

AMERSHAM NEWS



Welcome to the **2016 autumn 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 6 to catch up on all of our Bloom news.

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



@amershamtc



/amershamtowncouncil



With **Amersham Heritage Day** just days away be sure to join our celebrations. Turn to Page 3 for further details. Stop Press... New for 2016 - terrier racing and archery

Councillor Mr Mark Vivis has enjoyed his first four months in his role as **Mayor of Amersham**. Turn to Page 2 to see what Mr Vivis has been up to.

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Mark Vivis embracing his role as Town Mayor

It was an enormous privilege to be elected the Mayor of Amersham back in May and lead our formidable team of Councillors, Officers and Depot Staff to make Amersham an even better place to spend time in – be this living, visiting or working.

Having myself lived in Amersham for 30 years, I have seen the town develop and grow into what it is now a beautiful and vibrant place to be. I am very proud to have been elected Mayor and I undertake to carry out the role to the best of my abilities.

Our Council is committed to putting the **community** at the fore-front of all we do and I have already had the opportunity to see this in action. The Queen's 90th Birthday Concert in the Memorial Gardens was a fantastic success which highlighted the great



At the Queens goth Birthday Concert in June



Meeting residents –both young and old- is a fantastic privilege

community spirit we have here in Amersham. This was also reflected at this year's Amersham Carnival & Town Show. Amersham in Bloom is also such an important part of our town and the volunteers are a huge credit. I very much hope that their determination and commitment to the initiative is rewarded when this year's Britain in Bloom results are announced.

The vision I have for my year as Mayor is to focus on each aspect of the job we do here and strive to be the best we can. By our nature we are an ambitious and driven council and we must ensure that the quality of our work is kept to a high standard.

We must also maintain a firm financial footing to ensure we can continue to deliver what our residents have elected us to do – to keep their community a **vibrant, diverse** and **pleasant** place to reside, relax and work.

We have had some fantastic events already this year and we still have Heritage Day to look forward to!

We welcomed a delegation from our twin town of Bensheim in Germany to Amersham at the beginning of July and I am committed to maintain and build upon the close ties between our towns – this being for the benefit of our schools, sports teams, community groups, businesses and residents.

One special part of my role as Mayor is being able to choose a local charity to lend my support and encouragement to throughout my term. I am delighted to inform you that I have chosen to support the **Roald Dahl Marvellous Children's Charity**, who have their headquarters in Woodside Road, Amersham. The children helped by the charity are battling serious illness but the Roald Dahl nurses are there to champion and support them to live the best life possible. I can, therefore, think of no better charity to work with during my term of office.

It is a huge honour to serve as Mayor of Amersham this year and let's continue to work in partnership to deliver the best for our town.

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition

This year we would like to feature something extra special on the Mayor of Amersham's Official Christmas Card.....so we are calling all school age children to enter our **Christmas Card Competition**.

We would like you to design the front cover of this year's Mayor's Christmas Card, using the theme '**A Christmas Wish**' as inspiration. We would like you to be as creative as possible creating something really original!

The winning designer will receive a prize as well as have their design

featured on the front of the Card.

The closing date for entries is 10 November. Please send your entries on A4 paper with your name, age, and school or organisation on the back to Zoe Richardson, Amersham Town Council, Flint Barn Court, Church Street HP7 0DB. For more information email zoer@amersham-tc.gov.uk or call 01494 434000.

We are delighted that this competition has been sponsored by the **Chiltern Chamber of Commerce**.

37th Amersham Festival of Art

Amersham Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to all the artists who entered works into this year's Amersham Festival of Art. Over 270 pieces of art were showcased from a variety of mediums and artistic backgrounds as well as the addition of original greetings cards. A preview evening was held at the ATC office at Flint Barn Court on Friday 29 July 2016, where all the pieces entered were judged by the Mayor of Amersham, Cllr. Mark Vivis, assisted by Cllr. Amanda Lamont. The results were as follows:

- 1st Place – Mr. Keith Patrick with "Russian Winter"
- 2nd Place – Ms. Beverley Parkin with "High Summer"
- 3rd Place – Ms. Eileen Dimmock with "Honesty"



Old Amersham Market

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in having a stall at the Amersham Old Town Market. Held underneath the Market Hall on Saturday mornings from 08.00am to 3.30pm, the Market is in the heart of Old Amersham and a wide variety of produce is displayed. If you would like more information on the Amersham Old Town Market, please give the office a call on 01494 434000 or email admin@amersham-tc.gov.uk

Amersham has a Ball celebrating Her Majesty's 90th Birthday

As the whole country got caught up in Royal Fever, Amersham got in on the action celebrating **Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday**. A special band concert was held in the Memorial Gardens on Sunday 12 June featuring music from Amersham Music Centre, The Aylesbury Concert Band and Vanessa Bowers accompanied by Sheila Cornell. Tea, Coffee, Cake and Cream



Queen (or King) for the day!

Teas were the order of the day as well as the opportunity to create your own Royal Crown!

The Gardens were as busy as ever with residents and visitors in patriotic spirit waving their Union Jack flags with delight! As well as celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Year, the concert was also an opportunity to raise funds for **Dementia UK**, the former Mayor of Amersham, Cllr. Amanda Lamont's chosen charity.

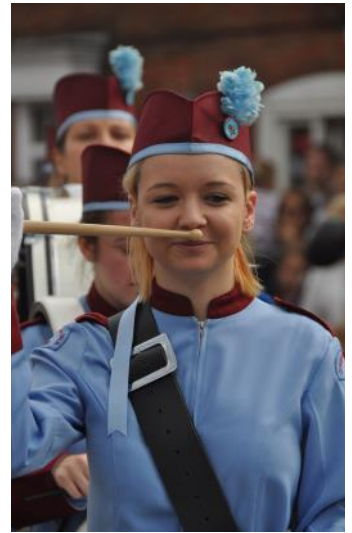
There were also some extra special additions to the day, including a dove release, a service provided by the Royal British Legion (escorted by ponies from Shardeloes Equestrian Centre) and the return of our Honorary Town Crier, Bob Higgins in full Town Crier regalia! A great day was had by all and we would



The Amersham Society baked cakes from each of the past nine decades

like to thank everyone who supported this event–

Happy 90th Birthday, Ma'am.



Morris Dancers, Steam Traction Engines and Marching Bands are once again a part of this years celebrations

Heritage Day: Sunday 11 September

Amersham's *Summer of Fun* culminates with this year's Amersham Heritage Day taking place on **Sunday 11 September**. Affectionately known as the "jewel in the crown" of the events season, Heritage Day promises to be even bigger and better than before!

This year's event features an array of interesting and exciting attractions to appeal to all the family including market stalls, heritage demonstrations, historical, re-enactments, birds of prey displays, vintage and classic cars, steam engines and so much more. Soundforce Big Band

will be providing the entertainment in the Memorial Gardens!

The day will officially begin at 11.30am and finish at around 5.30pm. Other attractions include The Chesham All Girls Marching Band, Irish Dancing, an Amersham Band Quintet, Punch & Judy shows along with an appearance from our Honorary Town Crier. Why not come down on the day and enjoy a fantastic FREE family day out! The Council would like to thank the **Kings Chapel** and **The Entertainer** for their continued support of this community event.



Mini steam engine rides prove very popular

Grants Committee Invite your Applications



Stony Dean School were given a grant in 2015

Are you a member of a local community group, registered charity, sports club or voluntary sector organisation? Are you looking for financial assistance to deliver a particular project or initiative? If so then we would very much like to hear from you.

The Town Council is actively seeking grant application requests from any of the above for the Grants Committee to consider at their annual meeting at the end of October. There are grants available to those that meet certain criteria set out in the Town Council Grants Application Guidance Notes which can be found on the Council website. We invite grants requests for an amount between £100 and £1500, although requests outside this band will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Log onto our website www.amersham-tc.gov.uk for further details or call the office on 01494 434000.

The deadline for grants applications is Friday 14 October.



Carnival has all the Fun and Colour of Rio

Following the success of last year's **Amersham Carnival & Town Show**, this year's event kicked off with its Rio inspired theme on Saturday 9 July 2016. The weather played its part again this year and the sun was shining throughout! Carnival day began with the Rio themed Procession featuring Amersham schools, businesses and community groups – everyone went to town with their floats and costumes bringing lots of colour and excitement to proceedings. Mayor of Amersham, Mark Vivis

assisted by his Deputy, Mr Clive Morgan and delegates from our twin town of Bensheim judged this year's procession entries commenting that the effort and enthusiasm put in by everyone involved was "a credit to Amersham!"

There was tough competition, but we are delighted to announce the Procession winners: 1st Place went to 1st **Chesham Bois Scout Group**, 2nd Place went to **Woodside School** and 3rd Place went to **Revelation Majorettes**.

The party theme continued once the Procession returned to King George V Playing Field which was home to a wide variety of fairground rides, community stalls, live music stage, performance arena, BBQ & beer tent and the very popular Horticultural Show! The event was a huge success, with the Copacabana Beach proving a real highlight of the day! We wish to thank our sponsors, **Gatsby & Miller, Wilkins Kennedy LLP, Hadlands Estates** and **Tesco Amersham**. On behalf of the Organising Committee consisting of representatives from Amersham Action Group, Amersham Round Table and Amersham Town Council, we would like to say a huge

thank you to everyone who supported this fantastic community event!



Town Mayor & Mrs Christine Deppart, from our twin town of Bensheim officially open the beach!



Amersham very own Copacabana Beach

Preparations are already being made for Amersham Carnival 2017. The Organising Committee would really value involvement from volunteers in the community and are actively seeking fun, exciting and pro-active individuals to join the team!

If you are interested in being a part of next year's event – why not get in touch with Zoe Richardson at Amersham Town Council on 01494 434000 or via email zoer@amersham-tc.gov.uk – Lets make Amersham Carnival 2017, the BEST YET!!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are delighted to announce that the Town Council will be holding its first **Community Coffee Morning** in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 30 September 2016 from 11.00am. As we are all aware, cancer can affect any one of us and has a huge impact on family and friends alike.

The team at Macmillan Cancer Support work tirelessly to support those affected and we are looking to raise funds to assist them in their work. So why not join us at the Town Council offices where there will be the opportunity to donate to the charity whilst enjoying some tasty treats and catching up over a cup of tea or coffee! We hope to see as many of you as possible on this special morning! For more information, please contact the ATC Office on 01494 434000.



Amersham in Bloom is a Royal Effort



Volunteer numbers have increased by 100% over the past year.



Amersham has certainly been blooming this Summer with some truly spectacular floral displays flourishing throughout the town.

It was fantastic to welcome back the Britain in Bloom Regional and National judges on 28 July and 2 August respectively. The judges were blown away with how beautiful Amersham was looking and were particularly impressed with the displays in the Memorial Gardens, the floral **Union Flag** opposite the station, the planting at the road signs and Community (Sycamore) Corner. If you haven't managed to see them yet please drop by and take a look!

We would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have selflessly given their time and contributed above and beyond expectations this Summer!

The town has really come together to embrace our entry into both the



The floral displays at Sycamore Corner add colour and vibrancy to our town.

regional and national Britain in Bloom competition. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the Town Council, bloom volunteers, local businesses, schools and community groups has been a pleasure and wonderful to see.

Amersham is one of only seven towns throughout the UK to be invited to take part in the National Britain in Bloom Competition following the much improved floral displays, better community engagement as well as the

efforts to improve the environmental quality of Amersham through more voluntary litter picks, an increase in wildflower areas and through better resource management.

The collaborative effort of our volunteers is not only about making Amersham look beautiful but also about contributing to the community and creating a legacy that will impact future generations. The feeling of **civic pride** amongst the residents is obvious along with their appreciation.

Contact Amersham Town Council



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Mayor of Amersham: Mr Mark Vivis (01494 725756); **Deputy Mayor of Amersham:** Mr Clive Morgan (07958684660)



Gardens of Remembrance are befitting a Queen

The display in the Old Amersham Memorial Gardens really has captured the imagination of the residents and visitors like never before. We wanted to create something special to celebrate **Her Majesty's 90th Birthday** and we believe we have achieved our goal.

Designed by wonderfully gifted Andy Honour who was ably assisted by the **1st Chesham Bois Scout Group Leaders** we have constructed three 3-D structures that were subsequently planted by the Amersham in Bloom volunteers in conjunction with the Town Council. Over 5000 plants were planted individually to create these magnificent floral displays, which



The Rose Garden mosaic is a wonderful addition to the Memorial Gardens

from the design stage to completion accounted for over 700 volunteer hours. What a community effort and one which the whole town should be proud! We are most grateful to **The Entertainer**, celebrating their 35th Anniversary & **Ambers of Amersham** who sponsored the structures.

Continuing the Queen's Birthday theme we have replaced the tired border at the front of the Memorial Gardens and added a stunning 90th Birthday rose garden. A total of 26 roses have been planted, representing the age of the Princess when she came to the throne. If you look closely, you will see that each rose is named and has a link to our Monarch.

Also included in the Rose Bed, which has been sponsored by the Amersham Society, is a beautiful patriotic red, white and blue commemorative mosaic made by Amersham resident, **Deborah Brett**.

All of our schools entered our planter competition each of which are on display in the gardens. The theme was to create a wonderful planter representing a Commonwealth Country. We are delighted to announce that **Chestnut Lane School** and **St Mary's CofE Early Years** received a Gold Award for their beautiful planters as the winners in the competition. Well done to all who entered!

 /amershaminbloom



5000 plants were used to create the three structures in the Memorial Gardens

Keep your fingers crossed for Amersham at this year's Bloom awards with the Regional Awards taking place on 15 September at St. Mary's Parish Church, Amersham and the National Awards taking place on 14 October in Birmingham! Let's hope we can take GOLD yet again!!.....

Gearing up for the Festive Season

With Summer nearly over, we look towards the end of the year and.....CHRISTMAS! This year, the community of Amersham takes charge by organising two different events in Old Amersham & Amersham on the Hill. **Old Amersham Christmas Late Night Shopping**, organised by the Old Amersham Business Association takes place on Friday 2 December in Old

Amersham. Keep your eye out for more details on this event as it promises to be a magical evening! And the **Amersham Christmas Festival**, organised by Amersham Action Group takes place on Saturday 3 December in Sycamore Road, Amersham on the Hill. In conjunction with Small Business Saturday, there will be a whole host of fantastic Christmas treats and

attractions on display for all the family! This year's **Amersham Community Christmas Carol Service** will take place on Thursday 8 December from 6.00pm at Kings Church Amersham. This will include carol performances from local schools as well as readings from community leaders. This event is open to all residents so we look forward to welcoming you all!

Heritage Day Quiz: What did the Drake family do for Amersham?

As part of **Amersham's Heritage Day on Sunday 11 September**, the Amersham Society, with the support of Amersham Museum, has devised a quiz which will run through the summer and finish in mid-September. The theme relates to the influence of one family over hundreds of years. You will find information sheets displayed in house windows and noticeboards around the Old Town giving all the answers – and much more!

Below are some of the questions. If you would like to enter the quiz you can pick up the Quiz Leaflets with all 12 questions in Amersham Museum, St Mary's Church, Amersham Town Council and Amersham Library. We hope you will find the quiz informative and fun; and there will be prizes for children and adult winners.

In the Middle Ages Amersham was divided into as many as seven manors but after 1626 the Drake (later Tyrwhitt Drake) family took over and combined them.

William Drake built the **Almshouses** at the top end of the High Street in 1657.

1. Why was Eleazor Retherupp, blacksmith called to the Almshouses in 1699?



Sir William Drake built the **Market Hall** in 1682 and William Wykham Tyrwhitt Drake restored it in 1911 (left photo).

The family also built a Monument Room – the **Drake Chapel** – in St Mary's Church where family members are buried and fine monuments erected. This is open on Sunday mornings after

services and will be open on Heritage Day.

2. Which member of the family died on the day of his wedding?

The town sent **two** members to parliament between 1624 until the 1832 Reform Act. Householders who lived in the borough of Amersham made up the 130 men who had the vote in parliamentary elections. **The Drake family decided to buy up as many houses as they could** and rent out the houses to tenants who would vote for them in parliamentary elections. There was no secret ballot until 1872; tenants knew they would be evicted if they voted for anyone else.

3. In what year did the Tyrwhitt-Drake family draw up a map showing the ownership of houses they wished to buy?

Amersham became a '**Pocket Borough**' because the position of both MPs was in the family's pocket. No one bothered to contest the election because they knew all the tenants would vote for the Tyrwhitt-Drake candidate.

4. Which member of the Drake family represented Amersham for 50 years without ever making a speech in the House of Commons?

During the late 18th and early 19th century there was a move to 'modernise' the houses by building **brick frontages** (and backs) to cover the half timbering.

5. How can we tell by looking at the back of the houses when they have been 'modernised'?

6. Which house in the High Street still has a number on **the inside** of the front door and why?

7. Why did the London to Birmingham railway **not** pass through Amersham?

8. In what year did the family sell most of their Amersham houses in a **grand auction**?



The grand auction map will be on display at Heritage Day