

AMERSHAM NEWS



Edition 46— Newsletter from Amersham Town Council

Welcome to the 2018 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.

This edition highlights the events that we have planned throughout Amersham to mark the **Centenary of the end of the First World War**.

We would be very grateful if you would complete our community events feedback survey on page 5 to ensure that our future events best serve the community.

Keep up to date with all our news, projects and civic events by finding us on facebook, twitter or by visiting our website.



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Amersham named as one of the 76 Britain in Bloom Nations

The Town Council is delighted to announce that Amersham has been invited to enter the National Britain in Bloom competition.

This nationwide contest pits villages, towns and cities against each other, across a range of criteria including horticultural excellence, community engagement and efforts to improve environmental responsibility.

The town's invitation into the National Competition is a testament to the dedication of the volunteers and the support of the community groups, schools and local businesses who have worked tirelessly in partnership with the Town Council.

There is no doubt this opportunity will be a catalyst for further improvements within the Town. You may have already noticed the Centenary Bed on Sycamore Corner which commemorates the end of WW1. This bed has been created in partnership with The Amersham District and Residents Association and Buckinghamshire County Council who helped to fund it

Needless to say that over spring and summer you will notice many further improvements throughout the town.



Conservation is at the Heart of Amersham

The Town Council and Amersham in Bloom volunteers are committed to taking environmental responsibility seriously and as such continually make every effort to bolster the conservation and biodiversity within Amersham wherever possible.

Community Clean and Tree Plant

At the end of March we took part in the Great British Spring Clean, a national initiative to rid our communities of litter. With over 60 volunteers –including schools, beaver and scout groups– we collected over 37 bags of litter.

On the 25 March we held a community tree plant at Willow Wood, located behind Stanley Hill Cemetery. Fifty-five volunteers, including scouts from the 2nd Amersham Common Scout Unit, Rotarians of the Amersham Rotary Club and members of the public helped us to plant over 920 native trees donated by the Woodland Trust and Conservation Volunteers.

If you haven't visited or indeed heard of Willow Wood, then we urge you to take a stroll to this hidden gem of Amersham. Over the past six years we have planted over 3000 trees as an extension of the mature woodland, sown swathes of wildflowers, built bug hotels, created log piles and installed bird and bat boxes.

Pondwicks Meadow

Pondwicks Corner is a hidden gem in the Area in Old Amersham.

This small pond in Amersham in Buckinghamshire increases conservation through community addition to heron splashes of native wildflowers, beaver small wildlife flowerbeds create wonderful wildlife resource management created onsite



The wonderful funfair display in the Memorial Gardens

Amersham Memorial Gardens Display

Following the success of *The Coronation Crown* and last year's Amersham Fair display, this year's display will commemorate the **Centenary of the end of The Great War**.

While the display will not be officially declared open until 15 July, we hope to have it installed by the first week of June, in time for the band concert which takes place in the Memorial Gardens on Sunday 3 June.



Pupils from Stony Stratford

onal Finalists



of our Efforts

meadow
Community Orchard and Nature
Amersham is another of those

ocket of green epitomises
Bloom and how the initiative
ervation and biodiversity
community engagement. In
eritage fruit trees you will find
native bulbs, areas of native
bug hotels (right photo), a
pond, wood carvings and
ammed with pollinators. This
ldlife haven also ticks the
agement box with a newly
compost bin and water butt!



Dean School help to make bird boxes



Depot team install a new recycling bin in Barn Meadow

New Waste Recycling Bins

We are pleased to report that we have installed five dual waste recycling bins across our open spaces. These bins, with 50% more capacity than the bins that have been replaced, were purchased using a donation that we received from a filming company last year. We want residents to enjoy the parks and open spaces by assisting our efforts to keep them clean and safe, while helping us to increase recycling.

Amersham Youth Activities

In September 2017, the Chiltern Youth Centre was taken over by Amersham Youth Activities (AYA) with a plan to provide a broader range of youth clubs and activities for our young people. They are very keen to find more volunteers of all ages to help with weekly sessions. Clubs run on Wednesday evenings for years 8 and 9 from 6.30pm to 8pm and Friday from 4.30pm to 6pm for years 7 to 9. They also host a club run by St Mary's Youth for year 7s on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm. If you would like to help AYA in any way then please contact Jack Gocher at info@amershamyouth.org or on 07966 661196.

Summer Civic Events

May

- Sun 06 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
Mid-Shires Legion Band
- Sun 20 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
Nils Solberg Quartet

June

- Sun 03 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
Bisham Concert Band
- Sun 17 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
The Amersham Band

July

- Sun 01 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
Love That Jazz
- Sun 15 WW1 Commemoration Concert
RAF Halton Band/Steve Perry
- Sun 29 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
The Amersham Band

August

- Sun 05 WW1 Play (Memorial Gardens)
The Glorious Madness
- Sun 12 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
Lou's Sextet
- Sun 26 Band Concert (Memorial Gardens)
Soundforce Big Band
French Market

September

- Sun 09 Amersham Heritage Day

WW1 Centenary Commemorations lead the way with a Concert and Play this Summer

We have a wonderful summer season of band concerts lined up this year with our **WW1 concert** on 15 July being the highlight.

The concerts start on Sunday 6 May and continue until **Heritage Day** which takes place on Sunday 9 September. See the schedule on the left for a full listing. All concerts start at 2.30pm with refreshments available throughout the afternoon.

On 5 August we have somewhat of a first taking place in the Memorial Gardens— a play. Entitled **The Glorious Madness** this play gives a fascinating insight into the Great War, as volunteers, white feathers and heroes are brought back to life in story and song.

All events in the Memorial Gardens are free.



Amersham's World War 1 Centenary Commemorations in 2014



New Children's Play Equipment for Barn Meadow

Officially opened on the last day of the spring term, you may have seen the improvements and new additions Barn Meadow Children's Play Area.

Thanks to a donation from the **Old Amersham Community Revitalisation Group (OACRG)**, we have replaced the swings, added a rota bounce, created a new wooden activity trail, including stilts, steppers and a suspension bridge and replaced the benches and picnic tables.

The Town Council would like to thank OACRG who successfully obtained funding from **The Veolia Environmental Trust**.



Community Events Feedback Survey

Amersham Town Council is the parish authority for the town of Amersham and is the third tier of local government after Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council.

The Town Council has very distinct and different responsibilities from that of the County and District Council, as highlighted in the table below.

Buckinghamshire County Council	Chiltern District Council	Amersham Town Council
Education and libraries	Council Tax	Burials and cemetery maintenance
Highways; including pavements and roads	Planning & Building Control Waste	Sports pavilions and halls for hire at Barn Meadow and Hervines Park.
Street light maintenance on main roads	Refuse, recycling and street cleansing	Provision of allotments and open spaces
Social Care	Off street parking	Consultee on planning applications
On street parking	Licensing and Environmental Health	Maintenance of residential street lighting
		Civic events and Amersham in Bloom



Town Mayor helps school children to plant a flowerbed

Amersham Town Council is extremely proud of the high quality of service we deliver to our residents. We want to continue to ensure that standards are maintained and that residents are provided with value for money at every opportunity.

Therefore the Town Council is currently carrying out a review of our **Civic Events Programme** and would really like to hear the views and opinions of our residents.

The current Civic Event Programme runs throughout the year, with the bulk of the events taking place between May and September.

The Programme presently consists of ten fortnightly band concerts, Amersham Heritage Day, Festival of Art, Christmas Carol Service, Town Twinning and Amersham in Bloom initiative, along with this newsletter which is published up to four times a year.

The Town Council also gives permission for a number of continental markets, fairs and circus providers to use our facilities in exchange for donations which are used within the community.

To gain valuable feedback, the Town Council has produced a community events feedback survey to evaluate if residents value the current programme and establish whether they want these events to continue in the future.

It comprises a number of questions and a breakdown of the 'real' cost to the taxpayer associated with each event. We would be delighted if you could complete the survey for us. It should only take a few minutes of your time! Either complete the survey over the next few pages and return to Flint Barn, Court, Church Street, Amersham HP7 ODB, visit www.amersham-tc.gov.uk/survey or access the questionnaire by scanning the QR code on the right, using your smartphone or tablet.



Question No. 1 – How do you find out about the initiatives and events organised by the Town Council? Please tick the relevant box(es).

Amersham Town Council Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buckinghamshire Examiner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amersham Town Council Facebook Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town noticeboards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amersham Town Council Twitter Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter, promotional posters, banners and leaflets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Amersham (Facebook or Magazine)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Word of mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question No. 2 – How effectively do you think Amersham Town Council communicates with its residents?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor

The Town Council provides the following events and initiatives, at an expense to the taxpayer. Do you feel that they offer value for money to the taxpayer?



Band Concerts - During the summer we hold ten Band Concerts in the Old Amersham Memorial Gardens. Live entertainment is provided by local bands while volunteers from the Town Council serve refreshments from the tea hut.

Question No. 3 – Have you ever been to one of the Summer Band Concerts in the Gardens?

Yes No Not Sure

Question No. 4 – How likely is it that you would recommend the Band Concerts to a friend or colleague?

Not Likely at all Unlikely Likely Extremely likely

Question No. 5 – From our calculations the cost to the taxpayer to provide the band concerts is 35p per resident per year. How would you rate this in terms of value for money?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor

Amersham Heritage Day – Amersham Heritage Day is held on the second Sunday in September and celebrates the rich heritage of Amersham. This family friendly event forms part of the National Heritage Open Day.

There are a host of activities available on the day including a display of classic cars, steam engines, vintage farmers market, live entertainment, historical re-enactments and much more.



Question No. 6 – Have you ever been to Amersham Heritage Day?

Yes No Not Sure

Question No. 7 – How likely is it that you would recommend Heritage Day to a friend or colleague?

Not Likely at all Unlikely Likely Extremely likely



Question No. 8 – The cost to the taxpayer to organise Amersham Heritage Day is £1.15 per resident per year. How would you rate this in terms of value for money?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor



Amersham In Bloom - Amersham Town Council funds and coordinates Amersham in Bloom in conjunction with the Bloom Volunteers.

Amersham in Bloom has three core principals: to add floral impact to the town, to engage with the community and to bolster our environmental responsibility. This is achieved through the support of the local businesses, community groups (from Beavers and Scouts to Rotarians) and schools and of course the bloom volunteers. Initiatives throughout the year include litter picking, tree planting, the Memorial Gardens Display, road sign beds and the sowing of wildflowers throughout our parks and verges. It is estimated that we have engaged with over 800 residents of all ages through bloom over the past year.

Question No. 9 – Do you feel that the work of Amersham in Bloom is beneficial to the Town?

Yes No Not Sure

Question No. 10 – Our calculations tell us that providing this community initiative to the taxpayer equates to £2.65 per resident per year which is 5% of the Amersham Town Council precept. How would you rate this in terms of value for money?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor

Amersham Festival Of Arts - Amersham Town Council holds a week long annual Art Exhibition in the Market Hall in Old Amersham. The exhibition showcases works from local artists with 20% of the sales from these works going to the Amersham Town Council Grants Fund which are then distributed to local charities.

Last year the festival was expanded to include a programme of pop-up art exhibitions at venues throughout the town, theatre performance workshops, live music and children's story-time! The Town Council has successfully encouraged participation from many local groups and organisations including schools, youth groups and churches.

Question No. 11 – Have you ever been to the Festival of Art Exhibition or any of the Community initiatives that are held as part of the event?

Yes No Not Sure



Question No. 12 – How likely is it that you would recommend the Arts Festival to a friend or colleague?

Not Likely at all Unlikely Likely Extremely likely

Question No. 13 – The cost to the taxpayer to hold the Festival of Art is 15p per resident per year. How would you rate this in terms of value for money?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor

Amersham Community Carol Service – The Carol Service is the final Town Council event of the calendar year. The event, held in one of our local churches, celebrates the festive period and hosts a number of our school choirs, community groups, local dignitaries and members of the public.

Question No. 14 – Have you ever been to Amersham Community Carol Service?

Yes No Not Sure

Question No. 15– How likely is it that you would recommend the Carol Service to a friend or colleague?

Not Likely at all Unlikely Likely Extremely likely

Question No. 16 – At a cost of 11p per resident per year to organise the Community Carol Service, how would you rate this in terms of value for money?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor

Christmas Lights – The Town Council provides Christmas lighting for the main thoroughfares of Amersham, including festoons on shop frontages and street light decorations.

Question No. 17 – The cost to the tax payer to provide Christmas lights in both Amersham-on-the-Hill and Old Amersham is £1.07 per resident per year. How would you rate this in terms of value for money?

Very Good Good Average/Not Sure Poor Very Poor

Question No. 18 – What are the first four digits of your postcode; (i.e. HP7 0)? _____

Question No. 19 – What is your age? Under 18 18-35 36-55 55 and over

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your comments are very valuable.

Let us know what you want to learn – Buckinghamshire Adult Learning

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning offers a wealth of learning for personal development courses in languages, arts and crafts and health and fitness. We have both daytime and evening courses from beginners to advanced, which take place in village halls, community centres, local schools throughout the Chilterns. Courses vary in length from one-day workshops, six week courses or courses from 10-31 weeks, there is something to suit everyone! For more information go to www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk.

We are keen to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our local communities and that all residents have the opportunity to learn with us.

We are currently planning our programme of courses from September 2018 and we would like to hear from you as to any ideas of courses/ activities that you would like to see offered in your local community – maybe you would like to learn how to draw or paint, speak a language or take up creative writing?

Do you have a village hall or nearby community centre facilities that we could hire to run courses for local residents? Please contact Cathy Colsell at ccolsell@buckscc.gov.uk for further information.