

# Aylesbury Town matters

Aylesbury Town Council Magazine  
Issue Three December 2006



Bringing information that matters to the people of Aylesbury

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



'Take pride in Aylesbury Town'

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

Front cover photograph courtesy of  
Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership

## Welcome Note

Welcome to the third edition of Aylesbury Town Matters.

In this issue we have articles about grants awarded to community groups; the Aylesbury Summer Fun Day, which this year centred around an 'End of the Pier' show theme; a history of the Aylesbury Workhouse; and events staged in the Town Centre by the Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership, including the popular Robot Wars and 'Hobble on the Cobbles' starring one of Aylesbury's favourite sons, John Otway. Also featured are the Charter Day and Tudor Fayre celebrations, Proms in the Park, Aylesbury's Silver Award in the Chiltern and Thames in Bloom competition, and news about Aylesbury's own 'In Bloom' contest.

Also included in this issue we have information about Christmas festivities planned for the Town Centre and a guide to What's On next year.

Finally, we would like to tell you about our three newest Town Councillors: Mark Willis, Roger Surguy and Viv Young.

It is intended that this magazine should be a means for residents to exchange ideas and for groups to communicate with the townspeople. If there is any issue or topic in Aylesbury that is causing you concern, or if you would like to inform others about your activities, please let us know and we shall do our best to help.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Cllr. Steve Patrick  
Leader of the Council

## Organising an Event?

If you are organising an event for your community or activity group and would like some free publicity, why not put a notice in 'Aylesbury Town Matters'? If you are interested please contact Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk, at Aylesbury Town Council, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP; call on 01296 425678 or email: [m.wagstaffe@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:m.wagstaffe@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Grants Awarded, September 2006

Organisations which have benefited from Aylesbury Town Council's Community Grant Support Scheme:-

£1,000 was awarded to **Walton Holy Trinity National School**. The Grant was needed to help provide a new portable stage to replace the old one, which did not meet Fire Regulations.

£500 was awarded to **Quarrendon Quackers Toddler Group**, to contribute towards the cost of tickets for the children to see Aladdin at the Civic Centre, and travel costs.

The sum of £1,000 was given to **Vitalise** who provide respite care for disabled people from Aylesbury.

**The Church of the Good Shepherd** was given a grant of £500 towards the cost of redecorating their Church Hall.

£500 was awarded to **Matrix Explorer Scout Unit** to help to purchase camping and climbing equipment. The Scout Unit was formed in 2002 with 11 members and they have increased this until they now have 45. The Unit is involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They need the equipment to accommodate their expanding programme of activities.



Councillor Mark Willis presents a cheque to Aylesbury Youth Action Group for an outreach arts project.  
Photo courtesy of Aylesbury Youth Action.

**St Mary's Church** was given a £500 grant for repairs to Ladies & Gents toilets in the Church.

Another sum of £500 was given to the **Learning Disability Rehabilitation Team** for a Grant towards their funds for a celebration Christmas meal for clients with special needs.

**Hartwell Residents Association** received £250 towards the cost of a Fun Day, which was a success despite the weather. There was a good community spirit between residents of all ages. Much of Hartwell's funding has been raised through the Day Centre's activities and by individual initiatives.

If you belong to a non-profit making organisation which provides a service for a section of the community, you may qualify for a grant.

Please contact Mrs. Pat Phillips at  
Aylesbury Town Council Offices,  
5 Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP,  
telephone 01296 425678 or email:  
info@aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk  
for application forms or further information.

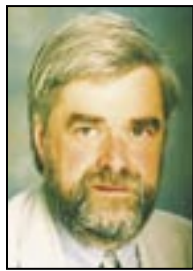


Matrix Explorer Scouts face painting at this years Bucks County Show.  
Photo courtesy of Hilary Walker.

## Aylesbury Town Councillors



Cllr.  
**Julian Newman**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Alan Sherwell**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Graham Webster**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Penni Thorne**  
Ward: Bedgrove



Cllr.  
**Steven Mitchell**  
Ward: Central



Cllr.  
**Denise Summers**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr.  
**Niknam Hussain**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr.  
**Mark Willis**  
Ward: Mandeville



Cllr.  
**Roger Surguy**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr.  
**Pat Jamieson**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr.  
**Tuffail Hussain**  
Ward: Gatehouse



Cllr.  
**Jenny Puddefoot**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr.  
**Joan Poole**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr.  
**Raj Khan**  
Ward: Elmhurst



Cllr.  
**Steve Patrick**  
Ward: Oakfield



Cllr.  
**Angela Turner**  
Ward: Oakfield



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



Cllr.  
**David Ralph**  
Ward: Southcourt



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



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



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



Cllr.  
**Ray Ghent**  
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr.  
**Mohammed Nazir**  
Ward: Quarrendon



Cllr.  
**Viv Young**  
Ward: Quarrendon

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If you would like any further information on anything in this magazine, or if you would like to contribute to the next issue, please contact:

Margaret Wagstaffe, Town Clerk, at Aylesbury Town Council Offices, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP20 2QP Telephone 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

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

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

## The Future of Healthcare

A Public Meeting on the future of health provision in Aylesbury was held on Thursday 21st September at Aylesbury Multi-Cultural Centre.

The meeting was attended by about 50 residents. It was chaired by Aylesbury Town Mayor Cllr. Niknam Hussain and led by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mrs. Jenny Puddefoot.

Cllr. Mrs. Puddefoot explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gain the views of local people, not to offer any answers at present. Members of the Town Council were concerned that the views of vulnerable groups such as the old and infirm, the sick, and families with young children were not usually listened to, although they would be the people most greatly affected by any reduction in or relocation of services. The Primary Care Trust had decided not to send representatives as it was being disbanded at the end of September and a new body would come into being on the 1st October 2006.

A variety of concerns were voiced by those present. People were disappointed that the PCT had declined to attend as they believed that its members should be accountable for their conduct of affairs during their term of office. It was felt that the PCT should be fighting on the side of local people for better use of budgets, not acquiescing to Government cuts.

Many residents were worried about the closing of the present Elmhurst Surgery. The number of people using the surgery now is considerably greater than when it was opened many years ago. Vulnerable people needing to attend the new surgery, will have to organise a taxi or involve friends and neighbours. Walton Grove Surgery was moved some distance to Poplar Grove a few years ago, and many needy people now find it very difficult, financially and physically, to see their own doctor.

It was suggested that a satellite surgery in Elmhurst would be appropriate, but it was generally agreed that people would be prepared to visit the main surgery for any procedures that were necessary. Many contrasted the expected



Concerned residents give voice to their anxieties about the future of healthcare provision in Aylesbury.

Photo courtesy of Ray Ghent.

growth of Aylesbury over the next few years with the steady reduction in healthcare services over the last few years. The reduction in local services was considered by many to be short-sighted. "Don't they believe in forward planning?" asked frustrated townspeople.

There was widespread belief that the Government is spending money ill advisedly. The 'out of hours service' is now apparently manned at weekends by doctors flown in from as far afield as Russia and has been re-sited away from the town, at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The 'powers that be' are cutting services to meet a reducing budget. For example the present total of 29 community nurses is to be cut to 16, which will mean more people visiting hospitals for the treatments they need. Considering the inadequate public transport provision in rural areas, hospital attendance and visiting becomes increasingly more difficult. The groups most affected are those with limited incomes. The reduction of school nurse services impacts on family care and increases dependence on overworked social services.

The point was made by one resident that language interpreting services, which are essential for helping non-English speaking members of the community, are to be cut. This will mean that a proportion of the population will be effectively debarred from General Practitioners, Hospitals and other NHS services.

Several spokespeople protested that charity money is being used to fund essential services. The Florence Nightingale Hospice is facing cuts, yet this hospice is substantially supported by

charity donations. The PCT had stated that it was not cutting beds, but was only reducing the funding for nurses. The net outcome, however, will be exactly the same: fewer nurses means fewer available beds.

Many people voiced the belief that decisions are reached and implemented before the community is made aware; and that complaining after the event has no effect. Cllr. Mrs. Puddefoot explained that the reason why this public meeting was being held before the forthcoming consultation on healthcare provision, was to try to pre-empt this process.

The meeting had been instigated in the hope that providing a vehicle through which townspeople's worries could be expressed and channelled, could make a positive difference to the formal consultation. The point was made that funding has been disproportionately low in Buckinghamshire for a number of years and if the correct level of funding was put in place there would probably be enough money to meet all needs.

An angry resident pointed out that the Government has decided that PCTs should privatise a number of services. It is already happening in other places. The out-sourcing could easily be to companies elsewhere in Europe or even further afield. Another spokesperson pointed out that services which are privatised and subsequently prove to be uneconomical or not sufficiently profitable, are simply discontinued.

A union representative explained how each service had to fight for its portion of available funding. He observed that all services are important and should be resourced as such, rather than the service with the loudest voice getting first call on the money. He was not sure that people were aware of the amount of money that was wasted on change and reorganisation - money that could have been used to fund services. He wanted to encourage local groups to work together to put pressure on Central Government so that Ministers could see that the public were not going to accept the changes proposed.

He assured the gathering that NHS staff were equally upset with the way healthcare provision was to change. He explained that at the moment staff are able to train and retrain, thus improving service to the public; but if services are outsourced, although the NHS will save initially on training costs, training opportunities will disappear - with predictable shortages of trained staff in the future.

An AVDC Councillor observed that the Government is not interested in Buckinghamshire as it is a Conservative stronghold and considered to be affluent. Disappointment was voiced that only 2000 signatures had been collected so far for the "Dear Patricia" campaign. A second public meeting with members of the PCT in attendance was called for. It was also suggested that the Chairs of the various Residents Associations in Aylesbury should be invited to attend. Townspeople felt that action should be taken as quickly as possible, and that a public campaign should be launched which covered the whole of Buckinghamshire.

It was decided that the best way forward was to lobby interested groups with the community's concerns. Those present resolved to set up an informal Scrutiny Working Group to lobby organisations and bodies which can put pressure on Central Government. BCC Scrutiny Committee is to be made aware of the concerns expressed at this meeting. The Bucks Herald will continue its campaign against these misconceived cuts and reorganisations.

Anyone requiring a copy of this article to use to pressure local organisations should contact the Town Council. A poster is to be produced to raise public awareness.

**Winner of Draw – public participation £100**  
 Congratulations to Ms Christine Grandison, who won £100 of Town Centre shopping vouchers when she returned her Public Consultation pull-out from Issue 1 of Aylesbury Town Matters. The draw was made by Mr David Erskine, Keeper of Exhibitions at Bucks County Museum.

## Workhouses in Aylesbury

During the 16th Century the Enclosures Acts resulted in smallholders losing the right to free grazing, trapping, fishing and cutting wood. Many became destitute, with no means of supporting themselves and their families. Enclosures in Aylesbury continued until the 1870s.

This so affected Aylesbury people that a significant proportion of the population lived from hand to mouth. Anyone caught stealing, however small the item, could be punished by public hanging or flogging, or a long period in jail.

Some early attempts were made to collect voluntary alms for the poor, but in 1572 a law was passed whereby towns and parishes were compelled to organise their own poor relief system. This was to be funded by local taxes, in order to provide flax, wood, hemp or other items for the poor to work on. Parishes were required to build poor (or alms) houses. In 1675-7 a law was passed obliging people in receipt of parish relief to wear a badge of blue or red cloth bearing a large letter 'P', together with the first letter of their parish. Anyone refusing to wear the badge was severely punished by withdrawal of parish relief, whipping, or 21 days hard labour. In 1697, one Elizabeth Miles complained that the overseers of Aylesbury refused to give her relief unless she agreed to wear "a badge according to the late Act of Parliament."

From around 1640 a workhouse existed in Aylesbury where children were taught trades and the poor worked initially on making rope, and at a later date, lace. The workhouse was located at the corner of St. Mary's Square and Pebble Lane, and a Parliamentary report of 1777 records that it accommodated up to 90 inmates. The inmates consisted of what were then known as paupers, lunatics, idiots, imbeciles, infirm, elderly, orphans, unmarried mothers, etc.

By 1829 conditions in the workhouse were considered to be inadequate and a new workhouse was built on land adjoining Mill Close at a cost of approximately £3,000 for the building and £500 for the land. The auction of the old



Photo courtesy of Keith Turner

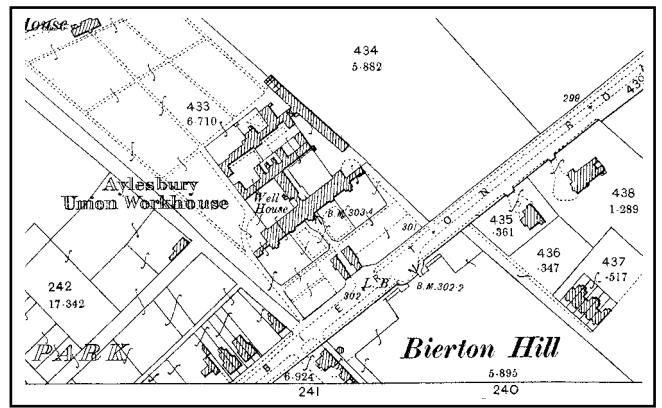
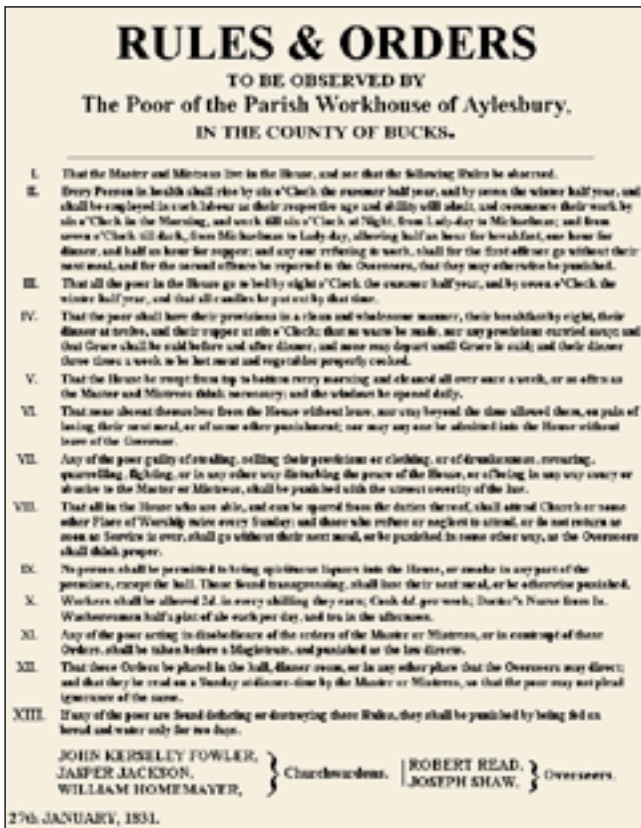
workhouse was advertised in the Bucks Gazette on the 19th June and held on the 24th June 1830 at the Bell Inn. It was conducted by a Mr. Rainsford. The sale consisted of 7 lots, one of which was the workhouse dining room which was situated in Pebble Lane. This lot was sold to a committee established to set up a British School. The building was subsequently used as a school with girls and boys taught separately. Indeed, they each had their own entrance to the school.

The decision to build a new workhouse turned out to be an ill-advised and expensive move as in 1833 Earl Grey, the Prime Minister, set up a Poor Law Commission to examine the working of the Poor Law System in Britain. In their report the Commission made many radical recommendations to Parliament. As a result, the great Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 was passed.

This Act had significant ramifications for Aylesbury as under the Act parishes had to group together. So was formed the Aylesbury Union in July 1835. This accommodated the needs of 40 parishes and had an elected Board of Guardian of 48 members to oversee its operation. The population of the Union at the 1831 Census was 21,480 (Aylesbury's population was at the time 5,021).

In March 1841 the Guardians discussed erecting an additional building to be used as an infirmary and to carry out work to the existing premises. In 1842 the subject of building a new workhouse was met with considerable opposition and for a time the idea was abandoned. However the issue failed to fade away and on the 10th July 1842 it was noted that there was "great division" between Board members. By 29th July 1842





By April 1843 the problem of the site had been resolved and the architect appointed. The workhouse was designed by Strethill Oakes Foden in collaboration with Assistant Poor Law Commissioner H. W. Parker. On the 29th April 1843 the Bucks Gazette carried an advert from the Board asking for tenders to build the new workhouse and the Gazette later reported that a Mr. Holman, a builder of London, had won the contract with the lowest bid of £7,350. In September 1844 the new workhouse, situated opposite the site on which the prison was to be built on the Bierton Road, was opened.

it was reported that the Board had reached an agreement to build a new workhouse at once.

On the 1st October and again on the 8th October 1842 the Bucks Gazette carried adverts calling on all persons wishing to sell about 5–8 acres of land in the immediate neighbourhood of Aylesbury, suitable for the site of the new Union workhouse, to come forward. No suitable land was found. It was reported on the 24th December 1842 that a Dr. Lee had offered 5 acres in Hartwell but there had been opposition and he had then offered 6 acres of land in Stone next to the Church.

By 1925 the workhouse was officially known as Aylesbury Poor Law Institution and later as Tindal Hospital. The Board of Guardians was abolished on the 1st April 1930, their final meeting held on 9th April, and their responsibilities transferred to Bucks County Council. The Poor Law itself was ended by the passing of the National Assistance Act in 1947. Tindal House Hospital and Tindal General were united under the administration of the Aylesbury and District Hospital Management Committee on 5th July 1948.



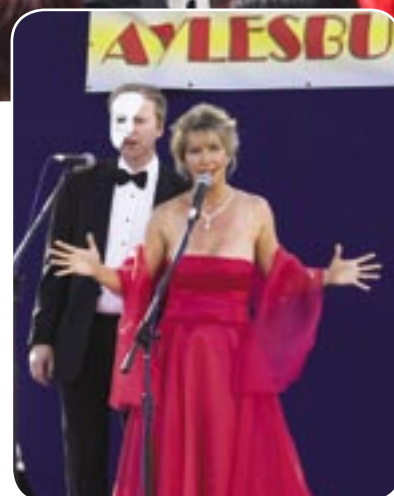
## Aylesbury Pier Theatre and Fun Fair, 16th July 2006

July 16th, probably the hottest day of the year, saw Kingsbury turned into the 'end of the pier', complete with its own theatre.

A variety of acts entertained the audience throughout the afternoon and evening. They heard music from Richard Stark, Live & Kicking, Jill Neenan and Caduceus Brass; dancing was performed by two groups from the Kercher School of Dance; ventriloquism and magic came from Magic Martin; Robert Freeman gave a fine fire-eating and juggling act and the whole event was compered by comedian Ray Crawford.

Despite the heat, hundreds of people turned out to enjoy the day which also included Punch & Judy, face-painting and rock and confectionery stalls.

Market Square attracted the crowds with its Fun Fair to complete a family fun day at the seaside – in Aylesbury.



Photos courtesy of Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership

## Proms In The Park, 2nd September 2006

From the scorching heat of July for the Aylesbury Pier Theatre event to the wind and the rain on September 2nd which sadly kept the crowds away for the 6th Annual 'Proms In The Park'. Traditionally now held in Vale Park, this year, despite the weather, the small, stalwart, typically British audience braved the elements to listen to the Aylesbury Community Concert Band with soloist Jill Neenan and members from her junior choir.

The Band played a typically varied programme which included 'Strike Up The Band', 'Tocatta in D Minor' and 'Trumpets Wild'. The first half concluded with excerpts from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'The Sound of Music' delightfully performed by Jill and her choir.

The second half, as to be expected, saw the traditional flag waving finale with 'Fantasia On British Sea Songs', 'Jerusalem' and of course 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

Well done to all who took part and to the audience who stayed throughout, despite being battered by the wind and drenched by the rain. **Next year the weather won't be so bad – will it?**



Photos courtesy of Ray Ghent

## Charter Day & Tudor Fayre, 10th September 2006

Now in its third year, the Tudor Fayre, to celebrate Aylesbury's Charter Day, has become a firm favourite with local residents and visitors alike.

This year, in partnership with the Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership, saw the return by popular demand of 'The Rat Catcher' and 'The Singing Plague Victims' together with the multi-talented Fool who manages somehow to balance on stilts while fire-eating.

The entertainment was ably supported by extremely knowledgeable crafts folk who in traditional costume demonstrated 'spinning and weaving', 'coin making', 'musical instruments',

'jewellery', 'amputations from the Barber' and 'magical alchemy'.

Aylesbury Town Council and Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership are pleased to be able to provide a number of events throughout the year for the benefit of both residents of and visitors to our Town. These events are not only enjoyable jollies; by bringing visitors into the town centre they help to support the local economy and protect our shops and services.

We look forward to organising another full programme in 2007. See page 16 for more information.

Cllr. Ray Ghent



Street Theatre



Apothecary



Bubonic Plague Singers

Photos courtesy of Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership



Photo taken by Tamsin Killoh

## Blooming Marvellous – Silver Award at the first attempt!

Britain in Bloom is an all-inclusive campaign, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society to encourage communities of all sizes to make positive and lasting improvements to their local areas. The campaign is the largest of its kind in Europe and incorporates floral features, permanent planting, wildflower meadows, planting for nature, fruit and vegetable gardening and much more.

Other core elements include cleanliness and tackling issues of litter, graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Entries are encouraged to involve all sectors of the community such as town centre management, businesses, community groups, volunteers and schools to boost civic pride and help retain a local identity. Britain in Bloom also promotes good practice in the environment by encouraging recycling, the establishment of conservation areas and other sustainable projects.

This year the Town Council entered Aylesbury in the Britain in Bloom Competition for the first time – not without some trepidation, as we had visited some of the towns that are renowned for floral displays and regularly win prizes. Although the Town Council organised this year's submission, it does incorporate the good work of AVDC, BCC, Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership and many other organisations.

Entrants to the competition are judged on two elements:

- A 30 page written submission
- Visit, tour and inspection by Judges

When we sat down to write the submission and looked at the criteria we needed to use, we quickly realised how strong the credentials of the town really were. Local Authorities concentrate most of their time on things that need fixing or improving and tend to take for granted the more positive aspects of the town.

We realised that we do have a very clean town centre. AVDC do now have an effective plan to remove graffiti. We do have many parks and open spaces and we do have nearly 600 allotment plots on 6 sites that act as green lungs for the town. We do have floral features and hanging baskets. We do have a recycling scheme that will be enlarged in the near future. And yes, we all would like them to be better. We do have plans to improve parks and open spaces, to increase the biodiversity and sustainability of our green spaces - but as usual we all are limited by the amount of money that is available.

The judges visit was, it has to be said, a little challenging to begin with. We put together two tours – one on foot and the other using a bus. The day of judgement was the hottest of the year and the judges eventually began to wilt during the on-foot tour. So the second part of the walk had to be scrapped, which was a shame because this contained some of the stronger aspects of central Aylesbury.



Young Gardeners at Elmhurst Infant School  
Photo taken by Tamsin Killoh

It was quite an experience putting together this part of the inspection as when we started looking for good things to show the judges we found countless examples of ad-hoc floral displays and good examples of biodiversity and sustainability.

For the bus tour we had come up with the theme of Special People In Special Places. The tour included Hartwell Day Centre, Aylesbury College, Elmhurst Primary School and the Florence Nightingale Hospice. And were the judges impressed by what they saw!

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the staff of all these wonderful places for their help and assistance. And we will of course be entering Britain in Bloom next year with more experience and the expectation of obtaining an even higher award.

Keith Turner

### Aylesbury in Bloom Competition

“Terrific standard” was the comment from judge Freda Roberts when asked for her comments regarding the level of achievement of the entrants to the Aylesbury In Bloom Competition. “It’s amazing how ingenious local residents can be when it comes to gardening”, Freda added, especially this year when gardeners have had to deal with a hosepipe ban and near-drought conditions for a significant period of the growing season. Climate change is something gardeners are now having to seriously think about and alter their planting accordingly.

If the climate change Minister Ian Pearson is to be believed then the quintessential garden and lawn is under threat. He said recently that “If the majority of scientific opinion is right, and I think it is, these conditions will become commonplace in the future.”



Photo courtesy of Keith Turner

## Aylesbury in Bloom Competition

<b>Best Patio Garden</b>	3rd	Mrs. H. Cavanagh
	2nd	Mrs. J. Croker
	1st	Mr. & Mrs. Walker
<b>Best Formal Garden</b>	3rd	Florence Nightingale House
	2nd	Mrs. E. Mattoza
	1st	Mr. & Mrs. Caulton
<b>Best Formal Garden</b>	3rd	Mr. M. Paxton
	2nd	Mrs. M. Vece
	1st	Mrs. Z. Laskar
<b>Best Window Box</b>		Mrs. S. Giraldo
<b>Best Balcony</b>		Mrs. B. Barrett
<b>Best Hanging Basket</b>	2nd	Mrs. M. Sweeney
	1st	Mr. A. Palermo
<b>Best Nature Garden</b>	3rd	Mr. R. Dente
	2nd	Mr. M. Morsa
	1st	Mr. G. Dellasalla
<b>Best Vegetable Garden</b>	1st	Mr. M. Morsa
	2nd	Mr. G. Dellasalla
	3rd	Mrs. Z. Laska
<b>Best Front Garden</b>	3rd	Mr. & Mrs. B. Caulton
	2nd	Mrs. G. Kossick
	1st	Mrs. S. Shelley
<b>Aylesbury Trophy Winner</b>		Mrs. Z. Laskar



Allotments Competition

## Allotments Competition

The six allotment sites within Aylesbury Town support nearly 600 individual plots and apart from a few plots which cannot be let due to resolvable, but perhaps not affordable problems, all plots in the main are enthusiastically maintained.

The judges, who it has to be said are not in the first flush of youth, entered the day and a half long judging programme with similar enthusiasm although by the end all three judges were close to being only ready for the compost heap.

"The quality of some of the allotments was outstanding" said one of the judges Jackie Jarvis, "it was difficult to pick an outright winner for each site."

In acknowledgement of Roger Green, who sadly died earlier this year, for his service and commitment to Aylesbury allotments, a new cup was presented by Mrs Green to the 5th Aylesbury Scout Group for service to the community.

And just in case we all get complacent the rules of the competition will change next year and just to be different we will tell all allotment holders what the criteria is that each plot will be judged on.

<b>BEDGROVE</b>	3rd	Mr. J. Jones
	2nd	Mr. G. Lang
	1st	Mr. L. Eversden
<b>OLD STOKE ROAD</b>	3rd	Mr. M. Bendelow
	2nd	Mr. P. Miles
	1st	Mr. I. Mortimer
<b>CROWN LEYS</b>	3rd	Mr. P. Walker
	2nd	Mr. & Mrs. Keedle
	1st	Ms V. Downs
<b>ARDENHAM LANE</b>	2nd	Mr. A. Bull
	1st	Mrs. C. Speck
<b>TRING ROAD</b>	3rd	Mr. A. Nobbs
	2nd	Mr. C. Croucher
	1st	Mr. A. Palermo
<b>WINNER OF THE GARDENERS' CUP</b>		Mr. I. Mortimer
<b>ROGER GREEN TROPHY</b>		5th Aylesbury Scout Troup (Rep. Mr. F. Harper)

## New Councillors



**Cllr. Roger Surguy**

Councillor Roger Surguy has lived in Aylesbury for over forty years. He joined the Council to make a contribution to improving the well-being of the town. He is a member of the Planning Committee and has a particular interest in promoting appropriate development in Aylesbury.

Some time ago Roger set up a local record company, GpRecords, to support and further the local music scene and he has promoted a number of local bands. Beside music, his other hobbies include most sports, especially football, and British cinema. He is married and has two sons.



**Cllr. Mark Willis**

Hi all, I'm Mark Willis, one of the representatives for Mandeville and Elm Farm Ward on Aylesbury Town Council. I've been in Aylesbury for about seven years. I came to the Town while working for the Meteorological Office, for the simple reason that my family and I needed somewhere which was affordable, but was also very attractive in which to live. I now work for London Underground as a Train Operator.

I wanted to get involved with the Town Council after living in other places and seeing what could be achieved. The facilities available to our growing community are in many cases simply inadequate. Improvements are being made, but very slowly and with seemingly rather limited aims. I also wanted to get involved because of the plans to build so many homes in this area and the need to ensure that developments are as environmentally friendly as possible, and meet all the infrastructure requirements of the residents of the town. I am proud to be a member of the Town Council Planning Committee which protects the interests of the people of the town. I am also a member of the Grants Committee, which has the fantastic job of assisting local organisations to help those most in need.

Outside of work and the Council I am also a member of and coach at Aylesbury Rugby Club and I shall be one of the coaches helping the under 9s next season. I am also a season ticket holder at London Wasps and a very average but enthusiastic cricketer. I love sport and the benefits that it brings to all, particularly children, improving their self confidence and helping them to become good members of society. Sport has many lessons to teach.

Since joining the Council it has been my pleasure to make the acquaintance of many residents of this lovely town of ours, and I hope to meet many more of you in the weeks and months ahead.



**Cllr. Viv Young**

I first moved to Aylesbury in 1996 when my father began working here. I married in 1998 and moved away, but returned to Aylesbury in October 2004. I immediately enrolled to read for a degree but after one year had to leave the course for personal reasons. I will be returning to complete my degree in Social Sciences with the Open University in February 2007.

I do voluntary work in Elmhurst Infant School. This includes reading with children (aged 5-6), and also being involved with various club activities, such as the art club. Last year I worked with PAFT (Parents As First Teachers) and also Patchwork class, both at Elmhurst Infant School. My aim is to be a primary school teacher. I love working with children and thoroughly enjoy my time spent in the school.

I have three children, aged ten, six and five, who attend Elmhurst Junior and Elmhurst Infant Schools. I love spending time with my children and taking them to the park. I also enjoy going to the cinema, eating out and sports. I have always enjoyed being involved in my community, although due to family circumstances and a house move it has been difficult for the last year. Now that my life has settled and my children are all in full time school I have the time to become more actively involved. I am particularly keen to work towards better play facilities for young people in Aylesbury, and for more amenities for teenagers.

## A look back at 2006...

A look back at some of the events organised by the Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership during 2006.



Combat Robots fought it out in Kingsbury in May. This event, for the third year running, was held in Kingsbury rather than Market Square. Kingsbury allows us to host bigger and tougher fighting robots. Engineers showed off their robot making skills, whilst members of the public got the opportunity to operate the radio controlled machines.

A mountain bike Aerial Display team entertained crowds in June, demonstrating their amazing stunt bike antics.

In July an Italian Market brought 'la dolce vita' to Aylesbury with a wide range of Italian cuisine.

The annual Roald Dahl Festival continues to grow year on year and 2006 was no exception with the introduction of new venues around the town. One of the highlights was the giant peach that was rolled through the town in the parade.

The annual Aylesbury Street Festival saw a variety of international music entertaining the crowds. In addition to Saturday entertainment, Sunday saw visits from big tribute bands such as Cher, Freddie Mercury, Abba Mia, Everley Brothers and Elvis as part of Kingsbury's Tribute to the Stars.

The climax of Aylesbury's summer of music was Hobble on the Cobbles, an event reintroduced after 28 years. Thousands of visitors enjoyed a day of local music with the headline act, our own Aylesbury-grown star, John Otway.

Celebrating the end of the summer holidays, Kingsbury Inflatable Days saw a variety of inflatable slides and castles in Kingsbury proving very popular with younger members of the town.



John Otway

Photos courtesy of Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership

A Travel Choice Festival celebrated European Mobility Week and offered crowds alternatives to the motor car.

In September an Oyster and Craft Fair was held in Market Square for the first time and proved very successful. The oysters were from Fleet in Dorset, and the champagne was a big hit with visitors.

The Special Half Term Farmers' Market included entertainment for younger visitors with face painters, balloon modellers and farm animals.

A new market visited Aylesbury in October; the Fine French Market bringing some 'Ooh-la-la' atmosphere to the town with their extensive range of French produce.

The popular spooky 'Ghouls and Villains' tour of the town centre was slightly different this year with a theatrical company adding their own interpretation to this unique event.

Christmas kicked off with the Light Switch On event hosted by Mix 96 on behalf of Friars Square Shopping Centre. A 'Take That' tribute band had the crowds singing along and the Mix Factor finalists proved a great hit. Finally Santa arrived in style, as always, pulled by white ponies in his parade around the town.

Talia Sulman  
Town Centre Manager



*"It's always worth going to Aylesbury Town Centre at the weekend. You can guarantee that something will be happening".*



## and a look forward to Christmas...

- Sunday trading every week 10.30am – 4.30pm (free parking) •
- Late night shopping every Thursday from 9th November (open until 8.00pm) •
- Free parking for late night shopping from 4.30pm on Thursdays and from 6.00pm at other times •

**Monday 18th - Saturday 23rd December** .....9.00am – 8.00pm  
**Christmas Eve** ..... 10.30am – 4.30pm  
**Christmas Day** ..... Closed  
**Boxing Day** Friars Square (selected stores only) and Hale Leys.....10.00am – 5.00pm  
**New Year's Day** ..... 10.00am – 5.00pm

(Some individual store times may differ)

For assistance getting around Aylesbury contact Shopmobility (01296) 336725

Sunday 3rd December (11.00am – 3.00pm)  
**Christmas Gift and Craft Fayre – Market Square**

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December (9.00am – 4.00pm)  
**Italian Market – Kingsbury**

Sunday 10th December (10.00am – 2.00pm)  
**Christmas Farmers' Market – Market Square**

Sunday 10th December  
**Lantern Procession and Mayoral party parade around town and on to St Mary's Church for the Town Mayor's Carol Service (6.00pm)**  
(the procession leaves Church Street at 5.30pm, on to Kingsbury and the top of the Market Square, through the Kings Head courtyard before making its way back along Church Street to St Mary's)

Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th December (10.00am – 4.00pm)  
**Great family fun with a Victorian feel. Enjoy the Carousel, Seasonal Stalls and the artificial Ice Rink in Kingsbury**

Thursday 14th December – Tuesday 2nd January  
**The pantomime "Aladdin" at the Civic Centre**  
Book early to avoid disappointment.

Aylesbury Town Mayor Cllr. Niknam Hussain is hosting two **Charity Tea Dances** during the winter months of January and February. There have already been two successful Tea Dances before Christmas at Bedgrove Community Centre and Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre. On Sunday 28th January 2007 at Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre 2.00pm - 5.00pm the dance will be led by Pat & Arthur Mattison and on Saturday 24th February 2007 at Southcourt Community Centre 2.00pm - 5.00pm with the dance led by Elaine Beauchamp and partner. The ticket price is £3.00 (inc. refreshment) available from the Town Council. All monies raised will go equally between the Aylesbury Town Mayor's chosen charities for 2006/07, CHAT and Age Concern.

## and a look at what's happening in 2007

### Dates for your Diary

#### Town Centre Events January 2007 to December 2007

##### Half-term Fun Day, Kingsbury

Wednesday 14th or Friday 16th February  
Climbing wall and bungee trampoline

##### Traditional Continental Market, Kingsbury

Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
23rd, 24th & 25th March

##### St. George's Day Celebrations Kingsbury, Market Square etc.

Saturday and Sunday 21st & 22nd April

##### Combat Robots, Kingsbury

Sunday 13th May

##### Italian Market, Kingsbury

Friday and Saturday 22nd & 23rd June

##### Roald Dahl Festival

Aylesbury Town Centre  
Saturday 7th July

##### Aylesbury Summer Fun Day

Aylesbury Town Centre  
Sunday 15th July

##### Aylesbury Street Festival

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

##### Summer Sunday Events in Kingsbury and Market Square

29th July: Shakespeare  
5th August: Music  
12th August: Music  
19th August: Music  
2nd Sept: Shakespeare

##### Hobble on the Cobbles, Market Square

Sunday 26th August

##### Park Life, Vale Park

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd September

##### Proms in the Park, Vale Park

Saturday 1st September

##### Charter Day & Tudor Fayre

Medieval fun in the market place  
Sunday 9th September

##### Oyster and Food Fair, Market Square

23rd September

##### Half-term Inflatables Fun, Kingsbury

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

##### Half-term Special Farmers' Market

Tuesday 23rd October

##### 'Ghouls & Villains'

##### Wednesday 31st October

Halloween tour of Aylesbury Town Centre  
...and Shakespeare too!

##### Christmas Light Switch On, Market Square

Thursday 1st November

##### Santa's Arrival, Market Square

Sunday 18th November

##### Charity Market, Market Square

Saturday 25th November

##### Christmas Gift & Craft Fair, Market Square

Sunday 2nd December

##### Traditional Continental Market, Kingsbury

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

##### Christmas Farmers' Market, Market Square

Sunday 9th December

##### Festive Fun in Kingsbury

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

##### Town Centre Carol Concert, Market Square

Thursday 20th December

## Pond Talk

You may, if you are a Bucks Herald reader, have seen in the press that Aylesbury Town Council (ATC) is trying to acquire Walton Pond. Why acquire it? Well it's seen as being in a state of neglect and ATC wants to ensure that this valuable piece of Aylesbury's history is given the respect it deserves. This requires some initial work on the pond itself and its surroundings, and then an on-going annual maintenance programme needs to be put in place.

The problem however is that it appears that no-one owns the pond. During 1800 land in Walton was "enclosed", that is, what was common land was carved up among local land owners under the 1800 Enclosures Act. The pond, which was used by many people, was forgotten, or not wanted, by anybody. Therein lies the problem. ATC needs to acquire the pond before the Council can spend money on it or bid for funding from organisations such as the Big Lottery Fund. But as no-one seems to own the pond... Currently ATC is taking legal advice on how to go forward.

In the meantime step forward Richard Greenwood and his group of environmentalist from Walton Holy Trinity Church. The group had identified



the pond as needing some help and applied and received a grant from SAVE to carry out preliminary work and to buy and install a bench whilst also requesting advice from an officer of the Pond Society. (Isn't it so British!)

At this point the aspirations of Richard's group and those of ATC, headed by Cllr. Mark Willis, converged.

The Pond Officer's advice has now been received and a joint plan for the short and medium term has been put in place that will ensure that the pond will face a more secure future. And whatever the future does bring you can be sure it will need quite a few people to get their wellies full of water.

## Aylesbury - The good, the bad and the ugly

In the first issue of the Aylesbury Town Council magazine, Aylesbury Matters, we asked for the views of Aylesbury residents about Aylesbury and what they would like to see in the future. As ever the replies were a mixed bag. Some saw Aylesbury in a positive light, others highlighted the bad, and some thought it ugly, particularly the new building developments.

On the positive side residents felt that Aylesbury has good parks and a good bus service (particularly Route 9). The town is surrounded by wonderful countryside that is easily accessible. Others said that the town's location, close to the M25 and a number of major towns and cities is ideal. Aylesbury offers cultural variety, is very clean and supports a good education system.

When asked what they disliked, people felt that the lack of public toilets, and high car parking fees were detrimental to bringing visitors into the town. They didn't like the bus station and the industrial and housing estates. They also felt that Aylesbury lacked green spaces and facilities for young people.

Aylesbury residents would like to see fewer new housing estates, pubs and clubs. However, they would like more cycle routes, a train link to Oxford and other towns/cities, and more affordable and cultural entertainment for young people.

All the comments received will be passed on to AVDC and Bucks County Council in order that they may be incorporated in any future planning strategy and structure plans.

# *experience the* **XMAS** *Factor*

AT FRIARS SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE

• **FREE VISIT TO SANTA FOR EVERY CHILD**

• **GREAT FUN XMAS COMPETITION "PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE WITH SANTA"**

• **FREE PARKING EVERY SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAY**

• **SPARKLING XMAS DECORATIONS**

• **FREE XMAS MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT ON THE MALL (see posters)**

• **LATE NIGHT XMAS SHOPPING WITH FREE PARKING EVERY LATE NIGHT AFTER 4.30PM**

**AND OF COURSE GREAT XMAS SHOPPING**

## **Christmas Opening Times**

Late night shopping (free parking after 4.30pm)  
Every Thursday until 8pm (commences 9th Nov)  
Monday 18th - Saturday 23rd December 9am - 8pm  
Christmas Day - Closed  
Boxing Day - Open - Selected stores only 10am - 5pm  
New Year's Day - 10am - 5pm

**Friars Square** aylesbury

[www.friarssquare.info](http://www.friarssquare.info)

Working with Aylesbury Town Partnership to bring you a great Xmas in Aylesbury including Christmas Markets, Continental Markets and seasonal entertainment. Friars Square - sponsors of the "Mix Factor".

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