



Amersham Matters

The Newsletter of Amersham Town Council

Issue number 11

Autumn 2007

Heritage Open Day

Sunday 9 September is an important date in the Amersham Town Council calendar when this year's Heritage Open Day will take place in Amersham Old Town. Arrangements for this started in February and will culminate in the events, amusements and buildings to be opened on the day for all to enjoy. The first walk to the Martyr's Memorial takes place at 11.15am and there will be a regular vintage bus service operating between the Heritage Day villages, the first one of which leaves Amersham Station at 10.25 and arrives in Whielden Street at 10.33 in plenty of time to join this interesting and informative walk. Refreshments are provided in the Market Hall by the Amersham Townswomens Guild, whose nominated charity is The Pepper Foundation. Local churches will be open to allow visitors access to their buildings and exhibits and there are a host of free activities for the children to enjoy from clowns to face painting and an animal farm. The Woodside Morris Men and the Garland Dancers perform on the High Street during the afternoon next to the display of vintage cars. Come along and enjoy the day!

Heritage Open Day in Amersham Old Town on Sunday 9 September from 10.30am



Vintage Cars on the High Street, Amersham



Albury Morris Men at last year's



Stained glass panel commissioned for presentation to Bensheim Stadt on 2 September 2007

30 years of Twinning with Bensheim Town in Germany

It's hard to believe that the document which founded the formal agreement between Bensheim Stadtrat and Amersham Town Council was signed 30 years ago. On Friday 13 July the Mayor of Bensheim Stadt, Thorsten Herrmann, his wife Beatrice, and Honorary Citizen of Amersham and former Mayor of Bensheim Georg Stolle together with Town Councillor Werner Bauer came over to join in the commemorations for this event. They had a packed itinerary which included a visit to the refurbished Amersham Museum, a town walk, and refreshment at the Saracens Head Inn. On Saturday 14 July they visited a glass studio to see the production of a glass panel which the Amersham Town Mayor will present to them in September during the Winzerfest, and then went to the Carnival on King George V Field. Sunday brought a trip to London to visit the London Eye, and a tour on the amphibious duck vehicle. A good time was had by all.

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Community Awareness

Britain in Bloom

There was an auspicious start to the judging of Amersham's first Britain in Bloom entry as it took place on one of the very few sunny mornings of July. A presentation was given by the Town Clerk highlighting current and future projects set up to tackle environmental issues, after which judges Mark Mattock and Mike Gass were shown not only the landmark sites, such as the Memorial Gardens and historic Market Hall, but also the gardens, window boxes and allotment plots which were entered into the local Amersham in Bloom competition. First prize in each of the categories was won by The Eagle for Hotel or Pub Floral Display, The Worthies for their Group Front Garden, and Mr Chris Saunders for Best Allotment Plot.

The Wild Flower Meadow at Stanley Hill Cemetery, set up to provide a habitat for native species of flora and fauna came in for particular praise from the judges.

With the comment from the judges that they could not understand why Amersham had not entered in the competition before, it was felt that this is just the beginning of a cleaner, prettier and more pleasant environment for Amersham in the future. The presentations take place in September.



Festival of Art

The 28th Festival of Art closed on Sunday 5 August after a very successful week during which 31 works of art were sold and a total of £1,166.58 was raised for the Jubilee Fund. Our thanks go to all artists who entered paintings and sculptures in the Festival and to all the visitors who came and either bought works or just enjoyed browsing. Also thanks to the committee and all the stewards who make the running of the Festival go so smoothly. A new idea was tried out this year which involved selling pictures which had been mounted but not framed. This meant that original works of art could be purchased at very reasonable prices, but obviously reduced the percentage received for the Jubilee Fund.

Concerts in the Gardens

It has been another good year for the concerts which have taken place in the Memorial Gardens on summer Sundays. Bands taking part have been The Amersham Band, Rhythm 'n' Booze, Sir Real Jazz Quintet and Reloaded Blues. A local company asked if they could provide light refreshments at these concerts this year, and this has been a much appreciated addition, meaning that people have lingered longer and made the most of these free concerts whilst enjoying a drink and a sandwich! The last concert, to be played by The Amersham Band will be on Sunday 9 September which is also Heritage Open Day. So try to come along as not only will there be the band, but also lots of other attractions and amusements for all the family on that day.

Signature Flower Beds

Amersham Town Council groundstaff have put tremendous effort into new flower bed style displays around the town, in particular one at the foot of Station Road, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Scouts.

These areas brighten up the entrances to the town, and we have received favourable comments now that the flowers have come in to bloom.

One of the flower beds will have a commemorative plaque provided by the Amersham Revitalisation Group in memory of former Amersham Mayor, Councillor Mrs Monica Breadmore.



News and Information

Barn Meadow Project

Amersham Town Council is researching the feasibility and potential support for a community facility in Amersham. The location under consideration is a site in Barn Meadow, close to the existing pavilion and 61 Youth Club building. The Youth Club is a valuable outlet for young people and the facilities are in extremely poor condition, so a new building would allow for a replacement of the youth club and an upgrade of the existing pavilion changing rooms. The facilities that might be provided are shown alongside this article, and the Town Council would be interested to have your views. Forms are available from the Town Council Offices situated at the back of the Court House in Amersham on the Hill and they will also be on display at Heritage Open Day in the Old Town on 9 September.

Completed forms should be returned by 30 September. This is an important facility for residents of Amersham and your views will be of tremendous value when evaluating the future of this project

- Community Hall and Kitchen to accommodate around 100 people
- Replacement for 61 Youth Club
- Relocation of Toddler Groups from existing pavilion
- Upgrade of existing pavilion in order to meet minimum standards of changing facilities for sports activities
- Indoor cricket
- Office to provide basic local government services and contact point

Please tell us what you think by responding to our questionnaire, which can also be found on our website at www.amersham-tc.gov.uk



Grant Applications

Any funds which are raised during the year go into the Jubilee Fund for distribution to local charities in the Autumn and Spring. Applications are now invited from local charities who would like to be considered for a small grant from the Jubilee Fund. Most grants are in the order of £100—£200 and to apply you will need to send in a letter demonstrating why the funds are required, for example for a project to be undertaken in the near future, and a set of the latest audited accounts. The Grants Sub-Committee will meet at the middle of October, so the closing date for applications is 30 September 2007. Please send your letter and accounts to the Town Clerk at Amersham Town Council, the receipt of which will be acknowledged. Once the Sub-Committee has reached a decision you will be notified of the outcome of your application

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Macmillan Cancer Support's 16th World's Biggest Coffee Morning will take place on Friday 28 September and they are urging everyone in Amersham to 'get caffeinated' and take part. Last year over £86,000 was raised in Buckinghamshire alone. Whether your coffee morning is a small gathering with a few friends or a big event they all help to fund vital services to improve the lives of local people affected by cancer.

If Friday 28 September is not convenient you can choose a date to suit you. When you register you receive a free fundraising pack. To register please call 0845 602 1264 or log on to www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee.



Autumn Crime Prevention

With the evenings drawing in and clocks going back it's time to consider winter security for your property. The following tips come from the Community Safety Team at Chiltern District Council, who can be contacted on 01494 586518.

- Trim overgrown trees and hedges—don't give burglars a chance to hide!
- Set indoor lamps and timers—if you are out during the day or going on holiday
- Postcode electrical goods and make an inventory of the items—for a UV pen contact the Community Safety Team
- Register mobile equipment on www.immobilise.com—the Police can access this database and trace items, returning them to their rightful owners
- Join or start a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme—phone the Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01494 736642
- Ensure windows and locks are secure and consider motion sensor lighting outside—it all makes good sense!

Carol Service

It seems early to be giving the date for this year's Carol Service, but once the evenings start to draw in it seems no time at all before Christmas is upon us. St Mary's Church in Amersham Old Town is hosting our Carol Service which will be held on Wednesday 12 December at 7.30pm. All are very welcome to come along to join in the celebration of Christ's birth. Readings will be given by members of the emergency services and a collection will be made for Woodrow High House which is the Mayor's nominated charity this year. Plans are still being made for the content of the service, but it is always well supported and we are grateful to Reverend Tim Harper for allowing us to hold the Carol Service at St Mary's.



Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

There are regular events and talks on the Wildlife Trust's calendar; on 22 September a visit to Longrove Wood in Seer Green and on 23 September Sights of Autumn at Holtspur Bank Reserve.

Please contact John Hoar on 01494 676091 about the Longrove visit and Derek Bourne on 01628 526553 for the Holtspur outing. Further details of other events can be obtained from John Hoar on the above telephone number.

Councillors at Amersham Town Council

There are fifteen councillors who give up their time voluntarily to serve the local community. They strive to give a voice in planning, leisure and amenities to ensure that the Amersham area is an enjoyable place to live and work. They can be contacted on the following telephone numbers:

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|--|----------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Mrs D I Allen | Amersham Town | 01494 721085 |
| Cllr M Andrews-Reading | Amersham on the Hill | 01494 434095 |
| Cllr J P Fage | Amersham Town | 01494 729889 |
| Cllr E C J Flynn | Amersham Town | 01494 721958 |
| Cllr Mrs V G Head | Amersham on the Hill | 01494 727254 |
| Cllr Mrs L Kimber | Amersham Common | 01494 431588 |
| Cllr M King (Town Mayor) | Amersham Town | 01494 722758 |
| Cllr Mrs A Lamont | Weedon Hill | 01494 432056 |
| Cllr M D Lacey | Amersham on the Hill | 01494 722934 |
| Cllr H Maitland-Jones | Amersham on the Hill | 01494 722175 |
| Cllr H G Newton | Amersham on the Hill | 07768 973770 |
| Cllr Mrs B Ottaway | Amersham Common | 01494 762490 |
| Cllr M Phillips (Deputy Town Mayor) | Weedon Hill | 01494 433634 |
| Cllr A J Weedon | Amersham Common | 01494 726631 |
| Cllr Miss M J White | Amersham Town | 01494 764256 |

Streetlighting

With the summer (such as it was!) fading from our memories, and the nights starting to get shorter, the matter of streetlighting comes to the fore once again. Patrols are carried out once a fortnight throughout the year by our streetlighting sub-contractors, who should note any lights that are not working, and repair those and others which have been notified to this office and passed to them on a weekly basis. Occasionally problems arise with sourcing parts for repairing these lights which can lead to a delay in putting them back in order, but when viewed as a whole, the service runs fairly smoothly. The purpose of streetlighting in residential streets is to light only the footway, and residents should provide their own security lighting for their property—see page 3 of the newsletter for up to date information from the Community Safety Team. Streetlight faults can be reported to Amersham Town Council on the telephone number shown to the right.



For more information contact:

Amersham Town Council
The Court House
King George V Road
Amersham
Bucks HP6 5ST

Telephone 01494 586892

Fax 01494 586890

E-mail Townclerk@amersham-tc.gov.uk

www.amersham-tc.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

11 November Remembrance Service
Memorial Gardens, Amersham Old Town

Late night shopping evenings in Amersham on the Hill are every Thursday, but please contact the office during November for up to date information on the possibility of Christmas Shopping evenings in Amersham on the Hill and Amersham Old Town.

12 December Carol Service, St Mary's Church
Amersham Old Town at 7.30pm

Organising an event?
Like everyone to know about it?
Tell us and we'll try to include it
Copy date for next issue—
24 November 2007