

# Aylesbury Town matters

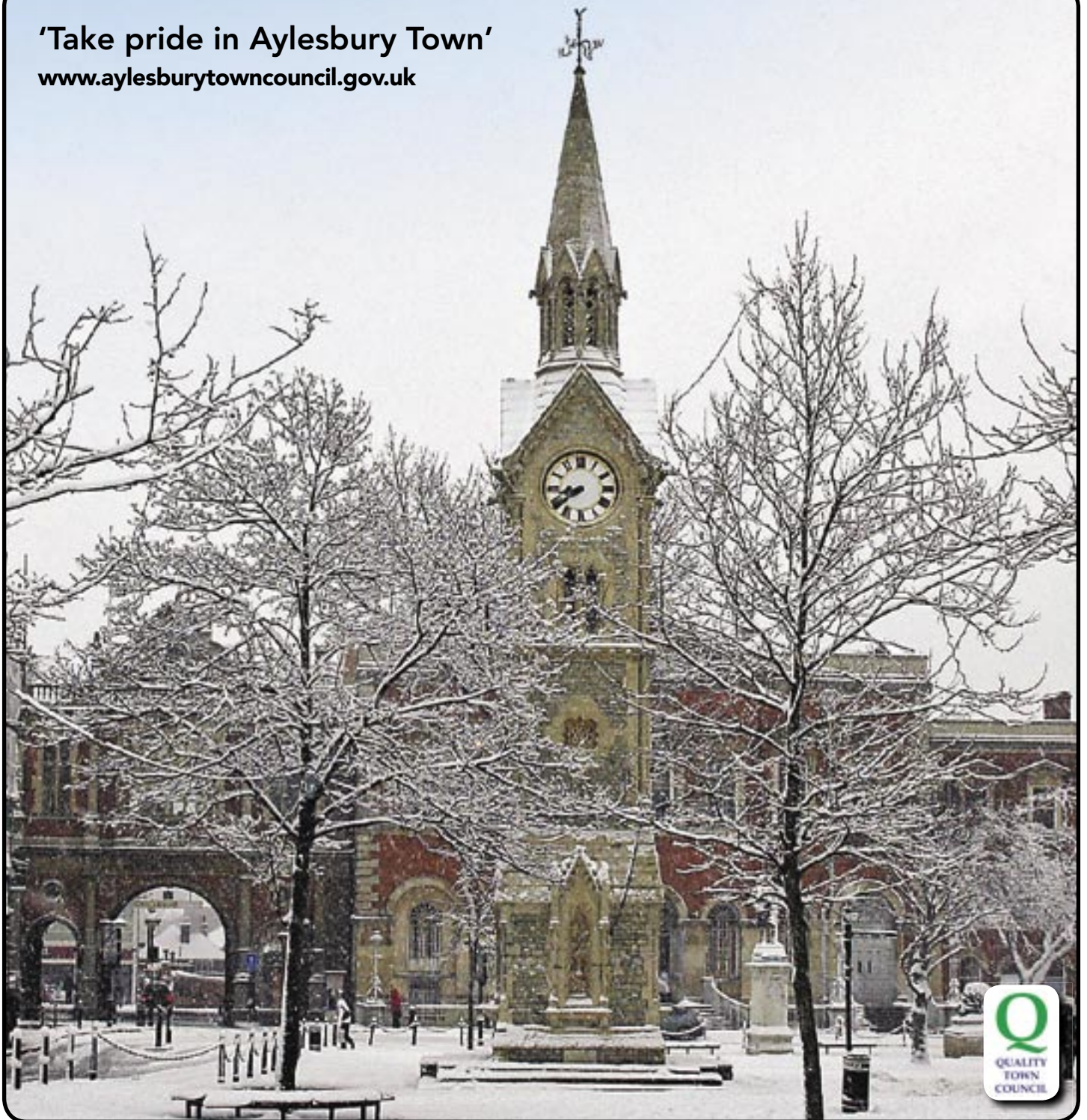
Aylesbury Town Council Magazine  
Issue Seven December 2007



Bringing information that matters to the people of Aylesbury

'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

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



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## Contact Details:

**Aylesbury Town Council**  
Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury  
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: Snow scene in  
Market Square by Roger King



## A Christmas Message from your Town Mayor

Aylesbury in the festive season is an exciting place to be. The turning on of the Christmas lights, the window displays that draw late night shoppers for gifts and Christmas foods, children excited by Santa's arrival, and the many visitors to the pantomime, Peter Pan, all contribute to the vibrancy of our town.

The community carols in the historic Market Square and the services in our churches remind us all of the reason why we celebrate Christmas.

This is the season of goodwill and our local charities and organizations add to the fun by raising funds in the festive style for the many causes that make such a big difference to many people's lives. Once again, Uptown Coffee Bar and St. Mary's Church will be opening their doors to provide a hot meal for those seeking warmth and company, and we thank all those volunteers who, each year, make this possible.

We all look forward to celebrating Christmas with our relatives and friends and are especially grateful to the people who work throughout the festive period – the emergency services, medical staff and those who will continue to provide care and support to the more vulnerable members of our community.

On behalf of the Aylesbury Town Council I wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas.

**Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot**  
Mayor of Aylesbury

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



## Events for Everyone

Aylesbury Town Council organised a variety of extremely successful events for its residents during the past year. These are intended to help to bring fun into the lives of the people of Aylesbury. They are, except for the odd one or two, free, so that those with large families or small incomes do not miss out. Events bring people from surrounding villages into the town, and they attract tourists from other towns and counties, thus helping to support the local economy.

Events are organised not simply to entertain, but also to highlight some historical aspect of the town. For example, July saw the John Wilkes Day, a celebration of the 250th Anniversary of his election as Member of Parliament for Aylesbury. People in Aylesbury were given the opportunity to walk around the garden of his house, see costumes and dances of the period and listen to music from the 18th Century. Another event with an historical context was the Charter Day and Tudor Fayre. The Town Mayor and members of the Town Council processed through the town in full regalia.

The Tudor Fayre brought in a large crowd, mainly children, who participated in the entertainment and experiences on offer. Adults were charmed by the Singing Plague Victims. Manky Molly sang a risqué tale about her marriage and life. Her blackened teeth, and designer clothing fashioned from sacks and hessian added colour to her character. There were various glimpses into Tudor life, such as those of the barber surgeon, the money maker (who demonstrated how coins were made in Tudor times), the apothecary, the jewellery maker, the fletcher, the dressmaker and much more.

At the end of the Summer the ever popular Proms in the Park, staged by the Town Council, saw its eighth year, and attracted well over 400 people despite the overcast weather. The programme was superb and the playing was magnificent. This was part of a three day musical festival in the Park, organised overall by AVDC, on the theme of World Music.

At the end of October 'Ghouls and Villains', the annual Halloween tour of spots notorious and macabre in Aylesbury's long history, was attended by a large audience of enthusiastic fans, many of whom entered the spirit of the occasion by dressing the part. The evening culminated in the King's Head, where spirits of a different kind were enjoyed by those old enough to appreciate them.



Charter Day entertainment  
Photo taken by Ray Ghent



Jenny and the apothecary  
Photo taken by Ray Ghent



Photo taken by Ray Ghent

## The intimate atmosphere of 'The Civic'

In July next year the Civic Centre will probably bring down its last curtain as a place of enjoyable entertainment in the town centre. I say probably, because since its closure was announced some years ago, the centre has had a number of reprieves.

The Civic Centre was the last great public building commissioned by the former Aylesbury Borough Council. The idea of a new Civic Hall was first mooted by Borough Councillors in 1968, but plans didn't really get under way until 1970. Council minutes in that year stated: *'In presenting his report, the borough architect referred to the problems of trying to reconcile the various uses envisaged for the hall, particularly those requiring a flat floor and, for instance, stage presentations which really demanded raked seating. From his discussions with the ministry's architects and visits to recently built civic halls and theatres and from extensive research, it had become clear that the trend in recent theatrical and educational practise was away from the conventional picture-frame stage.'*

Building work eventually commenced on 17 January 1972, by builders Benfield & Loxley of Oxford. The main building stood on the site of the former market hall run by Loaders, and its design reflected the octagonal shaped auction rings in the adjacent livestock market. Including the swimming pool, the total cost was a little under £900,000. The Civic, as it later became affectionately known, was opened on 2 September 1975 by Cllr Tony Mogford, Chairman of the new Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The inaugural concert on 6 September was the 'Messiah' performed by a combined choir and orchestra drawn from local music societies. Starting at 7.30 pm in the main auditorium, then known as 'The Vale Hall', the entrance fee was 60p for adults, or 20p for seniors and children. This was followed on the Sunday by a 'public viewing' of the new centre, when a 'Songs of Praise' was held in the evening. Wrestling with Mick McManus & Johnny Kwango was on 8 September when the cost of entrance was increased to 80p, and on the following Wednesday there was an 'Old Tyme Music Hall'. Rothmans, one of the biggest employers in the town at the time, then held a charity dance with Bob Miller & the Millermen.

Over the years many famous people have performed at the Civic: Comedians Frankie Howerd, Ken Dodd, Jasper Carrot, Danny laRue, Norman Wisdom and latterly Jack Dee, to name but a few; Crooners Val Doonican & Ronnie Hylton with the Kaye Sisters; and numerous 'Big Bands' and international ballet

companies. When 'Friars' relocated to the new venue such acts as Genesis, The Jam, Police and Talking Heads, supported by an up and coming group called 'Dire Straits' took the stage. The entrance fee for that particular concert was an unbelievable £1.40. In more recent years Jools Holland, Bill Wyman and Peter Green have brought their bands to the intimate atmosphere of The Civic.

Over recent years the Civic has presented pantomimes which have always been well attended. Celebrities such as Britt Ekland and Linda Robson have taken lead roles in these shows, and the last pantomime to be performed in this venue in December and January will feature the famous couple Paul Daniels and Debbie McGee.

Besides concerts the Civic has also hosted countless company dinner dances, the annual 'Street Life' party, civic receptions, exhibitions and collector's fairs, craft and trade shows - one of the most popular being the Railex Exhibition. The Aylesbury Association for the Protection of Persons & Property annual dinner, relocated to the Civic when Hazells Hall burned down in 1999.

In addition to the Maxwell Hall (formerly the Vale Hall) there are other smaller rooms which are used by a variety of clubs, including The Aylesbury Club for their annual Duck Dinner.

The Civic Centre is a unique, multi-functional venue, with an intimate atmosphere that both performers and audiences delight in, and respond to. It has been called the Village Hall of Aylesbury, and it will be sadly missed when it closes.

**Roger King**



## Bucks TV

Richard Carr, popular former presenter on Mix 96, is back in Aylesbury after a stint working on MKTV. Recently he returned to Mix 96 as a guest presenter to the delight of many old fans. His main purpose in returning to Aylesbury, however, is not in radio. He is busy establishing a new TV station for Buckinghamshire.



Photo by Pete Griffith  
All People Photography

When we interviewed Richard for Aylesbury Town Matters about his new venture, he told us: "The one thing I loved the most, working in radio at Mix 96, was 'keeping it local'. It's what makes you stand out from all the rest. It helps, I guess, that I was born and brought up in Wendover and have lived in Aylesbury all my adult life."

He went on to explain: "Having recently dipped my toes into television, I've learnt two important things: One, there is a very large gap in the market when it comes to local TV in this area. The second, the way we know television is changing, one day soon we won't be sitting at home watching the telly with a remote control in our hands... it'll be a monitor with a wireless keyboard. With the age of YouTube and Myspace, we're heading for an internet future."

This is why Richard is so excited to be launching 'Bucks TV', an internet based television station for everyone in Buckinghamshire. He went on to say, "As far as I know there is only one other county in the UK with a dedicated TV station, so it's great that Buckinghamshire can proudly be ahead of the rest."

"We've had a great response already from local musicians. The 'Music channel' is filling up fast, thanks to assistance from 'Jam Central'. Interviews, performances and videos are all online to view at your convenience.

There are also, News, Community, Sport, Motoring, Leisure, Events, History, and Property channels available."

Richard wants to hear from people with good news. "Bucks TV will be very positive in the stories covered", he explained. "There is far too much negativity around. We want to change that. So please get in touch with me via email: [richard@buckstv.co.uk](mailto:richard@buckstv.co.uk)"

"I hope everyone will get behind this new venture and that it is going to become part of your everyday life. If you don't see anything that interests you, then tell me what does, it is YOUR television station after all.

"We'll be covering issues important to you and Aylesbury. Bucks TV will be getting on board with the 'Bring the Ducks Home' campaign and teaming up with David Stopps to produce a documentary on the legend that is 'Friars'.

"If you think I have used the word 'local' too much in this interview, I don't apologise – you can't have enough, in my opinion!"

To view the new station go to [www.buckstv.co.uk](http://www.buckstv.co.uk)  
The station is interactive and you can contact Richard by accessing the website and following the 'Contact Us' link.







## It's a case of prevention, not cure

Recently, much publicity has been given to Aylesbury's apparent wave of crime, involving drug cartels, adolescents and mindless violence. However, beneath the surface the picture is not as bleak as it seems. Youth@ACT is a local service providing youths with 1-to-1 support and other help. Outreach workers who not only understand the ways of the youths, but also have the means to help them change, go to young people's gathering places to engage with them.

Youth@ACT has discovered that one way to interest youngsters is to use mediums with which they are familiar and which they enjoy. For example, Kamran Khan, who came to the charity recently and brought a fresh spirit and new ideas, has been developing a form of engagement through sports to keep young people occupied.

This has been a great success, with over 50 young people regularly attending – a good deal more than many Youth Centres. Recently, Kamran was able to successfully accredit 8 young people with a Sports Leader award.

Just over a year ago, Steve Scott joined Youth@ACT. He grew up on a council estate and has seen first hand the violence and substance abuse that can attract young people when there are not enough activities or opportunities for development. Steve is passionate about his work and in touch with the youth culture of today. More people like Steve are needed to work with adolescents. He has the life experience of dealing with problems faced, and the ability to engage with youths on their own level, that produces a relaxed rapport with which youths actually interact. Steve keeps in contact with many of the people he has worked with, and the success stories are numerous: young people who used to drink on a Friday night stopped because Kamran and Steve would go out to see them if they were sober.

When Steve started working as a part-time Outreach Worker he found that most Youth agencies are met with suspicion by their clients, who don't understand quite what is on offer. Steve went out into the streets with remote control cars and engaged with older children and young adolescents. He realised that Drug Awareness needed to be delivered through interesting experiences that held young people's attention. He developed a drug awareness drama

performance that held its pilot at Mandeville School. The feedback received from that was excellent. Funding was then received from AVDC Community Safety in order to develop "Drugs Through The Arts" for a period of six months.

Drugs Through The Arts aims to raise drug awareness through enjoyment – a form of kinetic learning. During the six-month period, the project made contact with around 600 youths of whom about 200 were actively and regularly involved. Steve's evenings were full: Monday he ran a drama class; Tuesday a dance workshop; Wednesday, vocal training and Thursday, music production. All of these classes were offered free of charge, and out of them grew various groups, engaging in R'n'B, Hip Hop and Punk. Moreover, on Friday evenings he still went out in order to contact youngsters and encourage them to join his project.

Throughout the project, Steve's aim was prevention: diverting youths from things which could ruin their lives by involving them in the Arts. Drugs Through The Arts culminated in a showcase held at the Sir Henry Floyd, involving nearly 100 young people who used drama, dance and song to promote drug awareness. Unfortunately the funding for the project was only short term, and the project has since had to move elsewhere – but Steve tries to keep the support network that was created in place. The young people he has worked with still come to see him, and Steve is sometimes also able to offer support in other ways.

One of the young people Steve is involved with is Faz, who lived in Zimbabwe until the age of 12, and has spent the last 6 years of his life growing up in the High Wycombe and Aylesbury area. Faz has found expression through art, yet his style is different from most of the generic rappers and artists found in music today. Despite having encountered violence and hardship, Faz tries not to bring these experiences into his lyrics as he doesn't believe that it's right for him to express himself in a way that encourages others towards violence.

Faz, and the band he has formed with his friends, called Third World, have tried their best to break into the music business, paying for professional recordings out of their own pockets. Steve is now trying to help them to reach a larger audience with their message of peace, prevention and self-

improvement. Faz has found that there is a lack of positive role models for youths in his position, and hopes that once his group get a break they will become the role models promoting real achievements and self improvement.

In Faz's opinion, whilst there is violence in Aylesbury it is a lot better than other places that he has experienced. It seems that even though there is an issue that needs to be addressed, it's a case of prevention rather than cure. Charities and Youth Services need to be more proactive, and employ the kind of workers who are knowledgeable about youngsters today. Funding needs to be put in the right places. If clients aren't going to Youth Centres anymore as it's not cool, the funding needs to be given to the charities that they are accessing.

**If you would like any information about Drugs Through The Arts, Youth@ACT or the Arts programs still being run, please call Steve Scott on 07887 851848.**

**Nathalie Thorne**

## Cheaper train travel for bus pass holders

An Aylesbury-based charity, the Thomas Hickman's Charity, has made it possible for bus pass holders residing in the parish of Aylesbury to receive concessionary travel on the train service. The Charity has reached an agreement with Chiltern Railways to allow Aylesbury people with bus passes to use them to receive one third off railway fares.

If you are a bus pass holder and wish to travel by Chiltern Railway, this does not mean you have to give up your bus pass. You now have the choice of using bus or rail. Simply present your bus pass and give your address at the Aylesbury train station booking office to receive your reduced fare.

Some people, for example the blind, could also be eligible to receive 50% off. For further information, please contact Parrott and Coales, Solicitors, in Bourbon Street, Aylesbury.

## Youth Projects and Activities

The young people of Aylesbury are our future citizens and need to be supported by way of suitable activities to help their development at a transitory stage in their lives. Numerous activities are now offered in Aylesbury for young people, and most are free of charge. If you have or know of any children whom you believe would benefit from an informal-style learning environment, please pass the information below on to their parents.

### CULTURAL SOUND: (Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre)

There's a drop-in music workshop every Friday night from 6.30pm until 9.00pm. Youngsters can drop-in and play along with other musicians and make recordings, bring their musical instrument along, try DJing, writing lyrics and recording, learn how to use the software for writing and recording or just go along and chill out, play a game of pool and make new friends.

### QUEENS PARK CENTRE

The Centre offers a variety of workshops for young people aged 7-11, including silk painting, pottery and various other activities suitable for young children. After-school activities for teenagers include street dancing on a weekday from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. Leaflets are available from Aylesbury Lending Library or Queens Park Centre (01296 424332) for further information. Queens Park Centre also organises activities for children during the school holidays and after school.

### AYLESBURY YOUTH ACTION

Aylesbury Youth Action is a volunteer group based at the Queens Park Centre. The aims of the group is to get as many young people as possible involved in a variety of projects in the community, while at the same time acquiring new skills and work experience. Working as a volunteer does mean giving time for free, but there are many benefits including making new friends, having fun, gaining skills that could prove invaluable for working life, increasing confidence, or just trying something completely different.

On Thursday 6 December 2007 Aylesbury Youth Action will be holding their annual Christmas Shop with the elderly, in which youngsters and groups of friends help older people with their Christmas shopping. This is always one of the most enjoyable and popular projects of the year.

For further information on joining Aylesbury Youth Action, please contact Simon or Sara on 01296 421149.



Graffiti Workshop



AYA Christmas Shop

### 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](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



## Launch of Aylesbury Young Archaeologists' Club



Photo courtesy of Bucks County Museum

If you've ever watched Time Team and thought, "I'd like to do that!", well now you can...

A new Aylesbury branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club was launched on 29 September. Based at the Buckinghamshire Studies' Centre in the town centre, the club is aimed at young people between 9-16 years, with an interest in archaeology and history.

The drop-in session on September 29 involved children in a wide range of practical activities including drawing flints and re-fitting flint flakes; making rubbings of Roman pottery and coins; dating historic buildings; studying aerial photographs of Aylesbury; planning a medieval village and making fossils out of modelling dough.



Photo courtesy of Bucks County Museum

Branch leader Sue Fox says "we have an exciting programme of activities planned for the next 12 months, including historic building recording, archaeology walks, pottery identification, as well as a huge range of archaeological games.

"The aim is to get young people involved in and enthusiastic about archaeology and the history of their own area. Some sessions will be run by guest experts and all will be hands-on and fun!"

The club will meet on the second Saturday of each month, from 10.00 am to 12.00 am, normally at the Buckinghamshire Studies' Centre on Walton Street. Sessions cost £2.00 and there is no joining fee.

For further details or to book a place on a session, contact: Sue Fox on email: [scfox@gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:scfox@gotadsl.co.uk) or call 01296 748514

**Cycle Aylesbury**  
It's better by bike  
Year of cycling 2008

**More good reasons to cycle in Aylesbury...**

**Gemstone Cycleways Network** Seven Gemstone Cycleways providing direct and safe cycle access from residential areas to the town centre  
**There's a route near you!**

Most of the Gemstone Cycleway network is off road. Routes to and from Bierton, Meadowcroft & Quarrendon and Hartwell are completely off road

Bright and easy to follow signage on cycle routes showing travel distance in minutes

Gemstone Cycleway maps can be downloaded from our website, [www.cycleaylesbury.co.uk](http://www.cycleaylesbury.co.uk)

300 free, centrally located cycle parking spaces, including 100 at Aylesbury Railway Station



Temple House after being renovated  
Photo taken by Keith Turner

## Restoring Aylesbury's Heritage

The Aylesbury Old Town Conservation Area, apart from being delightful to live in, is one of the town's jewels. Unknown to many who live in other areas of Aylesbury, it is a rare example of a community living very close to a town centre. And the pride local residents and businesses have in their properties and surroundings shows. Not only the residents themselves but the Hickman's Trust who own a significant number of almshouses in the area, take pride.

This year a long-outstanding project to complete restoration of St Mary's churchyard wall and gates was undertaken by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

"Unfortunately not everyone who owns property in the town values the buildings and the historic resonance with the town" said Cllr Mark Willis. "It was very sad to see the old Electricity Showrooms in Exchange Street and the Ship pub being earmarked for demolition. With the Ship gone there is no building left in Aylesbury that can be associated with the building of the canal."



Before

Photo taken by Keith Turner



After

Photo taken by Keith Turner





Castle Street  
Photo taken by Margaret Wagstaffe



Thomas Hickman Buildings  
Photo taken by Keith Turner



Church Street  
Photo taken by Keith Turner





Cllr Graham Webster, Aylesbury Society, Aylesbury Scouts and Guides, local residents and Walton Church Environment Group



9th Aylesbury Brownies

## Spring bulbs go wild!

Over three weekends during September local groups and volunteers came out in droves to help plant thousands of spring bulbs in areas near to the entrances to the town. "It was a fantastic response," said Town Clerk Margaret Wagstaffe. "Both young and old approached the task with great gusto and energy. The ground was incredibly hard as it had not rained for over a month and eventually we had to bring in a mechanical digger to prepare some areas."

Over 30,000 bulbs were planted by Aylesbury based Scouts, Guides, Brownies, St John's Ambulance Cadets, Rotary Club, the Aylesbury Lions, the Probation service, Town council staff and the Aylesbury Society.

It is such a successful project that the Town Council has already pencilled in weekends in September 2008 with the intention of enlarging the planted areas.



Aylesbury Lions



St John's Ambulance Cadets



Thames Valley Probation Services



2nd Southcourt Brownies



Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds

## Another Silver for Aylesbury

For the second year running Aylesbury Town was awarded a Silver Medal in the annual Royal Horticultural Society 'Britain in Bloom' Competition.

This was the second time that Aylesbury Town Council had entered and this year to make things harder, the Town was categorised as a large town or small city.

The judges said "The Town Clerk and Town Council with their rapid expansion of 'Britain in Bloom' are to be congratulated on the great strides they have taken in a year."



The Aylesbury Riverside Walk covering 18 hectares was awarded the discretionary RHS Bloomin' Wild award.

On Aylesbury's overall entry the judges observed "The floral planting, roundabouts, involvement with schools, Vale Park, their splendid Crown Leys allotments as well as a host of activities well programmed in their portfolio all point to an active 'Britain in Bloom'. With a marking of over ten points ahead of last year at 144 points out of 200, Aylesbury is awarded a silver award. Another few points and Aylesbury will be in sight of a Silver Gilt."





Photo taken by Ray Ghent

## Cemetery Fees: Public Consultation

When Aylesbury Town Council took over the management and administration of the Tring Road Cemetery on 1 June 2007 the fee structure was inherited from Aylesbury Vale District Council. Residents of Aylesbury and of Aylesbury Vale paid standard fees. Anyone living outside the boundary of Aylesbury Vale was required to pay double the regular fees. No fee distinction was made between residents of Aylesbury, whose taxes subsidise the Cemetery to a certain extent, and residents from outside the boundaries of Aylesbury but within the administrative area covered by AVDC, whose taxes do not contribute towards the Cemetery.

This is different from general national practice. It is normal for Town residents to pay standard fees, and those from out of Town to pay double fees for burials.

The Town Council wants to hear your views on the way forward when the new fees are introduced on 1 April 2008. The options are:

1. Standard fees for Aylesbury Town residents and double fees for residents within the Vale but outside the Town boundary.
2. Standard fees for residents of both the town and the Vale but double fees for people from outside Aylesbury Vale.
3. Double fees for residents outside the area which incorporates the Aylesbury Town Council area and immediate adjoining parishes. (These would include Watermead, Coldharbour Farm, Stoke Mandeville & Berton).

If you think that your Council should take into consideration long-term residents who have moved outside of the area then let us know.

Remember that Cemetery costs are paid for by Aylesbury Town tax payers.

Please let us know your views. You can take part in this public consultation by downloading the Cemetery Consultation Form from the Town website: [www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk) or you can phone the Town Council on 01296 425698 and ask for Kayleigh Wiltshire to request a consultation form, and one will be sent to you immediately. Closing date for return of forms is 31 December 2007.

## Heritage Open Day

Once again, Heritage Open Day in Aylesbury on 8 September was a huge success. Aggregate numbers for the events approached 600 visitors. Together with the Aylesbury Society, the Town Council arranged for a number of buildings to be opened to the public.

The Grade 2 listed Chapel & Mortuary in the Tring Road Cemetery were opened to visitors, and Roger King conducted a tour of the cemetery which attracted over 50 people.

Other buildings opened included the Masonic Hall in Ripon Street, the Friends Meeting House in Rickford's Hill and the King's Head in Market Square, where the National Trust offered free tours of this historic building every hour.

Keith Turner led visitors on a morning walk around old Aylesbury. A very good day for Aylesbury's heritage.



Photo taken by Ray Ghent



## Gatehouse Galvanized!

A range of activities took place in the Gatehouse area of Aylesbury on 20 October to tackle crime and disorder issues and improve safety for the local community.

The scheme was led by Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership working with a number of partner agencies to engage with the local community over issues including fire safety, anti-social behaviour and home security.

There was a big clean-up operation, with litter removed from streets, open spaces and gardens; pruning of shrubbery; and graffiti removed from walls. Local residents and businesses were invited to join in. Council workers from Aylesbury Town Council and AVDC, fire and police officers, housing association staff and local councillors were active on the day, and initiated actions that will help to resolve identified issues as soon as possible. This was the first in a series of community action days designed to get people involved and re-establish their pride in the area in which they live.

Nigel Brooke, Chairman of the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership, said: "This action day clearly demonstrates the value of our Community Safety Partnership. The best way of keeping the community safe is to involve those who live and work locally and this is an excellent way of providing not only practical advice, but also reassurance to local residents."



After

Photo courtesy of Bucks Herald

Chief Inspector Dick Auger, Thames Valley Police, commented: "We are all concerned about the levels of criminality and anti-social behaviour in our communities. We are very fortunate here in the Aylesbury Vale to enjoy relatively low levels of crime and the ability to detect and prevent it. The reason for our successes has been our ability to create effective partnerships with agencies, key stakeholders and the public. The most important partner of these three groups to the police, is the public and this Clean-up Day is a way for the public to actively take part in making our communities safer and stronger."

If people would like to take part in action days or would like further information then they can call the Community Safety team at AVDC on 01296 585061.



Before

Photo courtesy of Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership

### Green Fair, Sunday 13 April 2008 Market Square, Aylesbury

Aylesbury Town Council will be holding its first Green Fair next year on Sunday 13 April in the Market Square, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm.

The idea behind this event is to promote a more sustainable way of living and we hope to have local organisations represented with everyone coming primarily from within Buckinghamshire.

We would like to see representatives from local producers of food and drink, alternative energy, transport, and insulation – the list is endless.

## Wheelpower at Stoke Mandeville

Wheelpower, the national charity which organises wheelchair sport in Britain, held their Junior Games at the Guttman Centre, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury in September 2007. The event was attended by the Mayor of Aylesbury, Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, seen below being hilariously amused by the efforts of another local Councillor trying to lift weights. Other contests on the day included bowls and wheelchair races.

The Guttman Centre provides support and facilities for many of Britains brightest young disabled athletes. Its comprehensive and sophisticated facilities are also open to the public and the local community. Indeed, since every penny spent has to be raised from somewhere, visitors are warmly welcomed as their subscriptions help to keep the centre going.



Photo taken by Margaret Wagstaffe



Photo taken by Keith Turner

## Wheelchair Accessible Transport

People in wheelchairs who experience difficulty in getting about their daily journeys may be entitled to help with transport such as a free bus pass, travel tokens, or a companion pass. For further information contact Aylesbury Vale District Council on **01296 585661**, or you can find further information on their website:

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

Wheelchair accessible transport includes Dial-A-Ride, taxis, local bus companies (Arriva, Star Travel and Red Line), Chiltern Railways (**08456 005 165**), NHS patient transport, Shopmobility and other community transport.

Dial-A-Ride is a charity that is supported by the local council. A small annual membership fee is charged. Telephone **01296 330088** for further information.

Approved taxi companies are licensed and approved by Buckinghamshire County Council and have met certain criteria laid down by the County Council.

Aylesbury taxis currently on the approved list for wheelchair access include:

Atlas Cars	01296 339999
Five Twos	01296 422222
Amin Travels	01296 392156
ABC	01296 423232

Older buses on the local bus service are being replaced by new wheelchair accessible ones. Until all old buses have all been replaced not all routes are covered. Further information may be obtained from Arriva Bus Company on **0870 120 1088**.

## PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

If you are a wheelchair user and need to make a journey, it is advisable to choose a quiet time to travel. There will be more space for you, less rush and you will be offered more time if you need help. Plan your journey in advance and check with the bus company to ensure that the route you wish to travel on will be serviced by a wheelchair accessible bus.

If you wish to travel by rail give plenty of notice for the rail company to make special arrangements for you.

You may be entitled to a free bus pass as well as other concessionary fares on Chiltern Rail and taxi services. For further information telephone **01296 383737**, or visit the County Council website and look up the link for travel information: [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

## Keep warm during winter

Every winter around 20,000 older people die from cold related illnesses. This is because they have not taken the proper precautions to stay warm throughout the cold, winter months.

The Government has launched a "Keep Warm, Keep Well" campaign for this coming winter. Pick up a leaflet from your GPs surgery.

Below are some tips on how to keep warm:

- **Keep rooms at around 21°C (or at least your living room)**
- **Make sure that your bedroom is warm before you go to bed**
- **Use a hot water bottle or electric blanket, but follow the instructions given**
- **Wear bed socks, a nightcap, a scarf or a cardigan in bed**
- **Have a hot drink in a flask by your bed in case you wake up cold**
- **Do not leave windows and doors open**

Do you really need to go out so often? A good way to avoid leaving the house is to stock up on food so you won't need to go shopping as much when it is really cold. If you do have to go outside, wear lots of thin layers rather than one thick layer, the heat from your body will get trapped between the layers making you warmer. When outside stay active – don't stand still for long periods of time. Try to wear wool, cotton or synthetic fibres designed to be light and warm. Also wear warm, dry, non-slip flat shoes for maximum comfort and warmth.

Another way to stop the cold is to stay healthy, try to eat a balanced diet with something from each of the five food groups every day. Ensure that you also have one hot meal a day. The government is now bringing in payments to those over 60 to help with the cost of keeping warm; they can pay a winter fuel payment of up to £200, and an extra £100 to those 80 and over.

The council can also pay for urgent repairs to boilers and heating systems if you receive certain benefits or you are over 60 and living in a property in council tax band A, B, C or D. You can contact the Warm and Healthy Homes hotline on 01202 454979. To try and ensure that your heating does not break down make sure a recognized tradesperson checks your boiler every year.

### Look out for your neighbours

If you have an older person as a neighbour or a relative, please look out for them in the winter months. If curtains aren't opened during the day, or there are no lights on in the evening, there may be something wrong. Try to phone or knock on the door to see if there's an answer. If not, contact a relative or friend who you think may have a key. If you are very concerned, contact the emergency services.





## DECEMBER '07

1	Victorians (until March 2008)	Bucks County Museum	Exhibition
1	Lost and Found (until February 2008)	Bucks County Museum	Exhibition
1	OO-BOP-SH'BAM	Limelight Theatre, Queens Park	8.00pm
1 - 23 Feb	Christmas Toy Box	Bucks County Museum	Exhibition
5	Winter Evergreen - Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
6	A Town and Country Christmas Stalls Carols and Musicians	King's Head Courtyard	4.00pm - 9.00pm
7	Robert Fowler	Limelight Theatre, Queens Park	8.00pm
8	Comedy Night	Limelight Theatre, Queens Park	8.00pm
7 - 9	Continental Market	Kingsbury	
9	Christmas Farmer's Market	Market Square	10.00am - 2.00pm
8 - 30	Peter Pan	Civic Centre	
8	Winter Fun Day: Tudor Christmas	Bucks County Museum	11.00am - 4.00pm
9	Aylesbury Town Mayor's Carol Service <b>Members of the public are invited to join in</b>	St Mary's Church	6.00pm
9	Christmas Farmer's Market	Market Square	10.00am - 2.00pm
12	Victorian Christmas - Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
13	Victorian Christmas Evening - Carols & Mulled Wine	Farmers' Bar, King's Head	6.00pm - 9.00pm
14	Mayor's Winter Charity Concert	Mandeville School	7.00pm
15	On Wings	Limelight Theatre, Queens Park	8.00pm
15 & 16	Ice Rink and Seasonal Stalls	Kingsbury	10.00am - 4.00pm
20	Town Centre Carol Concert	Market Square	6.30pm
21	Marcus Malone Band	Limelight Theatre, Queens Park	8.00pm
22	Christmas Barn Dance	Limelight Theatre, Queens Park	8.00pm
31	New Years Eve Party - Bondbabybond	Civic Centre	8.30pm - 2.00am
31	New Years Eve Party	Farmers' Bar, King's Head	8.00pm

## JANUARY '08

9	Toys of the Past - Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
16	Rayon and Ra-Ra Skirts - Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
22	Farmers' Market	Market Square	9.00am - 2.00pm
23	Snow Fleas and Minotaurs Insects in Winter - Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
26	Toy Stories - Toy Exhibition Free every 30 minutes	Bucks County Museum	11.00am - 2.30pm
26	Mr Men and Little Miss Sports Day Fun	Civic Centre	1.00pm & 3.30pm
30	Magic in Your Attic - Witch Bottles and Concealed Shoes. Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm

For details of events at Bucks County Museum Tel: 01296 331441, The King's Head Tel: 01296 718812, The Civic Centre Tel: 01296 718812



# TRE EVENTS

## - April 2008

### FEBRUARY '08

6	Beer & Food Matching Banqueting Meal	Farmers' Bar, The King's Head	8.00pm
13	The Cubitt Car and 1920s Aylesbury Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
14	Alternative Valentines Celebrations	The Farmers' Bar, King's Head	7.30pm
16	Optical Toys and Puzzles Family drop-in for all ages	Bucks County Museum	11.00am - 3.00pm
16 - April	Paintings of Hartwell House	Bucks County Museum	Exhibition
19	Puppet Factory Please book in advance	Bucks County Museum	10.30am - 12.00 noon & 1.00pm - 2.30pm
20	Meet a Roman Soldier - Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
21	Shoobox Puppet Theatre - Book in advance	Bucks County Museum	10.30am - 12.00 noon & 1.00pm - 2.30pm
22	Half Term Fun	Kingsbury	11.00am - 3.00pm
26	Farmers' Market	Market Square	9.00am - 2.00pm
27	Aliens - introduced plants and animals in Bucks. Free Gallery Talk	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm

### MARCH '08

1	Circus Workshops and Activities	Kingsbury	11.00am - 3.00pm
1	St David's Day Celebrations	Farmers' Bar, King's Head	8.00 pm
5	County Museum Buildings - a guided walk FREE	Bucks County Museum	12.30pm - 1.00pm
8 - 12 July	Delightful Temples - The Art and Landscape of Stowe	Bucks County Museum	Exhibition
14 - 16	St Patrick's Day - Weekend Festivities	Farmers' Bar, King's Head	
14 - 16	Traditional Continental Market	Kingsbury	9.00am - 4.00pm
19	Beer & Food 3 Course Banquet Meal	Farmers' Bar, King's Head	8.00pm
22	Easter Eggstravaganza	Kingsbury	11.00am - 3.00pm
25	Farmers' Market	Market Square	9.00am - 2.00 pm

### APRIL '08

13	Green Fair	Market Square	11.00am - 4.00pm
19	St George's Fun Day	Kingsbury	10.00am - 5.00pm
20	St George's Day Parade	Dignitaries Procession from Market Square to St Mary's Church	2.00pm (Civic Centre) 2.30pm (at Church)
22	Farmers' Market	Market Square	9.00am - 2.00pm

PLEASE NOTE: Buckinghamshire County Museum Opening times: 5 November 2007 to February 2008: Monday to Saturday and Bank Holidays 10.00am - 4.00pm (closed 25 - 26 December and 1 January 2008).

Centre Tel: 01296 486009, Limelight Theatre Queen's Park Centre Tel: 01296 424332

## Aylesbury Town Council

# Comments on Warner Estates Waterside Retail Proposals

Based on a Planning Report approved at the Town Council meeting 11/10/07

In the absence of a publicly endorsed planning brief for this development, are we to refer to the approved District Local Plan, which established the uses, site boundaries and the context within the overall town centre plan, when evaluating these proposals? Or are we to judge these proposals by reference to the earlier Waterside proposals that were presented to the public and were generally supported? Or are the criteria to be the sound urban design principles as applied to Aylesbury Town Centre expounded in the many visioning exercises carried out in recent years?

Whichever yardstick we use, Aylesbury Town Council finds these current proposals unacceptable: they are an overdevelopment of the site and a complete denial of the surrounding context.

The proposals for the car parking, servicing/delivery areas and vehicular access seem well thought out. The slope of the site has been acknowledged, and has been used to accommodate the servicing and car parking under a level shopping deck. The major pedestrian access is through the developer's Hale Leys shopping centre.

All these attend to the self-interest of the developer, which is to be expected.

But the public realm – convenience, comfort, amenity and public safety; connections to and relationship with other parts of the town centre; the wider economic benefits and encouragement of further renewal; and the unique character of Aylesbury, are totally ignored.

Where is the major pedestrian route from the Market Square to the new theatre and canal side, in the previous proposals adorned with cascading water features? Now it is proposed to become a narrow passageway between the cinema and huge spiralling car park ramps.

Where are the small independent character shops along Long Lionel, enlivening the bottom corner of the Market Square, and leading into the new

shopping centre? Now it is proposed to be a seemingly narrower back lane with blank windows, where no woman will choose to walk at night.

Where is the link to the High Street? What has happened to the shopping circuit? How can this proposal bring an economic boost, encouraging regeneration, to the decaying lower High Street? How does it encourage greater use of public transport on this important part of the bus hub? What will a 5 or 6 storey building opposite a 3 or 4 storey car park and supermarket add to the delights of Exchange Street?

With both buildings located onto the back of pavement and not a horse-chestnut tree surviving in this Grand Canyon, whether faced in flint, or slate or red herring stone, will it surpass the beauty of the backside of Friars Square on Friarage Road? A high-level bridge contradicts what the County Council is trying to do – change the engineered dual carriageway inner ring road into an ordinary humane town centre street not a 1960's highway.

The secondary entrances to the new shopping area are via an outdoor flight of steps, narrow back alleyways, lifts, car parks and an open bridge – not acceptable in 2007, on grounds of comfort, convenience and public safety. The shopping arcades are open to the weather, reminiscent of Friars Square Mark 1. Will there be canopies over shop fronts? Apart from the proposed 3 storey department store, shops are single storey buildings on an artificial street reminiscent of a western film set.

The proposals are mundane, certainly not iconic, and not worthy of the town.

### HOW CAN THESE PROPOSALS BE IMPROVED?

Aylesbury Town Council asks that the Planning Authority stops abdicating its responsibilities and imposes a framework of ground-level pedestrian routes upon the site that takes account of the route to the new theatre and canal side, promotes





Residents protesting to keep the five horse-chestnut Trees on Exchange Street  
Photo taken by Keith Turner

a shopping circuit, recognises the form and character of the existing adjacent urban fabric, and encourages further regeneration.

Developers should reduce the footprint of the building to benefit the surrounding public realm. However, they should include the Bingo Hall site as originally intended, and also the adjoining shops, 38 to 50 High Street (compulsorily purchased if necessary, but with the provision of replacement accommodation for the Bingo Hall).

Warner Estates should create a middle-level open pedestrian route from the Arches, Judges' Lodgings and cinema through to the High Street, with servicing to the north west side at high-level accessed off the Hale Leys service yard, and servicing to the south-east at the lower ground level off Exchange Street. The route could be glass-roofed where passing between the two new buildings, with secondary connecting arcades contained within the new buildings. Within each building the south-east side would be two-level shopping with escalators and stairs.

They should create a ramped entrance to car parking off the High Street, adjacent to St. Joseph's Church, rising to two floors of car parking above the shopping levels. AVDC should insist on glazed active elevations at ground-level to the important route at the side of the cinema and onto Exchange Street.

Aylesbury must retain its five horse-chestnut trees on Exchange Street to screen the new building and create a space within the new building at the rear of the existing post office to retain some of the existing trees or plant new ones (as at Midsummer development at Milton Keynes). We should maintain the two ends of Long Lionel as secondary entrances into the enclosed shopping centre.

We need to reconsider the requirement for a further food supermarket south-east of Exchange Street, taking into account the recent approvals of Aldi and Lidl stores on Cambridge Street. If a store is still thought necessary then include the Dayla site to accommodate a less bulky, more conventional design. A food store south-east of Exchange Street requires an amendment to the District Local Plan.

However, Aylesbury Town Council does not seek to be prescriptive, there may be other ways – let the designers do their job. But splitting the scheme into 2 parts of smaller mass with different servicing arrangements; creating a new street, working with the contours and keeping the trees is more respectful to the town centre character than imposing a third metropolitan scale mega-structure on the town. Citizens who remember the town centre before the 1960's developments will understand what we are saying, let them join with their younger folk and oppose this scheme and with their Town Council call for greater leadership from the Planning Authority in cherishing their town.

## Decorations for the Festive Season

Festive arrangements with dried and preserved materials always look especially lovely at Christmas and other holiday times. We all make more effort for special occasions and want our homes to look particularly warm and welcoming. As there are many presents given and parties to go to during this festive season, this is a good opportunity to give something just a little out of the ordinary.

Bay leaves make an impressive and welcoming wreath for the front door. Push them into a base of floral foam (dried flower type), in a circular holder, and decorate with sprays of golden cypresses, fir cones, shiny red apples and ribbon.

A swag of dried herbs and flowers hung across a mantelpiece or round a doorway is a lovely way of welcoming your guests. If you have the time and patience, you could make one for a friend and give it as a wonderful pre-Christmas surprise. Placing unusual herbal foliage or flowers in a festive garland provides extra points of interest. Cones and berries are a must for a traditional look, whether left in their natural shades or gilded. Small kumquats could be included because they are daintier than oranges. Dried pomegranates, dried red chillies and freeze dried artichokes also look good. Tartan ribbons and bunches of lavender, bay, holly, rosemary and sage are complemented by sprays of brilliant red roses, cream peonies and pink carnations. Dried flowers can look just as lovely as fresh arrangements and last longer.

Although somewhat time consuming, swags or garlands are not too difficult to make. Measure the length of decoration required and cut a piece of rope or coloured cord to that measurement, plus 4 inches for loops at each end. Choose your combination of ingredients (you will need more

than you think), including some ribbons, something bulky like pine cones and a selection of foliage such as spruce or holly to form the basis of the swag.

Wire all the ingredients into small bunches, approximately 3 inches long using fine floristry wire. Make plenty of bunches of each type of ingredient. Pine cones are wired by inserting the end of a medium strength wire into the scales and then wrapping it around the cone, leaving a stem to wire on to the garland.

Taking the piece of cord, bend 2 inches over at each end and wire on to the main cord to make a strong loop. Start with a feathery piece of foliage and, using a fine to medium strength piece of wire, attach to the cord.

Trim off the excess wire once the bunch is attached.

Continue along the cord wiring with a new piece of wire for each bunch and trimming any unnecessary wire each time. When you reach the middle of the length of cord, turn the bunches so they face in the opposite direction.

You may have to wire extra very short bunches into the middle to pad it out a little, or alternatively you can use a glue gun.



A warning note must be sounded regarding mantelpiece arrangements. Do take care to fix the swag very firmly across the mantelpiece, as open fires and dried flowers do not mix and it only takes seconds for an arrangement to fall into the dying embers of a fire and go up in smoke.

Dried herbs blend in very well with more traditional Christmas decorations such as pine cones, nuts and cinnamon sticks. Gilded poppy heads mixed with bunches of roses, purple marjoram, gilded cones and dark burgundy tartan ribbons look amazing. In many cases, reasonably sized clusters of a herb have far more impact than individual sprays.

Ivory and natural beeswax candles blend in with most colour schemes and give an elegant, traditional feel to an arrangement. Welcoming flowers and scents are a sure way to make guests feel at home and comfortable. One note of caution, however; by their very nature, dried materials are a fire hazard, and if you are arranging them with candles that will be lit, they must not be left unattended. Make sure the bottoms of the candles are well above the arrangement and replace them once they burn down too near the foliage. Never leave lighted candles unattended. Dried flower arrangements must also not be placed too near open fires where sparks can set light to them. Apart from this problem with fire, the only other hazard seems to be cats, who love dried flowers and foliage at the best of times. Include plenty of dried herbs, especially catmint, in an arrangement and you can probably guarantee a good cabaret while the cat races around ripping the arrangement to pieces!

There are several spots on the Christmas tree where you could tuck a herbal arrangement or tiny wreaths of herbal flowers and foliage to add to the natural pine scent of the tree. Decorated pine cones with clusters of herbs and ribbons to hang on the tree, and miniature baskets of dried herbs tied with festive gold cord, add an unusual touch and fragrance. Tie a few cinnamon sticks together with ribbon as a decoration then glue red cranberries to the ribbon and push a small sprig of

rosemary, bay or sage into the front of the bundle. For Dried Orange Slices, cut ¼ inch slices from a large orange, place on a rack and dry in an oven at a low temperature for about 1 hour. Push a knife through each slice just below the peel and thread with ribbon and tie into a loop. Decorate with a miniature spray of herbal flowers, a bay leaf or two, a small sprig or rosemary or just leave plain.

If you would like to make Spicy Pomanders you will need navel or thin-skinned oranges, cloves, masking tape, large paperclips and narrow ribbon. Stud the oranges with cloves. For a traditional design, wrap masking tape around the fruit in a criss-cross fashion to divide into four equal sections, then outline the tape with cloves. Push the loop of a large paperclip deep into the top of each fruit to make a loop. Keep the fruit in a warm cupboard for 1 – 2 weeks, and then thread ribbon through the loops for hanging. Good tip: there are many classic pomander designs based on geometric patterns such as circles, squares and stars. Try carefully cutting the oranges with a very sharp knife, just to the beginning of the flesh, in a design reminiscent of a Renaissance doublet and then studding the cloves into the peel to follow the cut lines. When the orange has dried the cut lines will have opened up to reveal the white pith giving the pomander another dimension.

Cllr Mrs Jenny Bloom



## Seasonal Fayre by Cllr Mrs Jenny Bloom

### Little Christmas Puddings - makes 8

These light and fruity puddings that can be cooked in small bowls or teacups are ideal for individual servings or as presents for elderly or single people.

8 oz. (225g) raisins and 8 oz. (225g) each of fresh white breadcrumbs and shredded suet  
 6 oz. (150g) each of: currants, sultanas, mixed peel and glace cherries, chopped  
 3 tablespoons of brandy, ¼ pint (140ml) stout, 6 eggs, beaten, ¼ teaspoon of ground nutmeg  
 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon, 3 oz. (75g) flaked almonds, butter for greasing

Put the sultanas, raisins, peel, breadcrumbs, cinnamon, cherries, almonds, nutmeg, currants and suet into a large bowl and mix well. Add the stout, brandy and eggs and mix again. Grease 8 small bowls or teacups and divide the mixture between them. Cover each individual bowl or teacup with foil. Put the bowls or cups in a roasting tin and add enough water to come half way up the cups. Cook for 2 hours at 325°F, Gas Mark 3, 170°C. To freeze: cool, seal and label, then use within 6 months. To serve now cook for a further 1 hour.







## Memories of Christmas



I still recall happy memories of Christmas times when I lived at home with my family. Last-minute shopping would be done on Christmas Eve, especially for fresh fruit and vegetables. Late presents would be bought and wrapped; cards would be delivered to neighbours and friends who lived in my street and in the next street.

My father always brought home a massive farm-fresh turkey (which lasted for days – and no food poisoning then!) which my mother and I prepared for the oven by washing it with lemons. (Cut lemons in half, squeeze the juice over the turkey, rub the halves over the turkey to get rid of that “fleshy” smell of meat, and then rinse it with water). We stuffed it with sage and onion, chopped garlic, sprigs of thyme, sausage meat and lemon rind. We rubbed it with salt and pepper, followed by other herbs and seasoning, placed rashers of bacon over the breast to keep it moist, and then wrapped it in foil ready for the oven. Vegetables were peeled. Best crockery and glasses were washed and the dining table was prepared.

The family spent the rest of the evening eating nuts and mince pies (full of pips then!), watched the old Christmas themed black and white films on TV, and talked about our presents. I also managed to drink a bottle of Babycham or Snowball (that was all my sister and I were allowed from the stocked bar my father presided over like a proud publican).

At about 3.00 am it was time for the turkey to go into the oven. Oven shelves were removed, and with a shove this way and a push that way we managed to close the oven door. We switched off the flashing Christmas lights (over fifteen years old – how things lasted then) and went up to bed.

Christmas morning we awoke to the wonderful smell of roast turkey emanating from the kitchen. The whole house was full of excitement as we ate a light breakfast (we must save space for the dinner) and presents were unwrapped. We watched more TV, ate more chocolates, nuts, mince pies and Christmas cake, my mother allowed herself a glass of Stones Ginger Wine and someone was seen nibbling a turkey wing!

After Christmas dinner, and after watching the Queen's Christmas speech, my father always fell asleep on

the sofa. The rest of the family would go upstairs and fall onto the bed in my parents' bedroom, then rolling around uncomfortably on the bed we vowed never to overeat again. We talked about our presents and planned what we wanted to watch on TV (father presided over the TV as well).

However, after a nap our stomachs felt more comfortable. We went downstairs and watched TV. What else did we do? Well we ate nuts, chocolates, pickled onions, mince pies, Christmas cake and whatever else was available. And more turkey!

The family is no longer together, with some abroad, so getting together is not always practical, and father has long since passed away. We try our best to get together for Christmas. We don't overeat these days, but still enjoy delicious, slow roasted turkey, and I now drink a few glasses of wine. I still love to watch Christmas TV and receive presents. Mince pies have improved, however the Christmas cake is no more, as we're all eating healthily now.

But I still love Christmas and am hoping that the glow of Christmas will remain with me forever.

**Shirley Francis**  
Deputy Town Clerk

### Are you able to donate to worthy causes?

Christmas time is usually a happy time for the majority of people, and it is a time when we are at our most generous. While we are in such high spirits, we should probably spare a thought for those who are not so fortunate.

As you go around the town during your shopping you will probably see charities collecting for needy causes. If you have some money to spare please help them out by putting in a donation.

The Rotary Club will be collecting every Saturday and Sunday in the High Street, outside the Hale Leys Shopping Centre. Santa's float will also be there.

## Calling all gardeners... Hints and tips for the winter months

Before Christmas, shopping, cooking, wrapping presents and buying and dressing the tree keep you very busy. After Christmas there is a lot of detritus heading for the landfill site. But you could do something different. Make use of your Christmas tree – Christmas tree needles can be used as a mulch for acid loving plants such as kalmia, gaultheria, camellia and so on. The tree itself can be shredded and composted before use as a mulch.

December to January is a quiet time in the garden. This is a good time to reflect on the successes and mistakes that you may have made in the garden during the year.

Have you taken advantage of the variety of herbs that are available, especially those that are available all year round? They may look pretty, but try to use your herbs in all the various ways that are described in a good herb book. For a great way to get inspiration for the herb garden during the cold months, look through the gardening magazines and order as many herb catalogues as you can. Search out the organic seeds and plants. Plan a healthy, delicious and pretty harvest for 2008.

Protect tender herbs, such as rosemary, from frost using fleece or hessian. Protect parsley with cloches. Protect planters, especially terracotta planters with bubble-wrap, hessian or even old jumpers. The cold temperatures and frost can easily penetrate and kill the roots of all but the most robust plants.

Check any seed you have saved regularly, and remove any that are becoming diseased and mouldy. If not stored in an airtight jar, watch out for mice, who enjoy the free feast.

If you would like to help wildlife place feeding stations in the form of fat balls or wild-bird seed nets. The bonus comes from situating them in the areas where pests are known to visit, as the birds they attract will prey on unwanted visitors to your garden. When the temperature drops to freezing, put a bowl of water out every day for the birds and other wildlife. Be aware of pests and disease. Remove aphids as soon



as they appear on plants in the greenhouse or on the window-ledge. Remove diseased leaves immediately. When you clear up dead leaves and stems from the herb garden, leave a few hollow stems for ladybirds.

Finally, by the fireside at night with a measure of your favourite tippie and surrounded by those delightful gardening books, catalogues and magazines, plan any new designs or plantings for the following year, and order your seed and plants early.

Cllr Mrs Jenny Bloom

### **DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS REGISTERED BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED?**

A copy of this publication can be made available on CD. Please contact the Town Council on 01296 425678 or e-mail: [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)



Mayor Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot  
Photo taken by Margaret Wagstaffe

## A busy season for the Mayor

It has been a busy season for Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot and Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Penni Thorne. During September Jenny attended the grand opening of the Aylesbury Seventh Day Adventist Church; a cheque presentation at the Sue Nicholls Centre; the Civic Degree Ceremony at the University of Bedfordshire; the opening of the new Post Office in WH Smith; a Breast Cancer launch at Wallis Fashions; Aylesbury Charter Day and Tudor Fayre; a Citizen Ceremony at the Registry Office; the Disestablishment Ceremony of U.S. Naval Activities at R.A.F. Daws Hill; the Courts Carnival; the Travelchoice Festival in Kingsbury; a charity football match: FS England v. AC Italia at Aylesbury Vale FC; the Junior Disabled Athletes Games at Stoke Mandeville; the AGM of Age Concern; a civic reception at St Vincent's Social Club, Houghton Regis; the Chairman's Reception at Fairford Leys and Thame Civic Service.

Together the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were present at the 750th Anniversary Charter Fair at Chesham.

Deputy Mayor Penni attended a MacMillan Cancer gathering at Waddesdon Manor to help launch their annual Coffee Morning fundraising drive, and the Senior Prize Giving evening at Aylesbury Grammar School.

## Mayor's awards

Every year the Mayor of Aylesbury makes a series of awards to residents of Aylesbury. These can be given to adults or children and are for service to the community or individual acts worthy of commendation. Former recipients have been honoured for voluntary work, charitable service, fundraising, outstanding neighbourliness or individual acts of initiative or bravery. If you know of anyone who you feel deserves such recognition, please contact Mrs Celia McRea, the Mayor's assistant, who will be very pleased to hear from you.



## Home-start Aylesbury

Home-start is a national voluntary organisation offering informal, friendly support to parents with at least one child under the age of five.

Home-start knows how hard being a parent can be, particularly during the early years, and that any additional pressures can make things seem overwhelming. Home-start believes that every parent deserves the support they need to give their children the best start in life.

All volunteers will attend a preparation course and receive guidance before visiting a family in their own home for a few hours each week. Needs vary according to each individual family, but volunteers from this area would be very welcome.

As a volunteer you will receive training, ongoing support and expenses.

If you are interested and would like to find out more please call: **Shushana Kendrick on 485615.**

## Local Artist exhibits at London Gallery

Local Aylesbury artist, Lorraine Fox, exhibited at the Royal Society of Marine Artists at the Mall Galleries in London during October 2007.

Lorraine said "The painting, 'White Mill Bay', was inspired by my visits to the Orkney Islands and I entered it because I felt it met the criteria for the exhibition. It's certainly a good feeling to have work accepted for a prestigious exhibition".

Lorraine had already sold some limited edition prints of the original painting, hence her reason for entering it in the exhibition as it had already proved popular.

To see examples of Lorraine's work please visit [www.mallgalleries.org.uk](http://www.mallgalleries.org.uk) or [www.artworks4you.co./lfox.htm](http://www.artworks4you.co./lfox.htm)

## Aylesbury Fair Trade Exhibition

Aylesbury Town Council is committed to supporting fair trade. An exhibition of fair trade goods was held on 13 October in Friars Square Shopping Centre, where members of the public had the opportunity to see what goods are available in the local supermarkets. Many were surprised to see such a large range of produce on display, including quality boxed chocolates and wines.

The Town Council would like to thank Tesco Stores (Broadfields), Marks and Spencer, Co-op (Hawkslade), Tesco Stores (Tring Road) and Budgens (Bedgrove) for donating a range of fair trade produce for the display.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, would also like to express her sincerest appreciation to the above stores as the goods donated have been made into three hampers and raffled, the proceeds of which will go towards her chosen charities.

The Town Council has, in the meantime, supported the application made by Aylesbury Fair Trade Initiative (AFTI) for Fairtrade Town Status. Hopefully there will be good news to report in the new year.

## Charity begins in Aylesbury

The saying "charity begins at home" is true of Aylesbury. Aylesbury has benefited from the generosity of three of its residents, namely William Harding (died 1718), Thomas Hickman (died 1698) and Elizabeth Eman (died 1723), who left property for the benefit of the people of Aylesbury.

Harding's Charity was established by William Harding (1645-1718), a Yeoman of Aylesbury, who is believed to have been the eldest of seven children. His exact date of birth is unknown because during the Civil War many parish records perished. For the same reason it is not known if he ever married.

In his will he left his property to his sister-in-law Sarah, wife of his only brother, John, who died before him. His will stipulated that after Sarah's death all his property, including land in Aylesbury, Walton, Broughton, Bierton, Stoke Mandeville and Princes Risborough were to be vested in a Trust. The trustees were instructed to "spend some forty shillings (about £2) yearly for the buying of coats on St Thomas's Day for the poor men and women inhabiting Walton".

The will made provision that "on the first Monday of May and November each year the Trustees should select children of poor parents in Aylesbury and Walton to be apprenticed to persons ...(considered to be)... honest and of good morals and well skilled in their trades." The Trustees were instructed to "buy clothes for the same poor boys and girls, the clothes and apprenticeship payments not to exceed Ten Pounds per annum for any child".

William Harding's house can still be seen on the terrace opposite Walton Pond. It was sold in the 1920s, and an article in the Bucks Herald of 1929 states that "this is an extremely useful Charity and many successful tradesmen and craftsmen in Aylesbury had their start in business life by being apprenticed to a trade through this Charity."

The second great Aylesbury benefactor was Thomas Hickman. The Thomas Hickman Charity dates back to 1698, the year of Thomas Hickman's death. A gentleman of the Town and a pillar of the Church, he owned a quantity of land and a number of houses and left provision in his will, dated 1695, for a trust to be formed to house "the poor and needy of the Parish of

Aylesbury". The original five almshouses – medieval cottages near the Church gate of St Mary's – remain the property of the Charity and now, substantially reconfigured and renovated, are occupied by elderly residents. Thomas directed that the rents from the remaining substantial bulk of his property were to be used to repair the almshouses and any residue was to be distributed "to the poorest people and most pitiful objects of charity, in alms to them. This not to ease the Parish... (i.e. not to be taken in place of Parish Relief, the precursor of Income Support)... but as a gift to those poor and needy that they might have a more comfortable subsistence in their poor and mean condition as long as this world continueth".

Of the various other properties bequeathed by his will, some were directed never to be sold and these were the house in which he lived in Temple Square, now leased by the Charity to Solicitors Horwood & James, and the building in the Market Square near the King's Head Passage. The original construction has long disappeared but the Charity owns the land on which the modern shop and offices are built.

Over the years all the remaining Hickman properties have been sold and the proceeds invested. The sale in 1974 of a tract of building land at Elm Farm, off the Wendover Road, produced the substantial financial base which has enabled the Trustees to purchase a number of properties for use as almshouses, the most recent acquisition being Green End House, a Grade II Listed Building on Rickford's Hill, now converted into seven self-contained flats. The Charity is now the largest freeholder in Aylesbury Old Town.

The second arm of the Charity supports needy people who Thomas Hickman envisaged benefiting from his largesse 'while this world continueth'. Any Aylesbury resident who is in need, hardship or distress may complete a Relief in Need application form and this will be considered by the Trustees. Items ranging from dentures to washing machines have been supplied.

The latest benefit from the Trust for Aylesbury residents is the concessionary rail fare now offered by arrangement with Chiltern Railways.

The Trustees work closely with Age Concern, Bucks Association for the Blind, the Citizens' Advice Bureau,

the Buckinghamshire Foundation – any organisation which can improve the quality of life of Aylesbury residents, particularly, but not exclusively, the elderly.

For a wonderfully full picture of the work of the Charity over its first 300 years, refer to former County Archivist Hugh Hanley's excellent Tercentenary History of the Charity, available from the office of Parrott & Coales LLP at 14 Bourbon Street, HP20 2RS, the Charity's Clerks since the role was formulated some centuries ago.

Aylesbury's third magnificent benefactor was Elizabeth Eman. By her will dated 5 June 1723, Elizabeth set up a charitable trust for widows born and living in Aylesbury Borough to receive a pension. However, the terms of her will have been amended to deal with the change in population as well as the changes in the town boundary. A pension is now awarded to women and men whether they are widowed, divorced or single, and the area has been extended to the whole of Aylesbury Vale, though priority is given to those actually born in Aylesbury.

Income for the charity comes from rent received from The Red Lion (Hobgoblin) in Kingsbury Square where Miss Eman's father used to be the publican, together with interest on other investments.

For further information please contact:  
Mr N Freeman, Clerk to the Trustees,  
at Messrs Horwood & James, 7 Temple Square,  
Aylesbury HP20 2QB (ref: SAB) or telephone  
01296 487361 and ask for Mrs S Batchelor.

## Town Twinning – Volunteers needed

Aylesbury is twinned with Bourg-en-Bresse in France. Unfortunately, the membership of the Town Twinning Association has depleted and it is no longer viable as an organisation for decision making.

In order for the link with Bourg-en-Bresse to continue, new members are urgently needed for the Town Twinning Association. The work of the Twinning Association involves building links with Bourg-en-Bresse, arranging exchanges, and visits for dignitaries and businesses. Ability to speak French is a bonus but not a necessity.

For further information, please contact Aylesbury Town Council on 01296 425678.

## Cycle ride to Twin Town for Mayor's Charities

A young Winslow man has offered, as part of Cycle Aylesbury, to cycle from Aylesbury to Bourg-en-Bresse to raise funds for the Town Mayor's charities.

Fred Clark, who hopes to become an airline pilot, and who has just completed his A-Levels in Media and Communications at Amersham College, discovered the joys of cycling after watching this year's Tour de France race and decided that he too could do it, and soon found himself cycling for up to 30 miles.

He hopes to start the 700 mile ride to Bourg-en-Bresse in April 2008.

## Organising an Event?

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

If you are interested please contact Shirley Francis, Deputy Town Clerk at Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP. Call on 01296 425678 or email: [s.francis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:s.francis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Greening the Town Hall

In May the Town Council purchased the building at 5 Church Street, part of which it had previously tenanted. The funding of the purchase is a little complicated but the net result was that the cost to the Council and local ratepayers was less on an annual basis after completion.

The Town Hall is situated in the Aylesbury Old Town Conservation Area. At present the building (built in the early 70s) looks rather dowdy but the Council believes that it can improve the appearance of the premises at a relatively small cost.

ATC has initiated a planned maintenance programme and is also looking at ways in which the building can be adapted to incorporate the uses of various sustainable and energy saving technologies.

Cllr Mark Willis said "The first few steps are quite boring but necessary. When we had the two boilers serviced it was found that, apart from being old, they were only running at 65% efficiency – that is for every £1 spent on gas, 35p was being wasted". New boilers work at approximately 93% efficiency so there is an obvious self financing reduction in energy consumption. Also the building has old Crittal windows which allow ingress of cold air and substantial heat loss. Double glazing would pay for itself long-term and again reduce energy consumption.

The Council is now looking at various interesting technologies which use sustainable energy. These include roof insulation, photovoltaic cells, solar panels, ground heat source pumps, and water harvesting.

The current roof is formed by concrete slabs covered with roofing felt and is not insulated, therefore a substantial amount of heat is lost. It is estimated that around 25% of heat is lost through the roof. ATC is currently investigating cost-effective solutions. As one part of the roof is lower than the other this area could be used for the installation of a green roof or a rainwater harvesting tank and system.

Solar photovoltaic cells convert sunlight into electricity but can be relatively expensive to introduce. Solar water heating is currently the most cost-effective, affordable renewable technology producing some 9% return on expenditure per annum. There are two



Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury  
Photo taken by Keith Turner

versions of this technology – evacuated tube and flat plate. A typical system would cost approximately £6,000 to be installed. There may be some opportunity to utilise solar lighting for the lighting of the exterior of the building.

Ground source heat pumps take heat from under the ground using circulating liquid. Clearly to install this would require digging up the Council's car park. The average cost of a system is approximately £15,000 and this will provide an annual return of approximately 9%.

So far as water saving is concerned, installing a hippo or brick in the cistern reduces the amount of water used in toilets. Rainwater harvesting simply collects the rain which falls onto roofs, then stores it in a tank until required for use. When required, the water is then pumped to the point of use, thus replacing what would otherwise be a demand for mains water. Toilets use up to a third of water in a domestic environment but in an office block they constitute the main usage.

Aylesbury Town Council intend to chart the successes and failures of this project in future issues of Aylesbury Town Matters.

## Aylesbury Town Council Grants Awarded Autumn 2007



The Autumn Leaf Club being presented with a cheque

**The Autumn Leaf Club**, a social club for the elderly received a grant of £455 by Aylesbury Town Council, to help with funding for the club's trip to Wickstead Park. Members were treated to lunch, tea and a variety show. The Autumn Leaf Club provides entertainment and tea & biscuits for pensioners every Wednesday from 1.00 pm until 4.00 pm. This lively, friendly group currently has 57 members and meets at the Church of the Guardian Angel, Southcourt. Cllr Mrs Pat Jamieson, who presented the cheque, is very pleased to have been able to make such a grant, saying: "We like to help where we can, especially when it benefits people of Aylesbury."

**Vitalise** provides care breaks for disabled people. So far this year 14 residents from Aylesbury have enjoyed 21 weeks of breaks. £1,000 was awarded to help towards the cost.

**Prebendal Farm Youth Drop-In Centre** received £275 towards funding for a PlayStation3 and games. The Youth Club, which meets each week is attended by 25 young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years old. It's a very valuable asset to the estate and keeps the youngsters off the streets.

**Aylesbury Rollers Blind Bowls Club** meets regularly at Foxhills Bowling Club or Rivets Bowls Club. They play against other blind bowling teams. Funding of £1,000, needed for transport to the Bowls Club for practise, matches and room hire, was awarded.

**St Edwards Catholic Junior School PTA** was granted £1,000 to help purchase seating with shading. At present there is no shade in the playground of the school. The shading will enable the children to use the grounds more in the summer and as an outdoor classroom.

**3rd Aylesbury Scout Group** received £1,000 towards a new heating boiler in the Scout Hut, the old one having been condemned. The Scout Hut is used regularly by over 100 youngsters, 99% from Aylesbury, with other groups planning to use the hall.

**Hartwell Residents Association** was awarded £100 to plant 1,000 spring bulbs, shrubs and trees around the estate in order to enhance their surroundings.

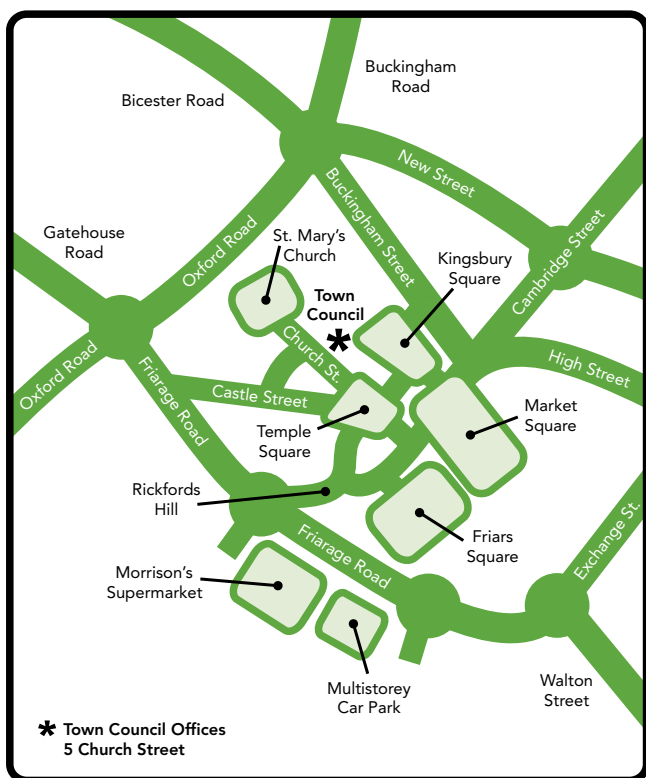
**Aylesbury Development Education Centre (ADEC)** is working with local Schools, Youth and Community Groups to run a poster competition on the theme of 'One World Week' which is a campaign to promote peace, harmony and social justice, and how we can change the world for the better. £1,000 was given towards this project. Winning entries will be produced on sets of blank greetings cards and there will be an exhibition in the Buckinghamshire Library. Winners will receive prizes and certificates.

**Carers Bucks**, who organised a social event celebrating Eid for approximately 200 carers and 15 - 20 children under the age of 5 years, was awarded £1,000. Carers Bucks run carer support groups and young carer groups. A seaside trip to Bournemouth for carers is also being organised.

**CHAT (Children, Health and Therapy)** supports special-needs children within Aylesbury and surrounding areas who have individual health needs and who attend the Sue Nicholls Centre and the Wing Unit – a children's respite care unit. £400 was awarded to help towards the cost of a free Christmas party for the children and their families.

## Contacting your Councillor

COUNCILLOR	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL
Jenny Bloom	07729 011501	j.bloom@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Alan Sherwell	01296 420672	alan.sherwell@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Graham Webster	01296 483416	graham.webster@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Penni Thorne	01296 422232	penni.thorne@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Steven Mitchell	01296 392096	steven.mitchell@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Denise Summers	01296 336731	denise.summers@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Sue Chapple	01296 426814	sue.chapple@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Mark Willis	01296 586109	m.willis@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Roger Surguy	01296 425678	r.surguy@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Pat Jamieson	01296 428275	pat.jamieson@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Tuffail Hussain	0795 626 9544	tuffail.hussain@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Jenny Puddefoot	01296 612461	jenny.puddefoot@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Julie Ward	07766 545236	julie.ward@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Amjad Mohammed	07956 803458	a.mohammed@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Steve Patrick	01296 424986	steve.patrick@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Brian Roberts	01296 422881	b.roberts@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Freda Roberts MBE JP	01296 424452	freda.roberts@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
David Ralph	01296 581975	david.ralph@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Zulifqar Ahmed	0793 194 5804	ahmed.zulifqar@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Mike Smith	01296 421732	mike.smith@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Ranjula Takodra	0795 842 3083	ranjula.takodra@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Ray Ghent	01296 489327	ray.ghent@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Noreen O'Sullivan	07796 804676	n.osullivan@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk
Kevin Peters	07989 892896	k.peters@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk



## Where to find the Town Council

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

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

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

Margaret Wagstaffe



## Aylesbury Town Councillors



Cllr Mrs  
**Jenny Bloom**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr  
**Alan Sherwell**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr  
**Graham Webster**  
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr Mrs  
**Penni Thorne**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr  
**Steven Mitchell**  
Ward: Central



Cllr Mrs  
**Denise Summers**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr Mrs  
**Sue Chapple**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr  
**Mark Willis**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr  
**Roger Surguy**  
Ward: Walton Court



Cllr Mrs  
**Pat Jamieson**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr  
**Tuffail Hussain**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr Mrs  
**Jenny Puddefoot**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr Mrs  
**Julie Ward**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr  
**Amjad Mohammed**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr  
**Steve Patrick**  
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr  
**Brian Roberts**  
Ward: Mandeville



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



Cllr  
**David Ralph**  
Ward: Southcourt



Cllr  
**Zulifqar Ahmed**  
Ward: Oxford Rd



Cllr  
**Mike Smith**  
Ward: Oxford Rd



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



Cllr  
**Ray Ghent**  
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr Mrs  
**Noreen O'Sullivan**  
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr  
**Kevin Peters**  
Ward: Gatehouse



# *Christmas Open Door*

*Don't be alone this Christmas...  
come and join us!*

*If you are alone or homeless and would like  
to spend Christmas with others come and join the  
festive fun at the Uptown Coffee Bar.*

*Enjoy free Christmas lunch in a friendly and  
comfortable atmosphere.*

*The Project Runs from  
"The Uptown Coffee Bar"  
The Arches, Market Square  
Aylesbury*

*Sunday 23rd till Thursday 27th December 2007  
11.00am till 4.00pm*



*Telephone: Roger Priest 01296 431183*





## Christmas Opening Hours for Friars Square and Hale Leys

Sunday trading every week 10.30am to 4.30pm (free parking)

Late night shopping every **Thursday** until **8.00pm** from **8 November** up to Christmas  
(check individual stores for Christmas Eve closing)

Free parking after 4.30pm for late night shopping in Friars Square car park  
and all AVDC town centre car parks on the following **Thursdays:-**  
**6, 13 & 20 December**

Free parking after 4.30pm for late night shopping in Friars Square car park only  
on **Monday 17 to Friday 21 December**

Free parking **ALL DAY** in Friars Square car park and all AVDC town centre  
car parks on the following **Saturdays:-**  
**8, 15 and 22 December**

	<b>FRIARS SQUARE</b>	<b>HALE LEYS</b>
Monday 10 - Friday 14 December	9.00am - 5.30pm	9.00am - 8.00pm
Monday 17 - Friday 21 December	9.00am - 8.00pm	9.00am - 8.00pm
Saturday 22 December	9.00am - 8.00pm	9.00am - 8.00pm
Sunday 23 December	10.30am - 4.30pm	10.30am - 4.30pm
Christmas Eve 24 December	9.00am - 4.30pm	9.00am - 4.30pm
Christmas Day 25 December	Closed	Closed
Boxing Day	10.00am - 5.00pm (selected stores only)	10.00am - 5.00pm (selected stores only)
New Year's Day	10.00am - 5.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm

Some individual stores times may differ.

For assistance getting around Aylesbury contact Shopmobility 01296 336725 or for help with shopping contact Aylesbury Youth Action (Simon or Sara) on 01296 421149.



## Winter Charity Concert



Friday 14th December 2007  
Mandeville School  
7.00pm until 9.00pm

## Mayor's Carol Service



Sunday 9th December 2007  
St. Mary's Church  
6.00pm

## Christmas is coming to Aylesbury... Festive dates for your diary

**Town Mayor's Carol Service.** Members of the public are invited to join the Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Jenny Puddefoot, on **Sunday 9 December 2007**. At 5.30pm the Mayor will lead a lantern-lit procession from the Town Hall, (next to Bucks County Museum) in Church Street, through Temple Street and Market Street to Market Square, and then to Kingsbury, where carols will be sung. After carols the procession will walk through George Street and along Church Street to St. Mary's Church. The service will commence at 6.00pm and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies served by members of the Council to the public.

On **Sunday 9 December**, from 10.00am to 2.00pm there will be a **Christmas Farmers' Market**, in Market Square.

On **Friday 14 December**, at 7.00pm at Mandeville School you are invited to attend the **Mayor's Winter Charity Concert**.

Come into the Town Centre on **Saturday 15 - Sunday 16 December**, 10.00am - 4.00pm and have fun on the ice rink and at the seasonal stalls in Kingsbury.

On **Thursday 20 December** at 6.30pm come to the **Town Centre Carol Concert**. Members of the public are invited to come and join in this traditional carol concert in the wonderful setting of the Market Square. Aylesbury Community Concert Band will be playing. Song sheets will be provided. This would be a wonderful way to round off your shopping. Mulled wine, hot chestnuts, hot soup and mince pies will be on sale. Proceeds will go to the Town Mayor's Charities and Rotary Club.

Why not round off the festive season in great style on **Monday 31 December**, from 8.30pm to 2.00am with a **New Year Eve's Party**. Dress code: James Bond and Bond characters from the books and films. DJs, House Band, Cabaret, Casino, Gaming, Cocktails. For further information contact Civic Centre Box Office: 01296 486009.

### Aylesbury Town Council

Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP  
Tel: **01296 425678** Fax: **01296 426134**  
Email: [info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

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