

AMERSHAM NEWS



Edition 47— Newsletter from Amersham Town Council

Welcome to the 2018 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.

Turn the page to read our annual civic review, discover our record haul at this year's regional Thames and Chilterns in Bloom awards, plus some upcoming events to put in your diary.

Town Mayor, Councillor Caroline Jones introduces her charity while expressing her desire to bolster the town's environmental responsibility.

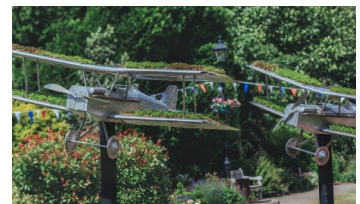
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Amersham Commemorates the end of the Cen

If you visited the Memorial Gardens in Old Amersham over the summer, you would undoubtedly have seen the striking First World War display, which includes two **bi-planes**, a **battleship** and **lone soldier**.

The Town Council has collaborated with 1st Chesham Bois Scout leaders and Amersham in Bloom volunteers to create a space for reflection and remembrance of the many men and women who sacrificed their lives in The Great War.

The Memorial Gardens were planted out with warm, muted hues to complement the models. Here's a summary of each display.

HMS Dreadnought

The battleship is a replica of HMS Dreadnought, launched in 1906 and the pride of the Royal Navy. She was the fastest and most powerful warship of her time, triggering an arms race as other navies attempted to match her speed and power. At the start of World War 1, HMS



Replica of an Albert Ball SE5a Bi-plane

Dreadnought was based in the North Sea with the 4th Battle Squadron and decommissioned and sold for scrap post-war. She famously sank the German SM U-29 submarine in 1915 and became known as the only battleship to sink an enemy submarine purposefully.



HMS Dreadnought was pride of the Royal Navy at the turn of the 21st century

The battleship also represents the bravery of Winifred Brazil, an Amersham resident who selflessly gave up her place in a lifeboat for an exhausted soldier who was drowning off the Italian coast.

The battleship is surrounded by a wonderful ocean of blue and green grasses, depicting crashing waves of the tumultuous sea.

Albert Ball's SE5a

The Albert Ball SE5a bi-plane was designed by the Royal Aircraft factory and was one of the best, fastest and most nimble fighters during The Great War. The plane was named after Albert Ball, one of the Royal Flying Corps greatest air aces, who later lost his life aged just 20 after becoming disoriented in heavy cloud. He was known for his bravery, regularly going on patrol alone and never backing down from a fight even when outnumbered. Following his death, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The miniature landscape, complete with hedgerows, crops, beech copse, crops and a ploughed field represent the Chilterns, creating a bird's eye view beneath the biplanes - an original and innovative idea that compliments the two models.

The Soldier

Our display includes a lone soldier on a plinth, framed by small red succulent plants, with his head bowed and weapon inverted. This drill position of arms reversed is a traditional sign of respect to the dead. The lone soldier is often cited as the most moving model of the display.

Over 1,000 men and women from Amersham and the surrounding area had direct involvement in The Great War, either serving in the Armed Forces or supporting those



The Lone Soldier

Centenary of WW1

who were fighting. Many of our fallen heroes are named on the War Memorial within the Gardens.

Special thanks go to Andy Honour who designed these spectacular models and to his Scout Leader colleagues for their skill, hard work and determination to build the display. We'd also like to thank the Amersham in Bloom volunteers for their dedication in helping to plant and maintain the floral displays, in addition to the **Amersham and District Residents Association** and **The Entertainer Toy Shop** for sponsoring the project.

Mark Lineton has kindly taken some wonderful aerial footage of the Memorial Gardens which can be viewed at www.bit.ly/WW1display. It is well worth taking a look!



Installing trees on Sycamore Corner

Noticed the six new trees that have been planted outside the Amersham Free Church in Sycamore Road. These form part of a WW1 Centenary Bed that we are creating in association with the Amersham and District Residents Association and Bucks County Council.

Amersham cleans up at Regional Bloom Awards



The Amersham in Bloom team welcomed the RHS judges to Amersham earlier this summer

We are delighted to announce that this year's Amersham in Bloom efforts have paid dividends with the town receiving a record number of awards at the recent Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Regional Presentation Ceremony.

As well as winning a **gold award** and being named the **best town** in the region (covering Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire), Amersham in Bloom also walked away with the following:

- National Certificate of Distinction for Parks for the Memorial Gardens display, awarded to the best park in the region
- Gold award for the Memorial Gardens
- Regional award for (best) Horticulture
- Regional award for involving children and young people, thanks to our links and partnership with Stony Dean School

In addition to the town awards, Chestnut Lane School was named the best school in the Thames region, receiving the Mark Mattock School Challenge Award.

Community engagement has increased year on year, and it is such a pleasure to see so many groups, schools, local businesses and volunteers participating in our bloom initiatives. Not only does everyone's contribution enhance the vibrancy and aesthetic of the town but also helps to bolster our environmental responsibility. Thank you to everybody who has made our achievements possible; the Town Council and depot staff could not have done it without your help.

In October, a delegation of Town Council staff and volunteers will be visiting Belfast for the National Britain in Bloom Awards; we're hopeful that we will bring home gold!

Amersham in Bloom Outstanding Achievement Award

Serco have worked tirelessly in partnership with Amersham in Bloom pulling out all the stops to ensure that our roads were swept. In recognition of their services Serco have been awarded the Amersham in Bloom Outstanding Achievement Award for 2018.

Civic event programme marches on for another year



What a truly fantastic year 2018 has been for Amersham! We are absolutely amazed at how quickly time has whizzed by. With so many events, activities, initiatives and achievements, it is a great time to reflect with our *year in review*.

March was our starting point as we hosted our 43rd Annual Town Meeting and **Citizen of the Year Awards** at the Market Hall.

The Town Meeting was a great opportunity for our residents to take the lead and address the Council with queries and concerns. Following the Meeting, our Citizen of the Year Award was announced, with Mr Joe Izzo of TwelveTwenty Café in Old Amersham being crowned the winner.



Past Mayor, Clive Morgan present the Citizen of the Year Awards.

Other awards presented on the night included Young Citizen of the Year (Kelly Revel), Business of the Year (Floral Creations & V's Kitchen), Mayor's Innovation Award (Andy Honour) and Mayor's Special Award (Andrew Seymour).

Congratulations once again to all our worthy winners.

With that we ventured, full steam ahead, into our 2018 Civic Events Programme. This year's programme was filled with so many wonderful activities and performances. We started our ever popular fortnightly Band Concerts on Sunday 6 May with the fantastic Buckinghamshire Band.

Throughout the Summer, we were delighted to have been joined by Syncopated Jazz, Bisham Concert Band, Amersham Band, Love That Jazz and Soundforce Big Band, amongst others.

Sunday 15 July heralded the official Opening of the Memorial Gardens, a truly spectacular event! This year, our Amersham in Bloom group, in partnership with the Town Council, reached for the stars with the most awe-inspiring floral displays in the gardens and throughout the Town.



Veteran Len Ridgley attended the ww1 commemoration concert during July

The theme was to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1.

As well as the opening of the gardens, there was also a very special concert featuring war-time entertainment from Steve Perry and the **RAF Halton Area Voluntary Band**.



The Paladins of Chivalry perform a re-enactment of a medieval battle at Heritage Day

Sunday 5 August was another very special event to commemorate the Centenary. Amersham was treated to the fantastic community play, The Glorious Madness.



Classic cars are a huge draw at Heritage Day

Following the Concerts, the Town Council team put all our efforts into producing the jewel in the crown, **Amersham Heritage Day**. Old Amersham was the place to be on 9 September with so many exciting attractions on offer including Children's Funfair, Classic Car Display, Vintage Farmers Market, Birds of Prey Display, Heritage Bus Journeys, Mini Steam Engines, Medieval Re-Enactments, Live Entertainment and so much more!

Following feedback received from our vendors and the public, we believe that this year was the busiest and best yet. A huge thanks to all those who attended and were able to be a part of such a fantastic community event.

And as if by magic, summer has come to an end and we now we look ahead to year end! We still have lots of things happening

including the Amersham Festival of Arts and the Christmas events which are featured in this newsletter.

Amersham Town Council would be unable to produce our community events and initiatives if it were not for our residents who are always keen to support us. Needless to say we are already working on our Civic Events Programme for 2019!!



'Having a go' at archery

Amersham Festival of Arts has something for everyone

The Town Council are delighted to announce the return of the Amersham Festival of Arts from Monday 15 October to Sunday 28 October 2018.

Following the success of last year's expansion of the event to include more engagement with the community, the Arts Festival will again have an exciting Programme of Events.

The action kicks off on Monday 15 October when the Community Pop Up Art Displays will be opened to the public. This year, creative artwork from a number of local schools will feature on displays located at Tesco Amersham, St. Michael & All Angels Church, Amersham Library and Chiltern District Council Offices.

The **Community Pop Up Displays** will be on display from 15 to 28 October.

We are also pleased to announce a collaboration with the Mad Squirrel Tap & Bottle Shop who have kindly let us use their entertainment space for live music on both Saturday 20 and 27 October. We hope to have a daily feature in the run-up to the event, listing which local bands and performers will be taking part.

If live music is not your thing, how about book talks, poetry recital, instrumental performances and children's story time and illustration.

The Art Exhibition in the Old Amersham Market Hall will of course be open to the public from Saturday 20 October



until Sunday 28 October 2018 from 10:00am. The popular exhibition will feature works in a variety of mediums from lots of exciting local artists. 20% of the sales of these works will go to the Town Council Grants Fund, which is distributed to community projects in Amersham.

Let us know you are attending on either Facebook or Twitter using #AmershamAFA .

Amersham Museum's Christmas Market
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd December
Free admission - 11am to 4pm

Shop for a wide range of beautiful, handmade Christmas gifts made by local craftspeople. There are also festive refreshments available throughout the weekend.

For more information go to www.amershammuseum.org or contact us on 01494 723700.

Four Lines Modernisation



Transport for London (TfL) are transforming the Circle, district, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan line. When work is completed in 2023, increased capacity and boosted reliability will make journeys faster and more comfortable. Because these lines share a lot of track and infrastructure, they are being modernised under a single combined and integrated project, Four Lines Modernisation (4LM).

The four lines are among some of the oldest sections of the Underground network, with parts dating back to 1863. Together they make up 40% of the Tube network, with around a million passenger journeys each day.

As part of the major modernisation programme for underground services, including the Metropolitan line, TfL will need to build a new Signalling Equipment Room (SER) close to Amersham station adjacent to Jubilee Hall and Parsonage Woods. This is for the installation of signalling equipment that will mean improvements for those of you who use Metropolitan Line services.

These include a fleet of new brighter, more spacious and accessible trains, faster journey times, and a shorter wait for a train. Delays due to

signalling problems will also be reduced. In addition, the new system also means that better live information will be provided via platform displays and on tablets and smartphones.



Location of new signalling box at the top of Rectory Hill

In order to reach this much improved end, some disruption may be experienced in the area around Amersham station over the next few months. You will notice that, from October, around 30 parking bays will be suspended along Rectory Hill to allow the worksite to be set up. It is appreciated that the demand for parking is an ongoing issue and so the works have been planned as far as possible to co-ordinate with the

opening of the new multi-storey carpark. The parking bays in Rectory Hill will be restored once the work is completed.

After several months of initial construction works, the new prefabricated SER will be delivered to the site in sections for installation – this will involve a series of overnight road closures in spring 2019. TfL have worked with Buckinghamshire County Council's Highways team to manage traffic in a way which ensures that pedestrians and road users, along with the construction site and staff

are all kept safe.

The footpath between Rectory Hill and Station Road will be maintained, however part of the footpath immediately adjacent to the worksite will be temporarily closed and diverted partly through Parsonage Woods.

Transport for London appreciate that this project will cause some inconvenience until the work is completed in September 2019 and will try to minimise disruption as much as possible. It is hoped that the resulting improved train services and station facilities will be worth it.

For more information on the scheme, type the below into your preferred search engine:-
<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/four-lines-modernisation>.

As part of this year's Amersham Festival of Art the Beatrix Potter Immersive Tea Party takes place on Saturday 27 October 2018 at St. Michael's Church Hall in Sycamore Road! Dress up as your favourite Beatrix Potter character and join Venture Quest Productions at either 2pm or 4pm to delve into the magical world of Beatrix Potter...finishing up with a spot of tea and cake! Tickets priced at £7 are available from Ticket Source at www.ticketsource.co.uk/beatrixpotter

Councillor Jones embracing her role as Town Mayor



Town Mayor Cllr Caroline Jones and Deputy Mayor Cllr Mark Flys

Firstly, I would like to say how delighted I am to be elected the Mayor of Amersham and how much I have enjoyed my first five months in the role.

It is a huge honour, and I am determined to work hard for the benefit of the town's residents, community groups, businesses and visitors.

During my time living in Amersham, I have

been lucky enough to see the Town's positive development into a truly beautiful and inviting place to be. I know that with the support of my fellow Town Councillors and Council Staff, we can work collaboratively and strive to achieve the very best for Amersham. The Town Council is committed to improving the lives of the community and putting our residents first in all we do. I am very proud to be able to lead our fantastic team.

Our fortnightly Band Concerts in the Memorial Gardens have been as popular as ever as well as our wonderful award winning Amersham in Bloom initiative, which continues to keep Amersham blooming. It is a tribute to the work of our outstanding volunteers and Town Council staff that Amersham looks as beautiful as ever.

Amersham Heritage Day this year, I feel, was the very best yet with more people visiting the town than ever before! It was a pleasure to see so many people with beaming faces enjoying all the wonderful attractions on display. I was also fortunate to be asked by the Amersham Society to unveil the Old Town Map which now takes pride of place outside the Memorial Gardens.

In addition to the enjoyment of the events programme, I am determined to ensure that the Town Council runs as effectively as possible. We must guarantee to maintain the very high standard of work carried out by the Town Council and continue to strive to be the best we can. We must also continue to deliver for our residents while keeping a firm grip on the Town Council's finances.

My role as Town Mayor also offers me the opportunity to choose a charity to support during my Mayoral Term. I have chosen the theme of Environment, and as such, I am delighted to inform you that I have chosen to support **St. Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital**. Wildlife and nature in all forms are a huge passion of mine and I feel very strongly in protecting and preserving them. Tiggywinkles Hospital is a fantastic charity providing support, welfare and rehabilitation for all different types of wildlife who might need their assistance. I feel proud to be able to support this charity. I will also be launching an initiative to reduce the use of plastic throughout Amersham so watch this space.

I am determined to ensure that Amersham continues to thrive for the benefit of the community so let's continue to work in partnership to deliver the best for our town.



New Information board for Willow Wood

A new information board has been unveiled at Willow Wood, one of Amersham's hidden gems. Designed by **Rebecca Collins**, pictured above, as part of **Barnett Waddingham's** company voluntary scheme, the board details wildlife and floral typically found in the area. Willow Wood has been developed as part of Amersham's commitment to environmental responsibility and now, carefully managed, has become a nature reserve attracting large populations of insects, butterflies and bees.

Along with the wildflowers and new trees be sure to check pop down to the Willow Wood in spring.



Joining representatives from Elangeni School and Reality Check Systems for a prize giving on Heritage Day

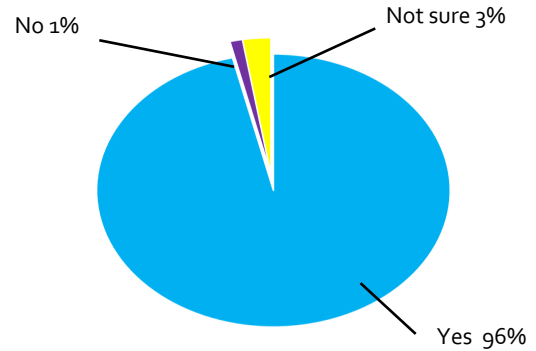
Responses of survey prove community events are popular

Amersham Town Council prides itself on providing a high standard of service. You may recall from the previous newsletter that we included a **Community Survey** to obtain vital feedback from our residents to assist us in shaping our civic programme for the future. Approximately 6% of households in Amersham responded to the survey. We are delighted to present a summary of the results below.

The Band Concerts and Heritage Day have proven as popular as ever with over 90% of residents considering them good or very good value for money.

The Arts Festival (56%) and Carol Service (66%) were considered less value for money, however, only 30% of respondents have visited either of these events, compared to 94% of respondents who have visited

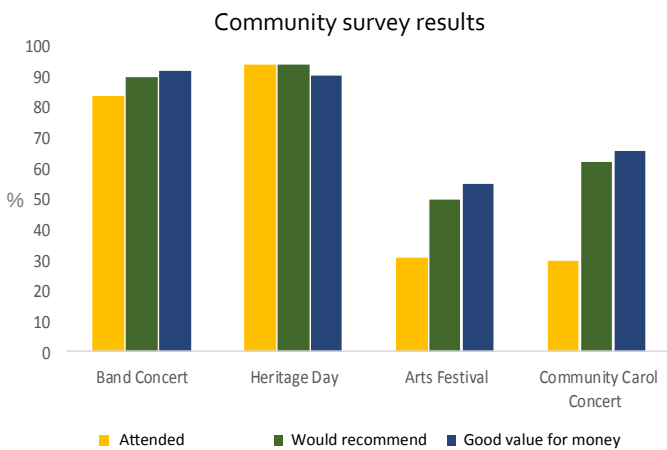
Heritage Day and 84% who had been to a band concert. 96% of respondents felt that Amersham in Bloom was beneficial to the town, with 88% believing that the initiative is either good or very good value for money. 92% of respondents also appreciated the Christmas lights and felt that they are good or very good value.



Is Amersham in Bloom beneficial to the town?

Over 75% of respondents felt that the Town Council communicated well with its residents, with the majority finding out about Town Council events and initiatives through this newsletter, while our Facebook page and Your Amersham followed close behind.

We will consider these results as we plan our programme of events over the coming year. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey.



Save the dates... with Christmas just two months away

With Summer now a distant memory, we look towards the end of the year and Christmas. Amersham will be bustling with festive cheer so make sure you note down these Christmas events taking place.

Amersham Action Group are hosting their popular Christmas Festival on Saturday 1 December. There will be lots of wonderful attractions on offer from 12:00 noon including Children's Funfair, **Santa's Grotto**, Live Entertainment, Christmas Market in St. Michael and All Angels Church and the fantastic Christmas Tree **light switch on** at 4.30pm. It promises to be a great event for all the family to enjoy.

Next up is the Old Amersham Christmas Shopping Evening in Old Amersham on Friday 7 December. The **Old Amersham Business Association** will be transforming the Market Square and Broadway into a wonderful Christmas wonderland with lots of exciting



Christmas Carols in Old Amersham

Christmas themed attractions including a skating rink, festive Christmas carols and Christmas Tree switch on by a very special guest. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for more updates from the organisers of this event.

And last but certainly not least is the **Amersham Community Carol Service**. Town Mayor Councillor Caroline Jones is delighted to announce that this year's Carol Service will be taking place in the beautiful St. Mary's Parish Church in Old Amersham on Thursday 13 December from 6.30pm.

Local school children will take centre stage this year, with the evening open to all residents.