out a guinea (£1.05) apiece to some 250 "mercenaries". Then Edward Willes withdrew from the contest, and on 6 July 1757 the returning officers announced that John Wilkes had been elected an MP for Aylesbury without opposition. He rushed off to the White Hart adjacent to the new Shire Hall where he had organised a feast for his voters.

On 1 December 1757 Wilkes took his seat in the House of Commons and his amazing political career began: a career that would see him arrested, outlawed, banished, tried, imprisoned, engaged in duels, and elected Lord Mayor of London. His personal history was a long fight for liberty: it secured a free press; the right to privacy; freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, and the prohibition of non-specific arrest warrants.

S Mitchell

*This article draws heavily from an excellent and very readable new biography of John Wilkes, written by Professor Emeritus Arthur H Cash of the State University of New York. The book John Wilkes - the Scandalous Father of Civil Liberty by Arthur H Cash, published by Yale University Press, is in stock at Waterstone's bookshop in Friars Square.*

*Aylesbury Town Council is planning an event early in July to mark this important landmark in the history of the Town. The anniversary coincides with the annual Roald Dahl festival, based at the Bucks Museum, and the two celebrations should provide a fascinating experience for residents and visitors alike.*

## Neighbourhood Residents Association

Aylesbury is fortunate in having a large number of Residents' Associations and Groups that are currently working on behalf of the residents of Aylesbury. However, they would welcome new members who are able to contribute new ideas, or simply to go along to meetings to hear what is being done on their behalf. If you would like to join, or you have any problems or ideas, please contact the Chairman of your local Residents' Association listed below.

### Quarrendon & Meadowcroft:

R Ghent, 2 Scott End, Haydon Hill,  
Aylesbury, HP19 8SE Tel: 01296 489327

### Elmhurst:

Mr J Norris, 70 Dunsham Lane, Aylesbury.  
Tel: 01296 393418

### Bedgrove:

Mrs P Thorne, 86 Bedgrove, Aylesbury.  
Tel: 01296 422232

### Hartwell:

Mr G Dicker, 78 Rowland Way, Aylesbury.  
Tel: 07849 736570

### Oakfield North:

Mrs L Kennedy, 36 Douglas Road,  
Aylesbury. Tel: 01296 331944

### Aylesbury Old Town:

Mr James Crafts, 3 Ripon Street,  
Aylesbury. Tel: 01296 424827

### Estate Action Group

#### (Southcourt/Walton Court):

Miss Bailey, 64 Penn Road, Aylesbury.

### Prebendal Farm:

Mr M Young, 67 St Anne's Road, Aylesbury.

If there are other Associations and Groups in Aylesbury not mentioned above and you would like to receive publicity via the Town Council's website and quarterly magazine, please e-mail your name and contact details to: [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

Shirley Francis  
Deputy Town Clerk

## Communities celebrate success in Aylesbury Vale

Community representatives and residents came together with staff and officers from local authority and partner agencies, to mark the first year of Neighbourhood Policing in Aylesbury Vale. The special event was held at the Judges' Lodgings in Aylesbury and was hosted by Thames Valley Police, Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council to celebrate achievements so far and to recognise key individuals for their commitment and enthusiasm to the Neighbourhood Policing initiative.

Among the recipients of Certificates of Achievement was 16-year-old Ashley Denning, for the link he has provided between Mandeville School and his local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) for Southcourt, Walton Court & Hawkslade.

Coldharbour Parish Council received an award for linking in with the Neighbourhood Action Group and supporting ideas, as well as facilitating communication within the community and providing financial support to co-ordinated initiatives, while the Elmhurst NAG was recognised for the work they have undertaken in response to youth issues, particularly in identifying facilities for young people and establishing a youth club.

The Three Estates Action Group (Southcourt, Walton Court & Hawkslade) received an award for supporting the NAG process in their community and establishing themselves as a residents' group. They have run several community events and improved communication within their neighbourhood since forming last year.

A number of others were also presented with the certificates for their contributions to the success of the Neighbourhood Policing programme, and also the contribution they have made to MacMillan Cancer Support in the form of more than £1,420 raised at coffee mornings held by a number of the NAGs.

Aylesbury Local Police Area (LPA) Commander, Supt. Carole Haveron presented the awards in October 2006, and congratulated all those involved for the way they are actively involved in making their community a safer place to live.

Aylesbury Vale is piloting 'Neighbourhood Policing' in Buckinghamshire, and a number of Neighbourhood Action Groups are already in existence. For further information go to: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

### Help Yourself

We can all take a little time to make checks, and to protect ourselves and our property. Doorstep sellers, online banking, local drug dealings and such affect the quality of our lives. However, there are steps we can take, and extra help is available if we know who to contact.

Remember, the vast majority of cars that are stolen these days are accessed by keys. In 45% of all cases the car keys are stolen during a domestic burglary, and the car taken away. In another 25% of cases, keys have been left in the car, on the drive, whilst popping into a shop or when paying for petrol. Never leave keys in locks, on window ledges, kitchen tables or hooks close to the door. It is very easy for criminals to use a piece of wire to take handy bunches of keys out through your letter box. Put the car in the garage at night. And if the garage is full of other stuff, ask yourself if its value exceeds that of your car. Take keys, wallets, handbags and mobile phones up to bed with you when you retire. Ensure that the outside of your property is well lit and if possible install security lighting with PIR sensors. (These can be obtained from as little as £10.00 in DIY stores and plugged into the domestic supply). If you have an alarm fitted, make sure you activate it at night, and during the day and evening when going out. Also when going out, leave a radio on, and when you are away for any length of time – even a working day – ask friends or neighbours to keep an eye on your property. It doesn't take much effort to do these things, and compared with the difficulty of replacing stolen items or making insurance claims, it is well worth the trouble.

#### Useful contacts:

Trading Standards, regarding doorstep selling:  
08454 040506 (Consumer direct)

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

Safety online: [www.banksafeonline.org.uk](http://www.banksafeonline.org.uk)

Report drug dealing in your area:

08458 505 505 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

## Aylesbury Cemetery

Aylesbury Town Council will take responsibility for the Tring Road Cemetery from Aylesbury Vale District Council, with effect from 1st April 2007.

The Town Council has appointed a new Cemetery Manager, David Cooper, who is now in the process of setting up a direct labour force that will be responsible for grave digging and all aspects of maintenance and improvements to the cemetery. It is expected that the role of the workforce will expand in the future as discussions are in progress with Bucks C.C. concerning other services that could be managed by local ATC staff.

Once the workforce is in place, apart from maintaining an efficient burial service to clients, the Town Council will be looking at improvements in memorial safety on the site. This work can only be undertaken with co-operation from grave owners, and they will be consulted before any action on unsafe memorials is undertaken.

However, under government statute, once consultation has taken place, and if no reply has been received from the grave owners, the Town Council will, under Health and Safety legislation, take measures to secure unsafe memorials.

## Aylesbury in Bloom is Back - Bigger and Better in 2007

The Aylesbury in Bloom Competition is 2 years young and this year it is bigger and better. So it's time to shake out your garden plans, get the seed catalogues out, sharpen your trowel and polish your fork.

First launched in 2005 by Aylesbury Town Council the competition has gone from strength to strength. This year ATC has expanded the number of categories. For individual residents of Aylesbury Town the categories include: Patio Garden, Formal Garden, Informal Garden, Window Box, Balcony, Hanging Basket, Vegetable Garden and Front Garden.

Why don't you and your neighbours get together and enter the Improving your Neighbourhood (Street / Close / Grot-spot etc.) category or the competition for Communal Housing.

### For schools the categories are:

Environmental Improvements/Permanent Planting undertaken by pupils or the community, Edible planting undertaken by pupils, Garden in a 12" pot.



Entry to 2006 Aylesbury Garden Competition.  
Photo taken by Tamsin Killoh

### For businesses the categories are:

Public House, Hotel/Guest House/Restaurant/Café, Commercial Premises and Retail Premises.

Last year the Town Council entered Aylesbury for the first time in the national Britain in Bloom competition and were delighted to receive the Silver Award – quite rare for a first attempt. ATC and others are hoping to build on this during 2007 and we hope increasing the number of categories will encourage more residents plus local businesses and schools to join us in our efforts.

**Come on folks: Dig for Victory!**

## Health Forum Update

Following the reorganisation of Buckinghamshire PCTs in 2006, Aylesbury Town Council set up a working group, The Residents' Health Forum, to give the people of Aylesbury a vehicle through which their concerns on health issues could be channelled to the newly formed PCT. Councillor Mrs. Jenny Puddefoot was elected Chairman.

The first meeting of the Forum was held on 27th November in the Town Council Chamber at 5 Church Street, Aylesbury. The forum was well attended and was addressed by Lynda Lake-Stewart, Interim Director of the new Buckinghamshire PCT.

Ms Lake-Stewart explained that the new Buckinghamshire PCT was an amalgamation of the three former trusts but at this stage the new PCT is in the process of formation and individual roles were not yet fully defined. She observed that £540 million was allocated to health care in the Buckinghamshire area but there appeared to

be a large budget deficit predicted for this financial year, so substantial savings options were being explored, and this would affect health services in Aylesbury. As a result of this, it would appear that there would be less hospitalisation, a reduction of community nursing and health visitors.

The Forum highlighted the difficulty some Aylesbury residents experienced in accessing local health services, as some surgeries were remote and difficult to reach. The group agreed to report concerns to the PCT board.

If you feel you have concerns regarding health care in Aylesbury, please contact your local Town Councillor who will make your views known.

Next meeting 13th March at 7.00pm in the Town Council Chamber.

Shirley Francis  
Deputy Town Clerk

## Aylesbury Town Mayor Awards

The Aylesbury Town Mayor's awards ceremony was held in Aylesbury Town Council's Chamber on Friday 15th December 2006. The awards are given every year for Service to Aylesbury Town Residents, to a person or persons who have performed an unusual act of bravery, or for an outstanding achievement, a commitment to public service or an act beyond the call of duty for fellow citizens of the Town in general.

This year the awards were given in conjunction with Bryant Homes, part of Taylor Woodrow Development Ltd. Two individuals received recognition: Bethany Wheeler, for her individual commitment to help alleviate poverty through World Vision, and Harry Smith, for Service to the Community in raising money for charity through physical challenges and day to day collections.

During the evening a number of people were awarded certificates of merit in recognition of their individual achievements. Mayor Councillor Niknam Hussain said how much he had enjoyed the evening. He welcomed the opportunity

it presented for him to thank people for their kindness to others and it made him appreciate the innate goodness of the people of Aylesbury. If you know of anyone who deserves recognition we would love to hear from you. If you do wish to make a nomination, please contact me on 01296 425678 and I or a member of staff will be delighted to talk you through the process.

Judith Ashby (Mrs)  
Mayor's Assistant



## Why Aylesbury Town Council and the Town Centre Partnership support events in the Town Centre

The Town Council was formed five years ago especially to look after the interests of Aylesbury people. Experience in the public sector has shown that specific local interests are often most sensitively served by local people. Although principal local authorities such as the County and District Councils deal with large scale developments and issues, town and parish councils, being closer to the people, have an important role to play in supporting their local economies and communities.

The Town Centre Partnership is a consortium of retailers and local authorities including Friars Square, Hale Leys, Marks and Spencer, Boots, the Town Council and the District Council.

Throughout the course of each year Aylesbury Town Council spends a considerable part of its income on Town Centre Events. Sometimes working independently, but mostly in close co-operation with the Town Centre Partnership, the Town Council supports events which create fun for residents and, by bringing visitors in (with their spending power), boost the local economy and keep the Town Centre vibrant. A strong viable local economy supports jobs, services and property values in the Town. To this end the Town Council also works in partnership with AVDC, giving funding towards Christmas lights, the Summer Street Festival and so on.

### Is there any evidence that these events actually serve their purpose?

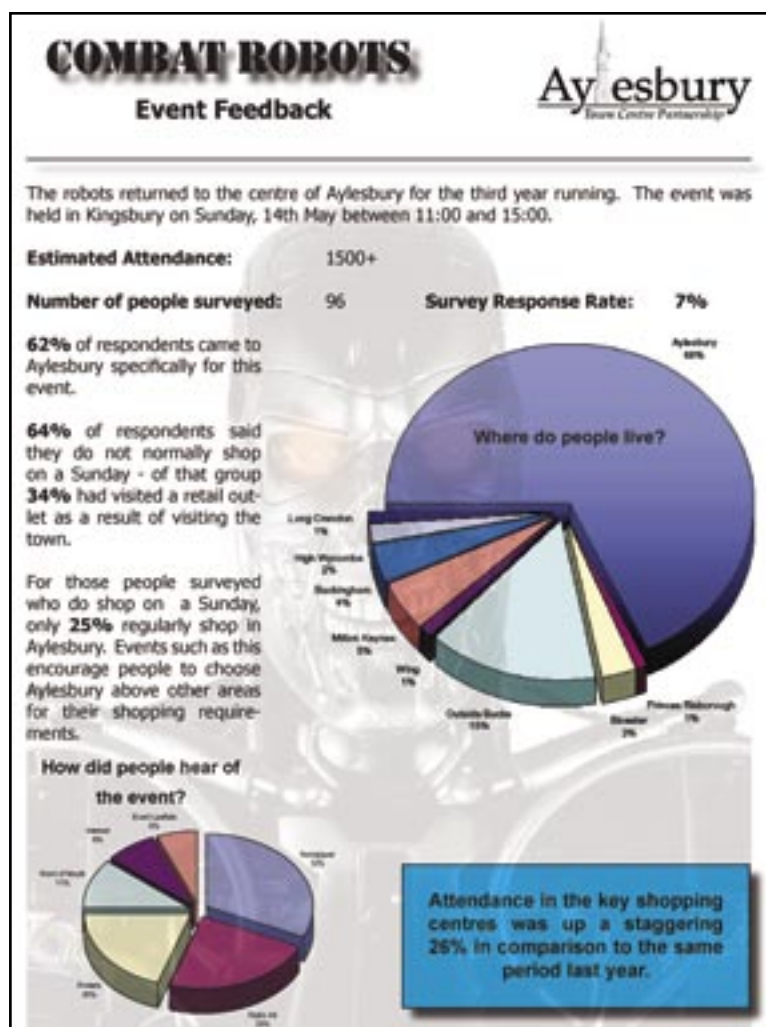
National footfall for Sunday trading is down, but Aylesbury Town Centre primary retailers report that their Sunday footfall has actually increased, and the Aylesbury experience runs counter to the national trend. Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership undertook a series of public consultations

to see if the success of the Town Centre is linked to the events which are becoming such an important feature of our weekends.

Responses from the public indicate, as these breakdowns show, that the series of events this year has had an influence on bringing people into the town, that whilst here, they have shopped. And that as a consequence, they will return to Aylesbury to shop again in the future!

Finally, both Friars Square and Hale Leys reported Christmas sales substantially up on a like for like basis, compared with December 2005.

We at the Town Council and the Town Centre Partnership, feel that our strategy is a great success.



## Worm's eye view of composting

Mark Willis is a keen environmentalist and recycler so he decided to see how easy it would be to build his own wormery.

### What is a Wormery?

A wormery is an easy to use and efficient system of converting ordinary kitchen waste into top quality compost and concentrated liquid feed through the natural action of worms. 30% of household waste is organic and can be recycled, so by using a wormery you reduce the waste dumped in landfill sites, reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and get the benefit of all that liquid feed and compost absolutely free!

Mark said "It was a lot easier than I thought it would be to build my own. It cost £9.00 for the boxes, £3.00 for the chicken wire and £7.50 for the worms. My next door neighbour lent me his jigsaw. The design came from the website: <http://www.troubleatmill.com/wormbin.htm>

I bought my worms from E-bay, but I did think afterwards that perhaps I should have tried the local fishing bait shops to see if they sold red tiger worms.

The wormery consists of two layers or two plastic boxes one on top of the other. The top layer of the wormery is the one where the worms are active. It is constructed by putting a hole in the bottom of the plastic box with chicken wire over it, and then a layer of wet newspaper and some compost on top of that. This is where the worms live.

On top of the compost you put your green waste, tea bags etc. The waste material should be cut up into the smallest pieces possible. If the waste goes mouldy then you are feeding the worms too much but normally the worms will breed up to the level of the food available. I think we fed them a bit too much to start with and the food wasn't cut up small enough. Worms do not bite they suck their food.

Once the worms have become established they will start to produce the liquid fertiliser which is collected in the box underneath. The fertiliser



Councillor Mark Willis with his wormery.  
Photo taken by Kate Willis

is extremely concentrated and will need to be diluted before use.

There is more information on: [www.itsnoteasybeinggreen.org/index.htm](http://www.itsnoteasybeinggreen.org/index.htm) and <http://www.greengardener.co.uk/wormeries.htm> also seems like a good website.

A lot of very expensive wormeries are advertised. My experience has been that you can readily create your own."

Mark Willis

### Support Kidney Research UK by walking London's famous bridges

#### London Bridges Walk – 24th June 2007

Enjoy a great day of sight-seeing and support Kidney Research UK by walking eight of London's Bridges on Sunday 24th June 2007.

It costs £7.50 per person to take part and this price includes a goodie-filled backpack and a special event t-shirt. There is no minimum sponsorship required but walkers are encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as they can. Proceeds will be used to further the work of Kidney Research UK and help improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

For more information or to take part in the London Bridges Walk please call Kidney Research UK on 08456 121226 email [events@kidneyresearchuk.org](mailto:events@kidneyresearchuk.org) or visit: [www.kidneyresearchuk.org](http://www.kidneyresearchuk.org)

## Re-use Past – Recycle Present – Reclaim Future

### The Cycle of Waste

Aylesburians who grew up in the post war years will remember a time when the 'Corporation dust cart' was a small, four wheeled transport carrying a domed container which had sliding shutters on the side. This modest vehicle could accommodate all the waste produced by residents in a week, because our rubbish bins were almost empty. It seems inconceivable in these days of packaging and preoccupations with landfill, but in the 1950s the British recycled everything.

Food, if it came wrapped, did so in brown paper, as did parcels. The paper, when clean, was carefully smoothed out and saved for re-use. So was any string that had been used to secure it. The paper then served a variety of functions. It might be used with tar to line a damp wall during redecoration, or, during the cold weather, cut to shape to provide a layer of insulation in working mens' boots. It might even just be re-used to wrap another parcel. Newspaper also had a life beyond literature. It could be saved to wrap damp potato peelings, to 'bank' the fire: a method of keeping the kitchen fire smouldering all night so that in the morning it only needed fresh coal and a short session with the 'blower' to produce a lively blaze. This made it possible to economise on the use of coal, an expensive commodity for working people. Alternatively, and particularly in the rural areas where plumbing could be rudimentary, once read, the newspaper could be cut into small squares and put on a string to serve duty in the outhouse.

Coal that was not entirely consumed in the flames of the kitchen fire had further uses. Cinders which were too small to be put back into the grate (they would fall through the slots in the under-fire grill) were retained until winter, when they served to provide grip for leather soles on icy paths. Some ashes went onto the compost heap, but so many were generated in the course of the year that inevitably, some ended up in the bin. The best ashes, however, were those from wood fires, and these were carefully harvested and dug in around the base of any fruit trees in the garden, where they would practically guarantee a bumper crop next autumn.

Food itself was never wasted. There was no picking and choosing: you ate what was put in front of you. Sweets and cakes were not available in the quantities we see today, and so eating between meals was extremely rare and at mealtimes children were hungry. The food menu for the week was carefully planned and usually followed a pattern. Sunday morning breakfast was a treat, with egg, bacon, mushrooms, fried tomatoes and black pudding. Egg shells were ground up to put on the compost heap. There was never any left over bacon, sausage or pudding. Even after the end of rationing such commodities were in short supply, and what was available, was shared by the butcher between all his regular customers. Sunday dinner consisted of roast meat - often a leg of lamb - potatoes and vegetables. Vegetable peelings were composted. Some of the remaining meat was served for Sunday tea, with salad. The bones from the joint were saved to make stock and eventually ended their lives in the dog bowl.

On Monday, supper normally consisted of a pie made from the end of the Sunday joint, with vegetables (peelings composted, of course). Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday brought cutlets and invariably a meal or two of offal - liver with onions perhaps. Friday was fish day. Most meals were accompanied by tea, that mainstay of English society, and the left-over tea leaves joined all the other goodies on the compost heap.

All food was bought in local shops and consumed fresh. People walked to the shops daily, (which was good exercise and pollution-neutral) and bought home produce. They transported their purchases in a robust fabric shopping bag which was used and re-used for years. There were no plastic bags then. And even in large cities such as Manchester, most of the food consumed came from surrounding farmland in Lancashire or, if fish, from the nearest port, which was Fleetwood. In those days the concept of transporting edible commodities thousands of miles from producer to consumer remained firmly in the realms of Science Fiction.

Milk came in bottles that were rinsed and returned to the dairy for sterilization and re-filling. Soft drinks, such as Lemonade, Dandelion & Burdock etc. were bought in bottles on which a small returnable deposit was paid. Enterprising children could raise money by combing their parents houses and the open spaces of the area for empties, which when returned to any local grocery shop would render up their 3d redemption cash.

Clothing was also recycled. When first purchased, it was reserved for Church and Sunday wear. Later – probably a year later – it would be relegated to workday wear, and replaced by new Sunday best. After a long stint at work, by which time signs of wear would be appearing, clothes would be downgraded to apparel for 'dirty jobs' and used for activities like gardening and decorating. Children's clothing was 'passed down'. Purchases, such as school uniform, were bought one or two sizes too large, so that a child could 'grow into' them. After a year or two they would become the property of the next sibling in line. The unfortunate youngest might never experience the pleasure of brand new clothes. Garments were often renovated during their lifetime. Good quality cotton shirts had their collars and cuffs turned. Jackets had leather patches sewn onto the elbows and cuffs, and leather reinforcements at the corners of the pockets.

When a garment was beyond any further salvation, sartorially speaking, it still had its uses. All the buttons were cut off and saved. Every self-respecting household had a series of tins containing buttons ranging from the tiny and homely to the grand and decorative. Full sets of six were rare but much prized, as they could be used in the making of a new item of dress. Coats and woollen clothes at the ends of their useful lives were cut up and made into rag rugs to warm and brighten up the quarry-tiled or stone-flagged kitchen floor. In some homes, worn old jumpers were unravelled and re-knitted as scarves, bobble hats and mittens for winter.

Shoes followed a similar pattern, slowly falling from the high status of Sunday best to the designation of 'dirty jobs', but during this progression they would have spent years being waxed and buffed until they gleamed, to prolong

their life as much as possible, and made many visits to the cobblers to be soled and heeled. One widespread practice was that of fixing of 'skegs' or steel tips to work boots and shoes, again to lengthen their lifespan.

Household linen was carefully mended to extend its usefulness. Worn sheets were cut down the centre and re-joined 'ends to middle' with a flat French seam. Old bath towels were chopped down for hand towels, and then eventually re-hemmed as facecloths. Sometimes old linen sheets had yet a further lease of life beyond flat-seaming, being rendered into quarters and hemmed for cot sheets; or eighths, and re-sewn as tea towels.

Pretty fabrics from frocks and blouses were cut into octagonals and squares, for re-constitution as a new eiderdown cover. In that way even memories could be recycled.

When every last possible scrap of use had been extracted from a piece of material, it ended up in the rag bag, to be used as a duster or polishing cloth. Anything left beyond that went to that knackers yard for old fabrics, the Rag and Bone man's handcart. A sack of scraps and ends could be exchanged for a few holystones, used to abrade the household stone floors to pristine cleanliness, and to provide decorative borders for the Saturday-morning-cleaned steps at the front door.

Even old Christmas cards had a further use. They could be cut with a pair of serrated scissors into rectangles, and saved to be used as labels for next year's presents. And unwanted gifts? They could be recycled too, at the WI's bring and buy sale; for the scouts raffle, or for the Vicar's bell ringing fund.

Imagine, how much in the way of materials and money could be saved in these ways! So, in the light of the foregoing, and with reference to the 'Corporation Dust Cart' and the citizens' bins, it is easy to see why they contained nothing but ashes...

Margaret Wagstaffe



Fast forward to 2007 and the situation is very different. Even allowing for those of us who can use our recycling bins to reduce our output, the average content of our wheelie bin or black bag each week consists of:

Putrescent materials	41%
Paper and card	20%
Glass	8%
Unclassified	7%
Dense Plastic	6%
Plastic Film	5%
Fines (e.g. dust)	5%
Misc. Combustibles	3%
Textiles	2%
Ferrous metals	2%
Non ferrous	1%

The amount of waste generated by each household in Bucks is 1.5 tonnes and in 2004 waste sent to landfill was responsible for 38% of methane emissions.

In Bucks in 2004/5 we produced 275,572 tonnes of waste and 71% went into landfill sites – and this amount is increasing by 1½ -2% a year. The government has created limits to the amount of household waste that can be sent by local councils to landfill sites. If they exceed the limit, they will be fined £150 for every additional tonne tipped. This means that Buckinghamshire could be facing fines running into millions of pounds if things don't change – and the local council tax payer will eventually have to pick up the bill.

As indicated above, 70% of what we put in our wheelie bins or black plastic bags is biodegradable. That is, it could be turned into

compost. In future years you may be given the opportunity to recycle your kitchen and garden waste through the use of another wheelie bin, but regular collection by the council could be very costly and it would make more sense to compost at home.

Domestic composting is an easy way to transform green waste into a healthy soil improver for your plants and shrubs. Grass clippings, plant prunings, tea bags and fruit and vegetable peelings can all be added to the contents of a composter.

If you don't currently recycle your green waste you can buy generously discounted composters from only £6.00 by ringing 0845 077 0760. 'Recycle for Bucks' is currently offering a 220 litre composter for £8.00 and a 330 litre capacity for £10.00. They are both delivered free. If you want two of each kind, there is nothing to stop you having them, and as an extra bonus you get a free caddy which can be used to collect kitchen waste. For further information visit: [www.bucksinfo.net/recycleforbuckinghamshire](http://www.bucksinfo.net/recycleforbuckinghamshire)

As well as composting at home you can take advantage of a service provided by Bucks County Council. Bags of Soil Improver (made from Green Waste taken to Household Waste and Recycling Centres) can be bought from any of our Household Waste and Recycling Centres for £2.50 per 30 litre bag.

Keith Turner

Thanks also to Pat Phillips and Judith Ashby for their contributions.

## If you don't live in Aylesbury ...

but have received a copy of this magazine, we apologise. The problem is that post codes don't align exactly with town boundaries, so we have a choice: either leave some of our residents without a copy, or accept that some of our magazines will be delivered to people who live outside our boundaries. If that applies to you, please accept this copy with our compliments.

## Dates for your Diary Town Centre events for 2007

### Diamonds are forever...

...and if you like them, or any kind of jewellery, make a point of going to Bucks County Museum in the next few weeks.

Muir Trust Artist in Residence at Bucks County Museum, jeweller Michael Carberry will be working at the Museum from 10 February - 9 March 2007. For details of his open studios, talks and workshops please ring 01296 331 441 or visit the events page at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum)

Residency exhibition 10 March - 1 April 2007 at Bucks County Museum.

Also promising to be fascinating: Clear Skies and Storm Clouds – Visions of Buckinghamshire between the Wars, a major exhibition at Buckinghamshire County Museum 10 February - 3 June 2007. Contact 01296 331 441 or go to [www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/museum) for further information.

Lastly, if you love history, look out for 'Turn Back Time' at Aylesbury Library from 21 April to 5 May.

### Clear Skies and Storm Clouds

Visions of Buckinghamshire between the Wars

Bucks County Museum

10 February 2007 – 3 June 2007

### Residency Exhibition

Work of Muir Trust Artist in Residence

Bucks County Museum

10 March – 1 April 2007

### Waddesdon School Art Exhibition

Friars Square

w/c Monday 19 March

### 'Turn Back Time'

If you love history, watch out for this!

Aylesbury Library

21 April – 5 May 2007

### Traditional Continental Market

Kingsbury

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

23, 24 and 25 March

### St. George's Day Celebrations

Kingsbury, Market Square etc

Saturday and Sunday 21 and 22 April

### Combat Robots

Kingsbury

Sunday 13 May

### Waddesdon School Fashion Show

Friars Square

w/c Monday 14 May

### Italian Market

Kingsbury

Friday and Saturday 22 and 23 June

### Roald Dahl Festival

Aylesbury Town Centre

Saturday 7 July

### Wilkes and Liberty

Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the election of John Wilkes, known as the father of English Liberties, as MP for Aylesbury. 18th century tea party in Kingsbury, with costume, and performances of plays, speeches and dances celebrating the period.

Sunday 8 July

Kingsbury and the Kings Head

### Aylesbury Summer Fun Day

Town Centre

Sunday 15 July

### Aylesbury Street Festival

Saturdays throughout the Summer in the Town Centre:

28 July, 4 August, 11 August

18 August, 25 August, 1 September

Musical entertainment in the Market Square

## Dates for your Diary Town Centre events for 2007

### Summer Sunday Events

in Kingsbury and Market Square

29 July: Shakespeare

5 August: Music

12 August: Music

19 August: Music

2 September: Shakespeare

### Hobble on the Cobbles

Market Square

Sunday 26 August

### Park Life

Vale Park

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September

### Proms in the Park

Vale Park

Saturday 1 September

### Charter Day & Tudor Fayre

Medieval fun in the market place

Sunday 9 September

### Oyster and Food Fair

Market Square

Sunday 23 September

### Half-term Special Farmers' Market

Market Square

Tuesday 23 October

### Half-term Inflatables Fun

Kingsbury

Wednesday 24 or Friday 26 October

Climbing wall and bungee trampoline

### Royal British Legion Official Poppy Launch

Friars Square

Saturday 27 October 2007

### 'Ghouls & Villains'

Wednesday 31 October

Halloween tour of Aylesbury Town Centre...

...and Shakespeare too!

### Christmas Light Switch On

Market Square

Thursday 15 November

### Santa's Arrival

Market Square

Sunday 18 November

### Charity Market

Market Square

Saturday 25 November

### Christmas Gift and Craft Fair

Market Square

Sunday 2 December

### Traditional Continental Market

Kingsbury

Friday 7, Saturday 8 and

Sunday 9 December

### Christmas Farmers' Market

Market Square

Sunday 9 December

### Festive Fun in Kingsbury

Saturday and Sunday 15 & 16 December

Ice rink, stalls, street theatre

### Town Centre Carol Concert

Market Square

Thursday 20th December

### 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](mailto: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

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