

# AMERSHAM NEWS



Welcome to the **2016 spring edition** of the Town Council Newsletter. We hope that you enjoy catching up on our news. We would once again like to thank **Hamptons International** for their support and for kindly sponsoring this newsletter.



Amersham has been invited to represent the Thames and Chiltern Region in the **National Britain in Bloom Competition**. Turn to page two to see how you can get involved.



Our civic event list is now confirmed. See what's taking place this summer and pencil the dates in the diary. Turn to page four for further details.

The cost of printing and distributing this newsletter is roughly 4p per resident

Keep up to date with all our news, projects and civic events at:



@amershamtc



amershamtowncouncil

After over six years as Town Clerk Janet Wheeler is soon to leave the Council. We would like to thank her for her commitment and dedication to Amersham. Turn to page six for Janet's Annual Report and farewell.

Main photo: Coach and Four outside The Kings Arms Hotel c1930 (Photo courtesy of Amersham Museum)

4<sup>th</sup> year at the top



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## Local School Accepts No Rubbish

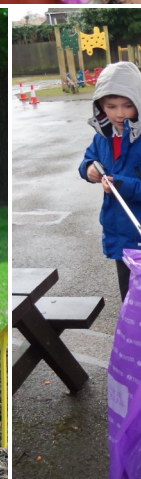
The partnership between **Stony Dean School** and the **Amersham in Bloom Group** is just one of the success stories that perfectly demonstrates how working collaboratively can achieve fantastic results.

Since September the school has been instrumental in reducing litter in Amersham Common with over 20 pupils undertaking weekly litter picks, plus helping to Clean for the Queen in early March. Pupils also assisted in preparing the site at Willow Wood (Stanley Hill) prior to the planting of 420 native tree saplings.



Stony Dean Pupils help out with Clean for the Queen

Over the next few months Stony Dean pupils will also be helping to paint the WWI Memorial Crosses as well as supporting the bloom group to grow and design a herb bed for Sycamore Corner. All of the projects help to enhance the lives of the students with the single aim of up-skilling them for employment and further training. Their contribution to Town Council and Bloom initiatives has helped improve our town while helping the pupils to develop key life skills.



Working together as a community to plant flowerbeds and litter pick

## Join us in creating history for Amersham?

Amersham is the first Chiltern Town to enter the National Britain in Bloom competition.

Being asked to represent Thames and Chiltern for the first time ever in this year's National Britain in Bloom competition is an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of the dedicated efforts of Bloom volunteers, Amersham Town Council, schools and nurseries, local businesses, community groups, Bucks County Council and Chiltern District Council.

Last year Amersham received three awards in the regional competition: Gold for the overall town plus special regional awards for the Memorial

Gardens and our contribution to conservation and wildlife as well as being one of the highest scoring entrants.

Our entry into the National Competition is a great opportunity to build on this momentum and make further improvements to our town.

As a group we are really excited and have started planning for the year ahead with some wonderful ideas including giving the area outside the Post Office Sorting Office a much needed makeover, planting over 500 new trees, adding further

pockets of wildflowers, creating colorful splashes of color below our roads, and a successful sunflower display complemented with Amersham Memorial

If you would like to join the team then we urge you to become a volunteer. For further information contact us at Amersham Town Council by emailing [stevec@amershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:stevec@amershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)





## Divide and Donate your Perennials

Help us create a herbaceous border at Oakfield Corner

The Town Council and Bloom group are actively looking to improve Amersham, not only for the benefit of the community but also to support our wildlife conservation efforts. As part of these improvements we are planning to enhance the planting and maintenance of our existing flowerbeds.

This spring we are going to concentrate on the bed at **Oakfield Corner** (opposite Natwest Bank) to make better use of what is otherwise a rather lacklustre space.

We plan to plant the border with a mixture of herbaceous perennials to add height, colour and longevity during summer and autumn.

Herbaceous perennials provide essential food to bees and other



Heleniums and other perennials would add colour to the flowerbed

pollinating insects that help the natural environment.

The existing shrubs will form the structure while the perennials will add depth, texture and a flush of vibrant colour.

Spring is the perfect season to divide your perennials and we are therefore asking residents to split and contribute their 'spare' plants to the creation of

the first municipal herbaceous border.

If you have a plant that you wish to donate then please contact Steve at [stevec@amersham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:stevec@amersham-tc.gov.uk) or on 01494 434000.

We are happy to collect all donated plants or alternatively please drop them at the Town Council offices by 3 April for planting in the bed on 8 April.

## Bloom Competition

flowers, additional borders with our around town, further planting and signs to build on last years flowers plus some innovative ideals with striking floral displays in the Memorial Gardens.

to be part of our existing plans you to join our committed team of further details please contact Steve Town Council on 01494 434000 or by [amersham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:amersham-tc.gov.uk).

## Field of Remembrance

It's almost impossible to miss the towns **Field of Remembrance** our WWI Memorial. Thanks to the generosity and co-operation of farmer Mr Colin Channer, the Field of Remembrance has relocated from Amersham Cricket Club to Ruckles Field which commands a breath-taking spot above Tesco's overlooking Old Amersham.

Stony Dean School and NATO Forces will give the crosses a fresh lick of paint very soon before an information board is also installed at the site.

Each of the 320 six foot high crosses represent 50,000 people that died in

the conflict. The crosses were constructed and painted by volunteers.



The Field of Remembrance commemorates the centenary of WWI and has relocated from Shardeloes (pictured)

# The Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan

During February and March of last year, Chiltern District Council (CDC) held a public consultation on its emerging Local Plan. In December 2015, it was announced that CDC and South Bucks District Council intend to amalgamate their local plans into a Joint Local Plan for Chiltern and South Bucks. The plan will establish development needs in both districts, the overall scale of development to be planned for up to 2036, and set out development proposals, land use allocations and planning policies for the determination of planning applications.

The Plan will also examine the infrastructure needed to support planned development. An initial public consultation was held earlier this year on the issues and options contained within the plan and Amersham Town Council has submitted a response to this preliminary consultation. Responses to this initial consultation will lead to a 'preferred options' consultation in Autumn 2016, followed by a draft plan for public consultation in early 2017 prior to submission later in 2017. Below are some key issues which the plan will need to address.

## Key issues for Amersham:

The overall combined housing need across the Chiltern and South Bucks Districts is 15,000 dwellings and 15



hectares of additional employment space for the period 2014-2036.

As part of the initial public consultation, a variety of possible options are being examined to meet these development needs, such as possible increased housing density in built-up areas, as well as built area extensions for principal settlements and additional sustainable growth options in the Green Belt.

As a Statutory Consultee, Amersham Town Council will continue to respond at all stages of the Local Plan's development and we will keep you informed of our comments via our website.

## Key Dates for your Diary

### May

- Sat 01 First Band Concert - (Memorial Gardens; 2.30pm)
- Sat 14 Amersham in Bloom Information Day  
St Michael's Square- 9.30am-12.30pm

### June

- Sun 12 Queens 90th Birthday Concert  
Memorial Gardens, 2pm-4.30pm

### July

- Sat 09 Amersham Carnival and Town Show (11am-7pm)  
(King George V Playing Fields, Chiltern Avenue)

### August

- Sun 28 Children's Picnic in the Gardens (2pm)  
Fun filled children's concert and activities  
French Market, Old Amersham (10am-4pm)

### September

- Sun 11 Amersham Heritage Day (11am-5.30pm)

A full listing of band concerts can be found on our website



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## Unsung Heroes Recognised

**Martin Pounce**, Chairman of the Amersham Society, has been named as the 2016 Amersham Town Council Citizen of the Year.

**David Stagg** has been chosen as Mature Citizen of the Year with **Stony Dean School** picking up the Youth

Award. **Andy Honour**, of the Chesham Bois Scout Group and the **Amersham in Bloom** volunteers have received the Mayor's Special Award with **Carrolls Ironmongery** and **The Kings Arms Hotel** named as the businesses of the year.



Martin Pounce (right) helps to spruce up Old Amersham





Amersham on the Sea will be back by popular demand

## The Queens' Birthday plays a big part in our Summer of Fun

We are pleased to announce our 2016 summer event listing is now confirmed. Highlights include a certain 90th birthday celebration, a Teddy Bears Picnic, a Rio themed Carnival as well as our much loved fortnightly band concerts in the Old Amersham Memorial Gardens.

This year's **Amersham Carnival & Town Show** is taking place on **Saturday 9 July** at King George V Playing Field (KGV), Amersham on the Hill from 11.00am. The fun-filled action packed day will start with a vibrant '**Rio**' themed Procession, leaving from KGV Field at 12 midday, taking in a route of Amersham on the Hill before returning at around 12.45pm.

There will be a whole host of exciting activities including a live music stage, BBQ & Beer Tent, Amersham in Bloom Horticultural Show, Community & Business stalls and so much more!!! Amersham Town Council are delighted to announce that our

hugely popular Amersham on the Sea beach will also be returning, this time with a tropical twist!

### Want to get Involved?

The Carnival and Town Show organisers are actively seeking entrants to the procession from local schools and nurseries, businesses and community groups! - Please visit the Town Council website [www.amersham-tc.gov.uk/events/](http://www.amersham-tc.gov.uk/events/) to register your interest and download the carnival procession pack which includes top tips on creating your Rio costume! If you are interested in having a stall, giving a performance in the Arena or would like some more information about

the event please contact Zoe Richardson by calling 01494 434000 or by emailing [admin@amersham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@amersham-tc.gov.uk)

### Teddy Bears Picnic

The last Sunday in August promises to offer something for all the family. The grown ups can shop til they drop at the delightful French Market (The Broadway 10am-4pm) while the younger ones can join us for an afternoon of magical fun and Disney sing-along's in the Memorial Gardens between 2pm and 4.30pm.

### Heritage Day

Sunday 11 September- make a note of the date in the diary!

## Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Concert

With the bunting about to be dusted down and raised we are looking forward to celebrating the **Queen's 90th Birthday** this June with a 'right royal concert'.

The concert will take place in the Amersham Memorial Gardens on **12 June** and will include a service from the Amersham and District Royal British Legion before a once in a lifetime opportunity to absorb some classic theatre and English classics with vocals from **Vanessa Bowers**.

It promises to be a wonderfully British afternoon in the most beautiful surroundings of the Memorial Gardens.



The Sunday afternoon band concerts are very popular



# 41st Amersham Town Annual Report

By Janet Wheeler, Town Clerk

The Mayor, Councillors and Officers of Amersham Town Council welcome all residents, community groups and visitors to the Annual Town Meeting where we look back at the highlights of the year.

## AMERSHAM STRIKES GOLD ...

**For the new playground, at the Britain in Bloom Competition and with a golden sandy beach at the Carnival**

### Playground

The long-awaited infant playground on **King George V Playing Field** proved to not just be a winner with the children – the **Fields In Trust** made Amersham Town Council the winner of a prestigious Award – beating forty entries from other Town and Parish Councils. The judging panel were particularly impressed with the variety of inclusive play equipment such as the easy access roundabout, pirate boat, play lorry, innovative nattertubes and the wheelchair friendly trampoline.

Thanks go to our playground contractor, Playground Facilities, for putting together such a fantastic design. We would also like to thank the steering group of Amersham residents who scrutinized designs and gave us such valuable feedback to help us make the most of this community space.

### Amersham on the Sea

Amersham Town Council brought the sun and the sand to King George V Playing Field for the new re-vamped Amersham Carnival– and how very popular it was! From the mid-day opening of the event through to early evening – families loved chilling in a deck chair whilst their children slipped off their shoes and had fun in the sand. The Town Council supplied buckets and spades, diggers and trucks to make the beach the best in town. Plus the beach experience continued with Punch and Judy, donkey rides, sand art and lots more – ALL free to enjoy!

### Bringing Colour to the Community

The involvement of the whole



A wonderful addition to King George V Playing Field

community brought another Gold in the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom Competition for the second year running! The judges specifically recognised the efforts of so many different groups including scouts; businesses; schools; community groups, The Town Council Depot team and most notably the Bloom volunteers led by resident, Jill Mace and Community Services Officer, Steve Catanach.

Some of the Areas of Achievement:

- Welcoming overall floral impact
- Memorial Gardens display
- Schools involvement with signature flower bed designs
- Community Orchard at Pondwicks Meadow – a Great Green Space
- The “Grow and Show” bed and the Sunflowers planted by street names
- The wildflower meadows



A fairy tale procession at last years Amersham Carnival and Town Show



The Town Mayor helps plant a flowerbed that was designed by a school pupil

- The street tree-planting scheme where the residents fund and maintain the trees.
- The work of the 1<sup>st</sup> Chesham Bois Scout Leaders and the 'Great Events theme'
- The Museum Herb Garden
- Involvement of the schools especially Chestnut Lane school
- Effective outreach with Facebook, web site, local press and banners on Market Hall
- Community litter picks and weeding of the town centres

We would like to thank all our sponsors of Amersham in Bloom:

Van Hage Garden Centre, Serco, Chiltern District Council, Ambers, Rotary Club of Amersham, Manor Signs, Freemantle MediaUK, Savills, Amersham Action Group, Amersham and District Residents Association, The Kings Chapel, Shardeloes Equestrian Centre and Complete IT.



/amershaminbloom

## The Cream of the Best Local Artists in One Space

£4,500 worth of original paintings and cards were sold at the 6<sup>th</sup> Festival of Art. The Flint Barn was packed with works of art and the numbers attending was higher than ever. 20% of the sales go to the Town Council's Jubilee Grant Fund where local good causes can apply for a grant. Special thanks go to the out-going Chairman, David Evans, for all his hard work to ensure this event is a success.



Enjoying the VE Day concert last May

## The Summer of 2015- A Whirl of 'Great Events'

From the first band concert to commemorate VE Day ... to the atmospheric nostalgia of Heritage Day ... from vegetable sculptures and gardens in shoeboxes to the artistic talent of the Arts Festival ... from the wizardry of the Mad Hatters Tea Party to Jerusalem in the Memorial Gardens ...

The summer season in Amersham keeps ATC on their toes from start to finish. But we are proud of our band concert programme in the stunning Memorial Gardens and the audiences attend whatever the weather.

Even when the rain made our French Market pack up early – the Mad Hatters Tea Party transferred to Flint Barn and the children enjoyed an excellent afternoon of magic, caricatures, face painting and

Disney songs – fingers crossed for better weather this year. Save the date - 28 August 2016!

And so to Heritage Day – once again the crowds attended in great numbers and Amersham was buzzing. See the youtube footage to get a flavour of the day; heritage buses, steam engines, ferret racing, Irish dancing, Chesham All Girls Marching band, farmers market stalls, Birds of Prey; the Chiltern Jive Club, medieval enactments, Merrydowners Morris Dancing, historic Open Buildings and lots of activities for all the family. Heritage Day has become an institution for residents and visitors alike.

**THANKS GO TO OUR HERITAGE DAY SPONSORS:  
KINGS CHAPEL AND THE ENTERTAINER**



# At the Heart of the Community

Amersham Town Council works hard to provide important services for our residents:

**Cemeteries** - St Marys (closed); Stanley Hill and The Platt: Our Depot maintain all three cemeteries along with the organisation; digging and attendance at over fifty burials a year.

**Allotments** - The Pyghtle; White Lion Road and Woodside Road – Our Depot maintains all three sites and the office manages the allocation of plots. Our allotment community is vibrant and active.

**Street lights** - 915 street lights throughout Amersham are the responsibility of ATC. Our new website makes reporting of outages even easier.

We manage over 320 outages a year and replace aging lamps with energy efficient LEDs.

**Planning Applications** - Councillors discuss over 360 planning applications a year – a free service that

gives an independent local view to every application.

**Sports and hall bookings** - sites at Barn Meadow and Hervines are popular with local football teams in winter and cricket clubs in summer. Market Hall is also a popular venue with Barn Meadow Community Hall now available for hire.

**Devolved Services** - The Depot team works in the Amersham community plus that of our neighbours in Little Chalfont, Gerrards Cross, Seer Green and Chenies. This work along with contract jobs helps general revenue.



Working to improve Amersham

## Farewell from the Town Clerk

As I write this Annual Report, I am serving notice after six years as your Town Clerk. The job has been challenging in every sense but also hugely enjoyable.

When I started in March 2010, we were in temporary offices at Deacon House whilst the Courthouse was being renovated. In those early days, whenever I wanted to look for some paperwork in our filing system – I had to get in my car, drive up to the Courthouse, sign in at the site manager's office and don a hard hat – just to access the filing cabinets!!

We now have our permanent home at Flint Barn Court and this has made a huge difference to servicing our civic events, Amersham in Bloom and all the other activities that spill into the weekends.

There is much still to be done - trees in top town, Clock Tower renovation, major improvements to King George V Playing Fields, re-building of Hervines Pavilion and parking improvements at Barn Meadow.

I would like to wish you all a prosperous and successful future and thank you again for allowing me to work for you.

**Mrs Janet Wheeler**

### Town Council Financial Report

2015-2016		2016-2017
£608,800	Finance/Insurance	£633,684
£77,800	Property/Street Lights/Admin	£99,600
£68,902	Civic Events/Sundries	£60,391
£98,094	Depot Services/Equipment	£74,930
£853,596	Projected Gross Expenditure	£868,605
-£344,962	Projected Income	-£259,574
£508,634	Projected Net expenditure	£609,031
£10,987	Transfers to/from reserves	-£64,288
£519,621	Precept	£544,743

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**Town Mayor** - Mrs Amanda Lamont 01494 432056

**Deputy Town Mayor** - Mr Mark Vivis 01494 725756