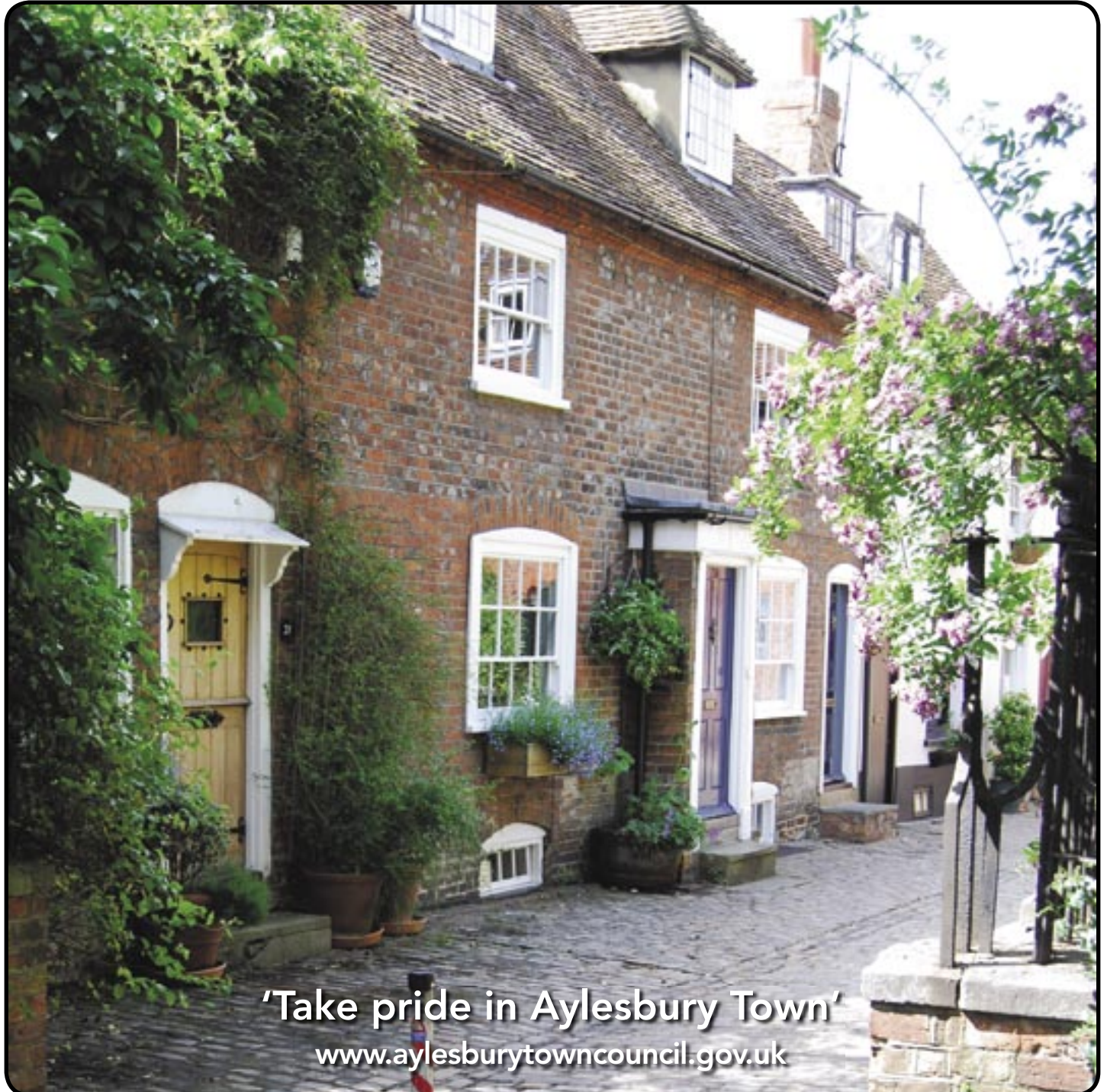


Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine
Issue Nine July 2008



Serving the people of Aylesbury



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'
www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

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Friday 8.45 am - 4.45 pm

Cover photograph: Cottages in St. Mary's Square, Aylesbury. Photo taken by Margaret Wagstaffe.

How your Council Tax is shared out and how much it has gone up this year

In the financial year 2007 - 2008 the average Council Tax for a 'D' band household was £1377. Of this, £975 was given to Bucks County Council; £121 was retained by Aylesbury Vale District Council; £52 was kept by AVDC for Aylesbury 'Special Expenses' (for example parks, leisure and sports centres and facilities); £37 was given to Aylesbury Town Council; £53 went to Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority and £139 went to Thames Valley Police.

This year, 2008 - 2009, Council Tax has been increased to an average of £1441 per 'D' band household, an increase of £65 p.a.

Bucks County Council precept rose by £43 from £975 to £1018. Aylesbury Vale District Council Tax went from £121 per year to £126, or increased by £5. The Aylesbury 'Special Expenses' taken by Aylesbury Vale District Council reduced from £52 to £48, a reduction of £4 which was mainly due to the transfer of the cost of running the Cemetery to the Town Council. The Town Council share rose from £37 to £48 (£12, partly because responsibility for the upkeep of the Cemetery was transferred from the District Council to the Town Council). Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority rose from £53 to £55, and Thames Valley Police went from £139 to £145, an increase of £6 (all figures rounded to nearest £).

The increase in the 2008/09 Council Tax for an average (Band D) property in Aylesbury is 4.7% overall. This equates to an additional £1.24 per week per household. Of the total Council Tax Rate, Aylesbury Town Council's share is 3.4%, or 95 pence per week.

Cllr Steve Patrick
Leader of the Council

Band D	2007/08	per week	% of total	2008/09	Increase	Increase %	per week	% of total
	BCC	975.03	18.75	70.8	1018.91	43.88	4.5%	19.59
AVDC	121.21	2.33	8.8	126.04	4.83	4.0%	2.42	8.7
ATC	37.01	0.71	2.7	49.14	12.13	32.8%	0.95	3.4
AVDC Special exps.	52.50	1.01	3.8	48.00	-4.50	-8.6%	0.92	3.3
Bucks & MK Fire	52.33	1.01	3.8	54.95	2.62	5.0%	1.06	3.8
TV Police	139.19	2.68	10.1	144.76	5.57	4.0%	2.78	10.0
	1377.27	26.49	100	1441.80	64.53	4.7%	27.73	100

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

Mayor's charity fundraising dinner is best ever!



The Mayor and Linda Bellingham at the Mayor's Charity Dinner. Photo taken by Derek Pelling, Bucks Herald

"This Mayor's Charity fundraising event has been the best ever." So said guests leaving Aylesbury College after a splendid evening of food and entertainment. The Mayor's Charity Dinner was held early in Spring and for the first time it was hosted in Aylesbury's gleaming new College.

Last year's Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, adopted "Crossroads" and "Home Start Aylesbury" as her charities and was determined to do something really special for them. So she invited her life-long friend, famous actress Linda Bellingham, to join her at the dinner and to entertain the audience with reminiscences and anecdotes.

Ms Bellingham looked very beautiful and added extra sparkle to the evening. She shimmered in black and silver and charmed the guests with warm and funny stories drawn from her acting career. She was introduced to young Fred Clark, who was proposing to ride from Aylesbury to Twin Town Bourg-en-Bresse

Catering staff at Aylesbury College. Photo taken by Ray Ghent

in the South of France to raise money for the Mayor's charities. Linda wished him the best of luck and offered to personally sponsor him.

Guests at the dinner enjoyed their meal in the extensive dining room at the new College. Maître d' Toby Hill, himself a two-star Michelin chef, was extremely proud of his students, who cooked and served the meal under his watchful eye. "This has been a magnificent performance from them" he observed. "Prior to this the maximum number they have coped with has been 120 covers. Preparing and serving a four course meal for tonight's 230 guests has really tested them and they have come through with flying colours."

At the end of the evening Toby invited his students to join guests in the dining room, where they were given an enthusiastic round of applause by the diners. The evening raised almost £3,000 for the Mayor's charities.

Celia McCrea



Green Fair

On Sunday 13th April Aylesbury Town Council held its first ever Green Fair in the Market Square. This was a good opportunity for anyone wanting to learn about new sustainable buildings technology, energy conservation and carbon footprint reduction. There was a mass of information available on numerous wide ranging storyboards and through posters, leaflets and magazines.

Stalls and displays included alternative energy suppliers 'Ardenham Energy', 'Chelsfield Solar' and 'Sun Catchers'. Organic food providers such as 'Animal Matters' and Aylesbury College demonstrated how to cook organic food. The food itself was sourced by the suppliers taking part on the day, including 'Animal Matters', 'The Ethical Food Company', 'Manor Farm Game', 'Rowan Tree Farm' and 'Aylesbury Fair Trade Society'.



BBOWT Stand. Photo taken by Ray Ghent

Aylesbury Town Council mounted its own exhibition with displays which covered a wide range of alternative technologies, sustainable resources and 'low carbon footprint' products.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust offered a wealth of information concerning flora and fauna in the Chilterns and Cotswolds.

"For our first attempt I was very pleased with the outcome" said environment spokesperson Cllr Mark Willis. James Hoare of local company Ardenham Energy added "We had a surprising number of enquiries. It's quite clear that the profile of solar power and similar technologies is rising."

Despite competition from the London Marathon, and the vagaries of the weather, the event was extremely well attended. The Town Council was so encouraged by the interest shown by Aylesbury people that there are now plans under discussion to make this an annual event.



Last year's Mayor Cllr Jenny Puddefoot
Photo taken by Ray Ghent



Jenny Bloom of Aston Clinton Herbs
Photo taken by Ray Ghent

The Building of the old County Hall and Courts

The County Council has recently abandoned Aylesbury Courthouse for use as a Council Chamber because it is not DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant. It seems appropriate at this time, when it has been announced that a new court will be built in Aylesbury and therefore the existing facility will become redundant, to reflect on how this building came to be, and its use over time.

At the beginning of the 18th century and for a century and a half after, there were no County or District Councils and the whole of the County's business was conducted by the Magistrates in Quarter Sessions, often in a hotel. There was only one directly paid employee: the Clerk of the Peace.

The original scheme for a building at the bottom of the Market Square, drawn up in 1720, was to replace an existing, inadequate gaol which was a converted house that stood on the same site. The house, owned by William Benson, was considered neither strong, convenient nor large enough to hold prisoners in safe custody. It was two years into the build that the decision was made to include courts.

At a meeting of Magistrates held on the 8th of June 1720 at the George Inn, Aylesbury (The George Inn once stood in the Market Square next to what is now Lloyds Bank) the gentlemen deliberated the future of the gaol. Their considerations included what sum of money should be raised for carrying out the work; what workmen were to be employed; and whether or not to buy the land on which the gaol was situated, or indeed to search for another site. It was decided to approach the owner of the existing gaol, Mr Benson.

Mr Benson initially wanted £1,000 but eventually settled for £600. At the end of the year a selection of "plans, ground plots and models" were brought before the Magistrates for inspection. It was decided that one of their number, Bernard Turney, should take the various sets of plans to Sir John Vanbrugh (who was then the Controller of the Board of Works and Surveyor of Greenwich Hospital), for appraisal. Sir John Vanbrugh worked with Nicholas Hawksmoor on a number of projects including the design of Blenheim Palace. Sir John selected a scheme by a Mr Harris and Co.

The next task was to raise money to build the new gaol. In 1721 an order was made to raise a county rate of



Sketch by Nick Carter, courtesy of The Aylesbury Society

1d in the £ which produced £983 16s 4d. A year later a report was issued detailing the amounts and costs of best oak timber (£3 per load), bricks (18s per 1,000) and lime (18s per load). At this session it was agreed to raise a further rate of 2d in the £ which realised £1,967 9s 11d. It was also mooted that a courtroom be included in the building and at the 1722 Midsummer Session the original plans were altered. In the following year it is clear that all money had been spent and another order was made to raise £1,967 9s 11d by another 2d in the £ tax. However there appeared to be some problems with raising this money as it was reported that a number of Bucks residents had defaulted. By 1724 all money raised had been spent and a further £2,000 was owed. Work on the building was stopped.

At the Midsummer Session of 1726 it was decided to obtain an Act of Parliament to legitimise further requests for money from Bucks residents. It took 5 years for this act to become law. The workmen were still owed nearly £2,000 (they were not paid until 1737 by which time a number of the creditors had died) and it was estimated that a further £2,000 would be required to finish the building. As a result the Magistrates at the Midsummer Sessions of 1737 ordered that £3,916 11s 6d be raised by rate.



The courthouse was not completed until 1740 at an overall cost of approximately £8,000. It had taken 20 years from start to finish and for 13 of these years no work was carried out.

Originally the front of the building had three entrances. The one at the eastern end served as an entrance to the passage of the gaol. The central doorway led to the Clerk of the Peace's office and the Magistrates' chamber. The western door and the central door were massive. The western door was obviously built to withstand attack from riotous mobs, as the inside was armour plated and was once fitted with loop-holes so that muskets could be fired through them.

Under the central window, overlooking the Market Square, was once a first floor balcony which for many years was used for public hangings. Here criminals were executed in the presence of large crowds, who would travel from far and wide to witness the spectacle. The last public hanging at this location took place when John Tawell, a notorious murderer, was executed on the 28th March 1845. It was no accident that the nearby pub (once called 'The Green Man' and now 'The Square') was built with a large first floor verandah. Seats there, giving the best possible view of the poor wretch dangling and twitching at the end of the Hangman's rope, were at a premium. Also much in demand was the upstairs parlour of the King's Head, from which a very good vantage point was to be had.

This was not the only punishment exacted at the prison. Regularly prisoners were taken from the prison, tied to the back of a cart and marched up to the George Inn and back, during which time they were whipped constantly until well "bloodied". During the Swing Riots of the 1800s prisoners were locked up here prior to being transferred to the hulks for transportation to Tasmania.

A substantial proportion of the 200 prisoners locked up at any one time were debtors. Debtors were locked up until they paid back the money they owed. In front of the eastern end of the building was an area known as Debtors Fee, where these unfortunates were allowed to exercise.

The prison cells were immediately under the inner court and included no less than 5 condemned cells. The place was more of a dungeon than a prison and was condemned as unfit for use as early as the 19th century.

The gaol was bounded on the eastern side by the White Hart Inn, a substantial establishment which had been rebuilt in the early 1800s, replacing a 16th century building. The gardens covered 5 acres and stretched down to the banks of the Bearbrook. This was demolished in 1864 and the current "Arches" building was erected as a Corn Exchange by the Aylesbury Market Company. This enterprise failed and the premises were then used by Aylesbury Borough Council. One of the early prison reforms was to ban spirits or liquor being sold to inmates via the prison gates. To circumvent this a window of the White Hart was used to pass liquor into the prison yard, therefore evading the Act of Parliament.

One problem facing prison officials in those days was that whilst sentences often carried the rider "... with hard labour", there was little hard labour for the prisoners to do. Therefore, to provide hard labour, a 20 foot diameter treadmill was installed. This was operated by two gangs who worked alternate shifts of twenty minutes and on twenty minutes off. The wheel helped to grind corn and pump water, but its construction proved to be dangerous and several fatal accidents occurred. The wheel was condemned by the Inspector of Prisons in 1841.

Prisoners who behaved themselves well enough could have special privileges and were allowed to leave prison to work elsewhere in the Town. Use of this arrangement benefited Acton Chaplin, who was the Clerk of the Peace at the beginning of the 19th century. He lived in the Old House, which has now been demolished but formerly occupied the land on which today stands the Blue Leanie, headquarters of HBOS. The lake that fronts onto Friarage Road was once a feature of the Old House's gardens and among other earthworks was excavated by convict labour.



All sketches by Nick Carter, courtesy of The Aylesbury Society

On the demolition of the gaol in 1847, part of the site was used to erect the Judges Lodgings, still extant and much loved.

So, as this building, after 250 years of use as a house of correction and legal confrontation, faces an uncertain future, what next? The building is listed, so there are limitations as to what it can be used for. It is in a parlous state of repair and it will require a brave company to take on its conversion for other use. One thing is for certain: as the building that dominates the Market Square; it is an Aylesbury landmark; it is part of our shrinking heritage, it is very precious to us and it deserves a future.

Keith Turner
Development Officer



Bourg-en-Bresse or Bust!

Nineteen-year-old Fred Clark set off on April 18th in lashing rain and a howling gale to cycle more than 500 miles from Aylesbury to Bourg-en-Bresse, our Twin Town. His purpose was to raise money for former Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot's charities: 'Aylesbury Home-Start' and 'Crossroads'.

His route took him through Bolougne, Amiens, Paris (which, said Fred, was seriously scary), Sens, Avallon, Chalon Sur Saone, and finally to Bourg-en-Bresse. Late in the afternoon of Friday 25th April he arrived at the boundary of Bourg-en-Bresse, sunburnt and tired. He was met by a group from the local Bourg Cycling Club, who formed a guard of honour and accompanied him the rest of the way to his hotel.

The next day the group escorted Fred into the centre of town, to the 'Hotel de Ville' (the Town Hall). There he was met by Msr Francois Debat the recently elected Mayor of Bourg-en-Bresse; Cllr Puddefoot, our own former Mayor, and various members of the Bourg Council. Fred delivered a message of friendship from Aylesbury to the Mayor and people of Bourg-en-Bresse.

Later he, his family and Cllr Puddefoot attended a reception organised by Bourg City Council to commemorate the occasion, followed by a dinner arranged by the Convener of International Relations in Bourg-en-Bresse.

Cllr Jenny Puddefoot said "This is an amazing feat for such a young man. That he undertook a journey like this on his own makes him very special. It is a demonstration of what you can do if you put your mind to it and have the will to carry it out." She added, "The people of Bourg-en-Bresse have really taken Fred to their hearts and whoever I spoke to wanted to forge closer links with Aylesbury. There are many groups and other schools which want to set up exchange visits. It's a really friendly town with plenty of history and lots of good places to eat and shop."

Bourg-en-Bresse is situated near to the Swiss/French border. It is about a two hour journey from Geneva, the capital of Switzerland and has a population of approximately 45,000. Each year 40 or so pupils of Aylesbury High School and Aylesbury Grammar School exchange with pupils and students from Bourg-en-Bresse.



Former Mayor Cllr Jenny Puddefoot and Cllr Val Letheran sending Fred off



On his way!



Fred delivering a welcome letter to Mayor Msr Francois Debat



The official welcome



The former Mayor, Cllr Jenny Puddefoot and Fred Clark would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their support and the sponsorship which made this event such an enormous success: The Coffee Tree in George Street, Malebon and Johnstons of Kingsbury, who are three of Aylesbury's excellent coffee houses and restaurants; James Hoare of Ardenham Energy, who supplied the new solar panels for the Town Hall; John Hayden of Foster Wiggins Accountants, Stephen Rotherham of Focuslook, and Bannisters Homelet, letting agents, all of Temple Street, and Aylesbury Cycle Club.

A very big 'thank you' goes to Buckingham Bikes, who supplied the superb machine which carried Fred all the way from Aylesbury to Bourg-en-Bresse.

Finally, Fred's parents deserve our praise: firstly for raising such an outstanding youngster; and secondly for undertaking the long trek to Bourg-en-Bresse as Fred's 'back-up' team. So well done them, and well done everyone who contributed to this outstanding achievement.

Bourg-en-Bresse, Aylesbury's Twin Town

Staying in the home of a local family in a foreign country is a holiday like no other. One sees a side of life that would never be experienced in a hotel or B & B. Aylesbury is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse in the South of France, a charming market town which is a fascinating mixture of mediaeval and modern architecture. The people of Bourg are warm and friendly. Many of them speak English and they are always enthusiastic about practising their language skills. They are keen to meet Aylesburians and to visit our Town.

The Twinning Society is hoping to organise an exchange, either later this year or early next. The advantage of going with the Twinning Society is that block bookings for travel are usually far more economical than individual arrangements, and accommodation is free. Of course, when visitors from the Twin Town arrive you are expected to return their hospitality by inviting them to stay with you. However, the whole package adds up to a very economical but absolutely fascinating holiday, and a chance to make lots of delightful new friends.

If you would like to join the Twinning Society contact Deputy Town Clerk, Shirley Francis on 01296 425678, and she will supply information and contact details.

Margaret Wagstaffe
Town Clerk



Cathedral at Bourg-en-Bresse



Mediaeval Street

Aylesbury's own Cycling Club

Enthusiasm for cycling in Aylesbury seems to be growing, given the recent interest in Fred Clark's fantastic ride to Bourg-en-Bresse and the national 'cycling town' status afforded to the town. More and more people are getting on their bikes for work, leisure and fitness.



Aylesbury Cycling Club has a wealth of experience in the ranks of its members – they've travelled far and wide on their bikes. New Zealand, India, Argentina, Chile and the USA have all featured on club members' holiday itineraries. The club has also organised a cycling holiday to the Adriatic coast of Italy to enjoy 'la dolce vita' for the last couple of years.

The club is small but active – you'll see a group of cyclists every Saturday and Sunday morning (even in winter!) at the Aqua Vale setting off for a spin through the beautiful lanes around the Vale – why not come and join them?

It is clear that there are a lot of fit and active riders out there – triathletes and 'spinning' class fans – how about getting out in good company and building your fitness with the ACC? New members will be welcomed and, who knows, we could soon be seeing Aylesbury's own Lance Armstrong!

Contact Jeremy Mulkern at: jeremymulkern@hotmail.com for information about club rides, events, advice and membership.

Aylesbury Community Speed Watch Initiative

Aylesbury Community Speed Watch Initiative was launched at 4.00pm on Tuesday 29th April 2008. The aim of the initiative, led by Aylesbury Town Council, is to give residents of Aylesbury some control over speeding in their areas and to remind drivers, without imposing fixed penalties.

Using portable radar systems purchased by Aylesbury Town Council, local residents, residents associations, local councillors and PCSOs can measure the speed of oncoming vehicles. If the speed is excessive the registration number of the car is taken and the offender will receive a warning letter only advising them of their speed. No penalties will be issued using this system.

Cllr Willis, spokesperson for the environment at Aylesbury Town Council, said "This will give communities more power to control and measure speeding in their area. Using this system local resident groups can collect evidence which can be given to the police to demonstrate that certain areas of the town do suffer from speeding."



Photo taken by Keith Turner

Bucks TV

It seems a very long time ago since "Bucks TV" featured in your Winter edition, so much has happened with Buckinghamshire's very own internet based television station. I've been absolutely amazed by the positive response across the whole of the County and Milton Keynes. I am of course delighted that Aylesbury has taken it to its heart so well. It just shows you how important it is to promote a local service to local people, especially at a time when sadly a lot of the current media is becoming more 'networked' and 'out of area' – a terrible shame.

If you haven't been on www.buckstv.co.uk then give it a go, you'll notice loads of entertaining and informative videos online. There is sport, local charities and a brilliant music channel featuring great local artists – we have so much talent. There is something for everyone, including an exclusive 'Blog' of "Fred's Cycle Challenge" to Bourg-en-Bresse, as he took 'Bucks CAM' with him on his 500 mile journey, raising money for the former Mayor's Charities.



Richard Carr

Bucks TV is fully behind the "Bring the Ducks Home" campaign and contributed to the filming of the video, which supports the recent Loz Jones single. We were up at the finish line of this year's London Marathon chatting to runners from our area, highlighting that we will be at any national event when it involves local people.

In the next few months, Bucks TV will be launching its Cinema and Theatre programmes. There will be a pub and restaurant guide, a weekly local sports show and a monthly local gig guide. We will also be creating our very own motoring channel. So as you can see Bucks TV is growing fast, we've had to upgrade our own server to cope with demand, because online traffic has gone mad!

I have always been very proud to be part of Aylesbury and the local community and therefore delighted to be able to announce that I will again be in this year's pantomime, "Cinderella" at the Civic Centre. I can't wait to see how much more Bucks TV has grown by the opening night in December! If you would like to be involved either behind the scenes or perhaps you fancy yourself as a budding presenter in front of the camera, or maybe you have a story you want us to cover, then get in touch. Incidentally, we only cover **POSITIVE** news.

Richard Carr
Station Supremo

FREE BUS TRAVEL AND CHILTERN RAILWAYS OFF-PEAK CONCESSIONS TOO!

Aylesburians no longer have to give up their bus passes if they want a one third reduction on Chiltern Railways off-peak travel. To secure **both**, simply present your new 'Smartcard' bus pass at Aylesbury railway station next time you travel on Chiltern Railways and give your address and your '**Chiltern Green**' permit will be affixed here.



If, however, your Aylesbury home has no space for a car and you don't own one, you can ask Thomas Hickman's Charity for a '**Chiltern Gold**' permit giving half fares, off peak, on Chiltern Railways.

To apply, get a form from 14 Bourbon St. (available also through CAB, Pebble Lane, or AVDC Customer Services, 66 High St.)



For details of events at Bucks County Museum Tel: 01296 331441, The King's Head Tel: 01296 7188

JULY

2	Psychic Evening with Stephen Holbrook	Civic Centre	
4	Robert Fowler Quartet	Queens Park Art Centre	8.00pm
5	At-Ma	Queens Park Art Centre	7.30pm
5	Denham Court Paintings	Bucks County Museum	
5	Last Night of the Proms	Civic Centre	
5	Roald Dahl Festival	Town Centre	11.00am
5 - 20	Aylesbury Festival	Various Locations	10.00am
11	Open Gardens Evening	4 Gardens open off Wendover Road	6.30pm
11	Motel 6	Queens Park Art Centre	8.00pm
12	Open Mic Night	Queens Park Art Centre	8.00pm
12	Have a Go	Bucks County Museum	10.00am - 4.00pm
12	Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain	Civic Centre	
12	Family Fun Day	Bedgrove Park	12.00 - 4.00pm
13 - 18	Paralympic Games International Open Archery Championship	Stoke Mandeville Stadium	
15	Jimmy Carr	Civic Centre	
18	Belly Dancing	Queens Park Art Centre	8.00pm
19	Purcell's the Fairy Queen	Civic Centre	
19	Quiz Night	Queens Park Art Centre	7.30pm
20	Aylesbury on Sea	Kingsbury	10.00am - 4.00pm
22	Farmers' Market	Market Square	
26	Snozzcumbers and Frobscottle	Bucks County Museum	
26	Go Golf Crazy	Kingsbury	10.00am - 4.00pm
27	Aylesbury Musical Festival	Kingsbury	
28 - 22	Children's Summer Entertainment	Civic Centre	

AUGUST

	Aylesbury Musical Festival	Market Sq/Kingsbury Sq	Every Sat & Sun throughout August
6	Play Day in the Park	Vale Park	11.00am - 3.00pm
15	Olympic Sports Showcase Event	Kingsbury	10.00am - 4.00pm
24	Hobble on the Cobbles	Market Square	11.00am - 7.00pm
26	Farmers' Market	Market Square	



TRE EVENTS

September 2008

Panorama of Aylesbury. Photo courtesy of Ray Ghent

12, The Civic Centre Tel: 01296 486009, Limelight Theatre Queens Park Art Centre Tel: 01296 424332

SEPTEMBER

6	Parklife	Vale Park	
6	Proms in the Park	Vale Park	7.30pm
13	Heritage Open Day	Town Centre/Cemetery	10.30am - 4.00pm
14	Charter Day - Tudor Fayre	Market Square	11.00am - 4.00pm
23	Farmers' Market	Market Square	
27	Foals	Civic Centre	

OCTOBER

21	Farmers' Market & Activities	Market Square	9.00am - 2.00pm
25	Farmyard Funtime	Kingsbury	11.00am - 4.00pm
28	Farmers' Market	Market Square	
31	Ghouls and Villains	Civic Centre	6.00pm

NOVEMBER

20	Christmas Light Switch On	Market Square	5.30pm - 7.30pm
23	Santa's Parade		
25	Farmers' Market	Market Square	

DECEMBER

13 - 14	Ice Skating	Kingsbury	10.00am - 4.00pm
18	Christmas Carol Fest	Market Square	6.30pm

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 12th July, Bedgrove Park, 12.00 - 4.00pm

• Bouncy Castle • Activity Stalls • Raffle • Refreshments • Displays • Face Painting

Supported by Mix 96

Aylesbury Town gets the bird(s)

Local bird spotters have recently compiled a list of birds, owls, ducks and geese that they have observed in Aylesbury over the past few years. They told Aylesbury Town Council that much has changed over the years. For instance, in the 1940s and 1950s you would be unlikely to see Magpies, Jackdaws, Jays and Wood Pigeons in your garden but now they are commonplace – that is, they have been urbanised.

Even twenty years ago you would not have seen Buzzards and Kites close to towns and villages but now a Red Kite wheeling across the urban landscape is a common sight. However it is some time since the Cuckoo and Spotted Flycatcher have been seen. **How many of the following have you noted in Aylesbury Town?**



Nuthatch

REGULARLY SEEN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| House Sparrow | Robin |
| Dunnock | Blackbird |
| Collared Dove | Wood Pigeon |
| Great Tit | Blue Tit |
| Coal Tit | Long Tailed Tit |
| Chaffinch (less in recent years) | Greenfinch (less in recent years) |
| Goldfinch (less in recent years) | Wren |
| Pied Wagtail | |

OCCASIONALLY SEEN

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Jackdaw | Magpie |
| Linnet | Jay |
| Nuthatch | Song Thrush |
| Green Woodpecker | Greater Spotted Woodpecker |
| Chiffchaff | Rook |
| Heron | Perigrine Falcon |
| Swan | Mallard |
| Canada Goose | Herring Gull |
| Common Gull | Moorhen |

Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Barn owl

RARE SIGHTINGS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Marsh Tit | Reed Bunting |
| Siskin | Brambling |
| Tree Creeper | Mistle Thrush |
| Yellow Hammer | Bullfinch |
| Yellow Wagtail | Sparrowhawk |
| Willow Warbler | Spotted Flycatcher |
| Tawny Owl (less in recent years) | Barn Owl (less in recent years) |
| Cuckoo (not in recent years) | Lapwing (over flying only) |
| Blackcap | Grey Wagtail |
| Goldcrest | |



Aylesbury Town is Blooming Wonderful!

This year local authorities have redoubled their efforts to ensure the town centre is clean and attractive during the summer months. With the downturn in the economy it is imperative that the town retains or increases its current "footfall". "With the exception of the period after the street market has closed the town is usually clear of litter" said Aylesbury Town Council environment spokesman Cllr Mark Willis. "There is little flyposting but we still have a problem with people just dropping their chewing gum."

This year floral displays have been increased dramatically. Over 50 planters have been installed around the "hub" by Aylesbury Town Council and they have also increased the number of hanging baskets around the town centre to over 275 plus railing planters and additional planters in the town centre. With AVDC weighing in with an additional 70 hanging baskets and planters in Kingsbury.

Under an agreement with Bucks County Council, Aylesbury Town Council have cleared and replanted beds in Upper Hundreds Way and the underpasses on Friarage Road and Cambridge Street. AVDC have undertaken similar work around the High Street underpass and will eventually integrate this area into Vale Park.

"These are major improvements to the town," commented Cllr Steve Patrick, leader of Aylesbury Town Council.

Aylesbury Open Gardens Evening

Friday 11 July
4 Gardens open 6.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.
Entrance £5 including a glass of wine
Tombola, plants for sale, book stall

16 Milton Road
2 Spenser Road
7 Westminster Drive
13 Linden End

Buckinghamshire

The Aylesbury Society

Introducing our new Mayor...

At a meeting of the Council held on 8th May 2008 Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne was unanimously elected as Aylesbury Town Mayor. "I am very honoured to be chosen for this position by my fellow Councillors," said Penni. "Cllr Puddefoot was an excellent Mayor and will be a hard act to follow."

Penni Thorne was born in Wood Green, London and moved to Aylesbury when she was 5. She was educated at Aylesbury High School. She has three children: JoAnne, Nathalie and Toby; a dog called Bree and a cockatiel named Bailey. JoAnne is a qualified management accountant and works internationally as a systems analyst. Nathalie is in her final year reading Mandarin Chinese and Spanish at the University of Leeds. She hopes to be working in China later this year. Toby is currently taking A/S levels at Aylesbury Grammar School.

Cllr Thorne works for the Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted as their Development Officer. This position carries a wide remit and includes working with children, young people and their families providing information, advice and support. Cllr Thorne is also an elected District Councillor for the Bedgrove Ward and Chair of Bedgrove Residents Association.



It is traditional for each Town Mayor to choose a charity and to raise funds on its behalf. Penni has chosen to support WheelPower. WheelPower provides accessible facilities at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the "home of Wheelchair Sport" including an Athletics Arena, Sports Hall, Indoor Bowls Centre, Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre. Each year many thousands of men, women and children become disabled due to an accident or illness. WheelPower is the national charity for wheelchair sport and helps people with disabilities to achieve their sporting dreams. "They have to raise all their funds themselves," said Penni. "They do not receive any help from Government. But what they provide is so practical and valuable that I want to do everything I can to support them." We wish Penni every success in her year as Mayor.

...and our Deputy Mayor



Cllr Ranjula Takodra was born a British citizen and lived in Kenya from an early age. She came to live in the Queens Park area of Aylesbury in 1968. She attended junior school in Queens Park although this has now been demolished and replaced by houses owned by the Guinness Trust. Cllr Takodra is married with two grown up children, Sunil and Nima who both went to local schools. Sunil now runs youth music projects and Nima works for the Young Offenders Service.

Ranjula Takodra now works for the Racial Equality Council specialising in equality and human rights issues. She also works at a local surgery as a Liaison Officer dealing with women's issues, domestic violence, benefits and housing problems.

Cllr Takodra was asked by fellow councillors to stand as Deputy Mayor. "It is a great honour to serve in this position and I am very proud to represent the town that I have lived in for so much of my life," said Cllr Takodra.

Jenny's Year as Mayor

I've been Mayor of Aylesbury for the last year, and what an amazing year it has been. I've seen for myself the amount of voluntary work that goes on, and met many people who give generously of their time, effort and money to make such a positive difference to the lives of others. On behalf of the Town I have been proud to acknowledge vocational and voluntary work that makes our community vibrant, promotes what is best and encourages others to participate. I have shared services with the many faith groups that contribute to our diverse cultural life and have been invited to numerous charitable events organised by local businesses and shops. I am aware from my own experience of the very important contribution made by those who support our young, elderly, dependent or vulnerable residents in a vocational or voluntary role. They give far more than could be expected and in doing so empower other people, giving them greater independence and opportunities to participate in their community. It has been a privilege to acknowledge the work of all those who give such a high standard of support and care to our residents in Aylesbury's care homes.

We are all proud of the local groups that raise money to improve the quality of life for others. The Game Club; the Lions; the Rotary Club; the Round Table and the Soroptomists, as well as the football teams, choirs and orchestras who all organise charitable events and provide social opportunities for less well off residents. This year I would particularly like to acknowledge our Residents Associations and groups, and St John, the Guides, the Princes Trust, Action for Youth, Aylesbury Youth Action and other groups of and for young people. The support of voluntary and business groups in our Town for the Mayor's Annual Charity Dinner is highly valued. So is that of older members of the community who gave their time to raise money at our very enjoyable tea dances and of the talented young people of the Town who contributed to the Mayor's Concert in December.

Because of reorganisation and the loss of local army battalions it is sometimes difficult to show appreciation of the work done by our servicemen and women, peace keeping or carrying out humanitarian work. On your behalf I attended the 7th Rifles Welcome Home Parade at Brock Barracks, Reading, which included local TA soldiers; an evening with 23 Pioneer Regiment Bicester and Aylesbury's own Remembrance Day Parade. It was an honour as the Mayor of Aylesbury to be invited by Halton to be the Reviewing Officer at their Graduation Parade.

The Aylesbury Society is of great importance to our community. This group is concerned with safeguarding our heritage and members have been essential in preserving local character and identity. It is my pleasure to applaud their achievements. In addition, this year we have seen Aylesbury College continue to excel. I have also visited some of our excellent schools and been delighted with the sensible and thoughtful answers given by young children, when asked what they would do if they were Mayor. I hope that some of them aspire to be a future Mayor. This year Aylesbury has been proud to welcome two Royal visitors to the town: Princess Anne and Princess Alexandra. They both showed a genuine and well informed interest in our residents and their projects.

Beyond the boundaries of Aylesbury, the Mayor maintains links with other civic leaders in Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas by attending their gatherings and special occasions. This is an opportunity to promote Aylesbury and highlight issues that affect the wider area. Other civic leaders in Buckinghamshire praise the functions such as Charter Day and St George's Day, organised by our Town Council, which highlight the heritage of the Town.

On the national scene, last Summer I thoroughly enjoyed showing the Judges of the Royal Horticultural Society's 'Britain in Bloom' competition, the work done by the Town Council and residents to maintain and improve our environment in Aylesbury. At the recent Regional Conference of the National Association of Local Councils hosted by the Town Council, leaders and representatives of other local authorities were very impressed by the difference the Town Council has made to the appearance of the Centre, with flags, floral displays and hanging baskets.

On the international stage it has been a good year for Aylesbury. I was delighted to receive young people from France and Germany and to meet teachers from Ghana and Tanzania. We have re-established civic contact with Bourg-en-Bresse, our twin town in France, with the invaluable support of Tim Crapper, Paul-Henri Givett and of course, our own Fred Clark.

This is only a snapshot of the experiences I have been fortunate enough to participate in during my year in the Office of Mayor. I would like to say 'Thank you' to all those who contribute to the continual preservation of Aylesbury's strong community spirit of inclusion, warmth, friendliness and co-operation.

Jenny Puddefoot

St George's Fun Day and Parade - Saturday 19th April & Sunday 20th April

St George and the Dragon came to Aylesbury on Saturday 19th April in Kingsbury. Free entertainment was provided for the event by Aylesbury Town Council. Celebrating St George's Day in traditional style, the event continued through the day, despite cold weather, with morris dancing, clog dancing, old English folk songs and the battle between St George and The Dragon. St George's Day Parade took place on Sunday 20th April. Scouts, Councillors and Dignitaries paraded to St Mary's Church for a 3.00 pm service which was attended by the former Mayor, Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot. RAF Pipes & Drums led the Parade.



Long Crendon Morris Men who recently celebrated their 40th Anniversary. Photo by Maurice Cousins



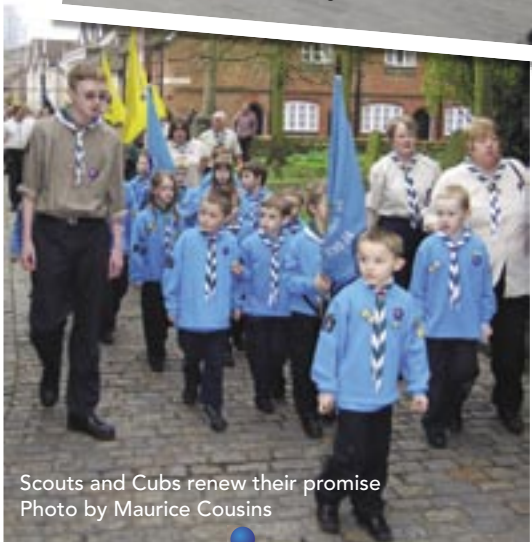
Amersham Garland Dancers
Photo by Maurice Cousins



Aldbury Morris Men
Photo by Maurice Cousins



Halton Pipe Band
Photo by Maurice Cousins



Scouts and Cubs renew their promise
Photo by Maurice Cousins



Cllr Graham Webster welcomes the Mayor and dignitaries at St Mary's
Photo by Maurice Cousins

Grants awarded by ATC Winter 2007 – Spring 2008

Grant aid was needed by Aylesbury Play & Display to help fund an all day cricket match. This was held in August and was their first venture, with over 200 people attending. The aim of the event was to bring people together from all Aylesbury communities and of all ages and backgrounds. They intend to repeat the event again in the summer 2008. £600 was awarded.

£1000 was given to Young Carers Bucks towards funding a Christmas party for Young Carers and their families. In certain cases this might have been the only Christmas celebration they had. Young Carers support over 300 children in Aylesbury who are caring for parents or siblings.

£1000 was awarded towards SPACE of St Mary's Church for providing training in listening skills for volunteers and staff. SPACE provide a listening service for people with relationship issues and supports people experiencing depression and other mental health issues. The organisation runs at St Mary's Church and is open to everyone.

Since the closure of another pre-school in the area, Meadowcroft Pre-School has taken on extra children and now has 150 on its books. A few children are in wheelchairs and some have special needs. A grant of £1000 was given towards purchasing more tables, chairs and extra multicultural equipment such as books.

The Indian Cultural Society (ICS) celebrated 21 years since it was first established. A grant was requested to help towards holding a celebrative event, at the Civic Centre, with a series of educational workshops, an exhibition on India with refreshments and entertainment in the evening. The event provided an excellent opportunity to experience different aspects of Indian Culture and was open to everyone in the community of Aylesbury. £1000 grant was awarded.

TOFS (Time Out For Seniors) is run at Limes Avenue Baptist Church. They provide opportunities for social interaction for the retired people of Bedgrove and the surrounding area. Between 80–85 attend each month. They hold coffee mornings and provide outings. A grant of £600 was awarded towards the cost of purchasing new tables and to help with transport costs for wheelchair users.

The Thursday Morning Club meets monthly for senior citizens of Meadowcroft. £400 was awarded towards the cost of an outing for members to the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe to see the musical 'Cats'.

The Grange School Garden project was given £1000 to help to fund a new initiative. Funding was requested to develop a sizeable garden and start a Garden Club. The Centre will deliver additional pastoral support for needy children. The venture will be for 14–15 year olds.

Aylesbury Cricket Club now have a full committee and membership of 60. The club asked for funding towards improving the shower facilities at the Club. £1000 was awarded.

This year the Queens Park Arts Centre staged a Textiles Festival between 22 April - 23 May for which they requested funding. The main event was on 18 May 2008 and included

an exhibition from artists, embroiders, patchwork makers and crocheters. ATC awarded £1000.

£486 was given to the Autumn Leaf Club for senior citizens to help fund a theatre trip to High Wycombe to see 'South Pacific'. They have a membership of 45 people.

The Aylesbury & Buckingham Alzheimers Society is setting up a new Drop-In Centre at Fairford Leys. £1000 was granted towards the development of this worthwhile service.

Ryder Cheshire Volunteers (RSV) provides opportunities for physically disabled people to take up leisure and learning activities, of their own choice, which they would otherwise be unable to pursue such as bowling, computer skills, playing chess, flower arranging and meals out. They were awarded £1000 towards the cost of recruitment of volunteers and training.

After last year's successful Community Fun Day, Future Inspirations are staging another event this year on 28 June. £1000 was awarded towards the cost of activities, hire of centre and marquee. The event is open to the whole community and is FREE.

£850 was awarded towards the cost of running the 10th Rotary Club Technology Tournament. 30 teams took part from local schools. This year the project was to build a bridge out of straws, string and paper, capable of bearing a load of 2 kilograms.

The Open Door Community Church Drop-In Centre was given £500 to help towards the hiring of equipment for their Fun Day on 27 July 2008. The Centre is for children, youths and adults from the Quarrendon area, promoting family time and social interaction.

£1000 was awarded to MASKS which supports children with special needs at Booker School, Stocklake Park and Harding House. The grant was given towards purchasing sensory equipment for the centre. These resources will also be used by other organisations within the town.

Finally, £315 was awarded to the National Association of Widows towards funding a trip to Sulgrave Manor, the home of George Washington's ancestors. The group has a membership of 45 people.

Pat Phillips
Grants Officer



10th Rotary Club Technology Tournament
Photo courtesy of The Rotary Club



A 60 panel solar array was installed in April onto the roof of the Town Hall in the centre of Aylesbury. The array was commissioned from and designed by local company Ardenham Energy, who installed the extensive array and associated controls in under six days.

The energy conservation project was undertaken following the award of a Low Carbon Building Programme Phase 2 Grant of 50% of the total project cost of £50,000. The other £25,000 was funded by a 7 year interest free loan from Bucks County Council's Sustainability Fund, with an expected payback period of approximately 8 years.

The electricity generated is synchronised with the national grid supply via an inverter and will be used

to supply clean energy to the Town Hall, as well as exporting to the grid for use elsewhere when more energy is produced than is consumed within the property.

The 10kWp array is almost silent in operation and will generate around 9,500kWh of 'greenhouse gas' free electricity each year. The installation includes a display in the reception area which will outline real time energy production as well as cumulative kWh and CO₂ savings.

Cllr Mark Willis said "The Town Council signed up to the Nottingham Agreement last year and we would like to use this installation to demonstrate how effective these systems are, and show that they can be installed even in conservation areas."

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, Town Hall, 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

Aylesbury's Premier Shopping Venues



HALE LEYS

Monday to Saturday: 9.00am - 5.30pm Sundays: 10.30am - 4.30pm
Bank Holidays: 10.00am - 5.00pm

FRIARS SQUARE

Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturdays: 9.00am - 6.00pm
Sundays: 10.30am - 4.30pm Bank Holidays: 11.00am - 5.00pm

What is SPACE?

SPACE is a unique organisation set up to help those of us going through relationship issues. It is not only for married people, but anyone going through relationship difficulties with a partner, child, colleague or friend (even if this happened long ago). SPACE also supports people experiencing depression and other mental health issues.

SPACE offers:

- A free and confidential listening service
- A range of workshops on topics that help to maintain healthy relationships
- Regular social events for members
- Weekly group pop-ins on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon
- Somewhere to drop-in on week days. There is always a friendly smile, a hot drink and a chat between 10.00am and 3.00pm
- A point of contact to gain further information about other helpful organisations
- A Sunday drop-in from 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- We do not offer a counselling service

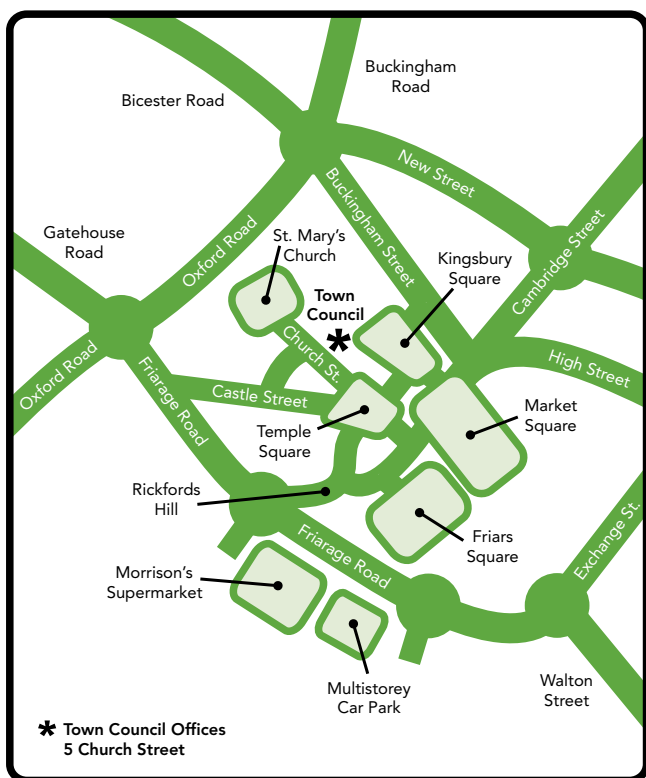
We are based in the centre of Aylesbury, at St. Mary's Church. Our office hours are Monday to Friday, between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Outside office hours an answerphone is available. Our phone number is 01296 432769 and email aylesbury.space@btconnect.com

YOUNG CARERS

Young Carers supports children and young people aged 5-18 whose lives are affected by caring for a family member who has a long-term illness, disability or substance abuse problem. We are currently looking for volunteers for our summer events. If you have an enhanced CRB and have a few hours to spare, please contact me: Kathy Groom, Activity Organiser, Young Carers, Ardenham Court, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP19 8HT. Tel: 01296 310472.

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 locate.

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

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 Miss
Noreen O'Sullivan
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr
Kevin Peters
Ward: Gatehouse

Festival '08

5th - 20th July

Aylesbury Town Council are currently in the process of organising a two week Festival which will take place from **Saturday 5th July - Sunday 20th July** in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. A programme of street and venue based events is envisaged including music, art and craft exhibitions, cookery workshops, childrens story telling, dance, drama, sport and poetry reading.

It will start with the **Roald Dahl Festival on Saturday 5th July** which is being organised by the Aylesbury Vale District Council. On Sunday 6th July there will be sports demonstrations/promotions in the Market Square by Aylesbury Football and Rugby Clubs. Cycle Aylesbury will also be taking part. In Kingsbury there will be various school orchestras playing and a performance by Shed@The Park.

On **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July** there will be a 'musical extravaganza' in Kingsbury involving school and local bands. Aylesbury College, St Mary's Church and the County Library will also be holding various events over the two weeks. In Friars Square Shopping Centre there will be a display of flags designed by Waddesdon School. We have also been given 10 Aylesbury ducks, made of fibre glass, to various organisations and schools for them to decorate. The ducks will be on display throughout the two week Festival and the Mayor will judge and choose a winner.

The Festival will end on **Sunday 20th July** with 'Aylesbury on Sea' in Kingsbury which will be opened by **Chris Fountain** who has starred in **Hollyoaks** and **Dancing on Ice**. There will be a Kylie Tribute band, Laurel & Hardy act, The Pirate Fairies, Stilt Walker and Aylesbury's very own Melody Room Jazz Band. Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio will be providing music and Des Kaye will be the compere. There will also be a 'gladiator style' knock out competition between local mascots.

6th September - Proms in the Park

This popular free event is back once more come rain or shine. The Aylesbury Community Band will again be playing old and new favourites. Jill Needham and Richard Stark will provide the vocals. Picnic from 6.00pm and music commences at 7.30pm. Flag waving not compulsory but adds to the evening. Please bring plastic drinking bottles.

13th September - Heritage Day

This year Aylesbury Town Council has organised for the second time a tour of the Tring Road Cemetery starting at 11.00am from the cemetery chapel and a Walk Back in Time which includes a conducted tour of the town centre and the old town starting at 2.00pm at the "Arches" in Market Square. Additional tours of the King's Head will take place every hour from 11.00am to 2.00pm. The Friends Meeting House will also be open from 10.30am to 3.00pm. It's all free and gives you a chance to find out more about our town and past residents.

14th September - Charter Day

A fun and educational day featuring the Tudor Fayre. Come and see the Mediaeval Masked Dance & Musicians, George & Dragon Puppet Theatre, the Ratcatcher, the Jester and the Gravediggers. Laughter guaranteed. "Stall holders" include the Barber Surgeon, Instrument Maker, Alchemist, Moneyer, Spinning/Weaving/Dying, Apothecary, Tile Maker/Tudor Witch Pot Making and the Tudor Gargoyle Maker.

If you would like further information, please contact Aylesbury Town Council on the details below.



Photo courtesy of Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership



Photo courtesy of Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership

Aylesbury Town Council

Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP

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