

AYLESBURY VALE times

aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



- **Local business focus:**
The Vale entrepreneurs who tamed a Dragon!
- Find out how **limecart** can make your life easier
- Vale Lottery's 1st birthday bonanza!

ALSO:

What's on this Christmas, *Strictly's* Brendan Cole, competitions & lots more!

A rocket-fuelled boost to business in the Vale

Once a World War Two training base, Westcott Venture Park, near Aylesbury, has evolved to become the UK home of rocket research for defence and space development. AVDC is playing a key role in its future expansion, as it has become one of three locations in the Vale to secure Enterprise Zone status.



Originally created as a training base for bomber crews, the 650-acre site became a government research centre in 1946, known as a Guided Projectile Establishment.

Early research focused on rocket engine propellants and rocket research. Over the subsequent years major missile propulsion programmes were developed, such as the Blue Streak, Black Knight and the top-secret Chevaline nuclear war-head project, while Westcott's rockets were also used for space missions, including the 1990's Mars exploration.

Fast forward to 2016, the site's 70th anniversary and in July the JUNO probe was blasted into orbit around Jupiter, powered by a LEROS 1b engine, designed, built



and tested by Moog UK Westcott. The JUNO Mission forms one of the spacecraft in NASA's New Frontiers Programme. No probe has ever got as close to Jupiter as this mission will go.



For Westcott Venture Park, it seems the future holds no bounds. As a major space production hub, the UK Space Agency has announced it's investing more than four million pounds in a National Propulsion Test Facility at the site, giving the UK a new facility for space technology testing.

In addition to this, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, which includes AVDC, is investing its own funding in an Innovation/Incubation Centre and skills training hub - both of which will support the space sector.

If you'd like to find out more, go to:
www.westcottventurepark.com

Why bring your business to the Vale?

In Aylesbury Vale it cannot be denied that business is booming! As a major growth area the Vale's population is continuing to expand and along with it, economic and employment opportunities.

Businesses who base themselves in the Vale benefit from excellent roadlinks with the M1, M40 and M25 on the doorstep, along with easy access to both Heathrow and Luton airports.

As well as Westcott Venture Park, the Vale has two other Enterprise Zones. The technology park at Silverstone, the home of British motor racing, received the status earlier this year. At the heart of the UK's high-

performance technology and motorsport cluster, with eight of the 11 F1 teams in close geographic proximity, the site includes more than 60 companies as well as extensive development opportunities.



The other Enterprise Zone is Arla/Woodlands, located to the east of Aylesbury and building on links to the Arla super dairy and the food and life-sciences strengths of Bucks.

AVDC is proactively supporting all its Enterprise Zones and local investment, contact: economicdevelopment@aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk for more details, or call 01296 585657. See page nine for more on grants to help your business grow.

Dragon taming

“Absolutely distinctly average people” is the way Nick Coleman describes himself and his partner Udhi Silva - they’ve never run a marathon and can barely cook, apparently! And yet the entrepreneurs are the founders of two hugely successful Vale-based businesses; Medical Supermarket, which they started in 2011 and The Snaffling Pig Company, which was born out of a bet in 2014. They believe business isn’t about being brainy – it’s all about taking risks.



Udhi Silva and Nick Coleman at their warehouse in Stocklake Park.

And the way they went about starting up does sound pretty risky. They launched Medical Supermarket, providing medical and cleaning supplies online, with “a credit card, a yellow pages and a dusty laptop”. Six years later they’ve won awards for their business acumen, supply more than 4,500 customers

a month and have a state of the art warehouse on Aylesbury’s Stocklake Park.

The savvy team haven’t been afraid to ask for help along the way. They’ve received two business grants from AVDC to help towards IT and marketing. Nick describes the support as “instrumental in helping us get where we are today”.



Nick Coleman, with “Dragon” Nick Jenkins and Snaffling Pig marketing director, Andrew Allen.

And now there’s the taming of a Dragon. Two years ago, Nick and Udhi decided to step things up. They had a bet about whether you could start a business with £500. Nick suggested the future lay in his favourite snack, pork crackling - it seems he was right.

With the business growing rapidly Nick and marketing director, Andrew Allen thought an appearance on Dragons’ Den could give them a useful investment boost and some expert support. They walked away with a £70,000 cash injection from Moonpig.com founder Nick Jenkins, for a 20% stake in their business. Within a month of going on the programme, they had doubled their turnover.

So business continues to be on the up for these Vale businessmen and with a celebrity mentor now on board, it looks like this pig can fly!



Making business easier

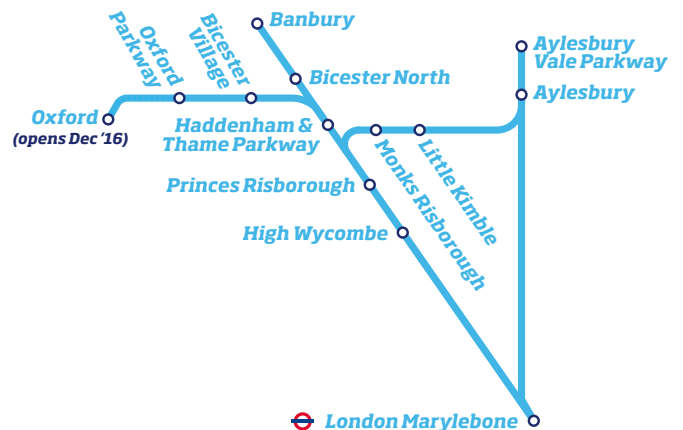
Nick and Udhi are part of our Incgen network of local

Vale businesses and will be speaking at a special breakfast event in December, for more details go to www.incgen.co.uk

To find out how Incgen can support your company, or start-up and help you grow, turn to page five.



Whether you fancy a spot of culture at the Tate Modern, shopping and a West End show or a romantic stroll through Hyde Park, there's no end of things to do in London. Get there with our frequent services to London Marylebone and claim **2FOR1 on many of the capital's top attractions.***



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Welcome to the latest edition of the Aylesbury Vale Times. With AVDC becoming more commercial, this time we've got a special focus on local business. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the fantastic initiatives going on in the Vale - not forgetting our own Incgen, which helps people to get the most from their business. We'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As we approach the end of 2016, here are some super stats (and a prize draw!) to see us out:

90%

of Vale food premises were rated either four or five stars in the latest data from the Food Standards Agency.



1,253

volunteers supported projects in the Vale funded by Community Chest in 2015/16 (see page 14).



£14 million

is the amount saved by AVDC in the last six years. We need to find another £5 million of savings from our annual budget by 2020, to counteract cuts by central government (see page four).



£135,000

is how much could be saved nationwide on waste disposal, if everyone put their next empty shampoo bottle in the recycling bin!



There are 25,000

users of My Account as we approach its 1st anniversary (that's a quarter of Vale households that have signed up online!). To celebrate we're holding a Christmas prize draw, with three hampers stuffed full of festive treats to give away!

To be in with a chance of winning, make sure you've registered with My Account by 23 November, My Account's birthday! The winners will be randomly selected in early December. Register at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/myaccount



Aylesbury Vale My Account
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/myaccount



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01296 585858 (main switchboard)
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
The editor: 01296 585861
or cperkins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
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The views expressed by individuals in Aylesbury Vale Times are not necessarily the views of Aylesbury Vale District Council. Every effort is made to ensure that all information is accurate at the time of going to press.



Your council is changing...

Regular readers of the AV Times will know that AVDC is becoming a commercially-minded organisation, to enable us to be more self-sufficient and to thrive. We anticipate that by 2020 we'll no longer receive a government grant, which previously formed a large part of our funding and we want to ensure that we can counteract this, through generating our own income. We're currently in the process of re-shaping the council and carrying out a full business review, with the aim of delivering services as cost-effectively as we can.

We've also set up, or backed, a number of new ventures. Vale Lottery raises money for good causes in the local area (see more on page nine), while AV Broadband brings ultra-fast fibre to homes and businesses in rural areas, that

have been struggling to receive good internet provision.

And under the banner of Vale Commerce we've established two new brands, providing resources that we think you'll find really useful:



Making business easier

Incgen - support for business owners

Incgen is a business to business initiative, designed to help you to grow your company by providing the resources to do just that. Along with practical help and advice, we also offer mentoring, with access to experienced entrepreneurs who have first-hand experience of starting new businesses and expanding them.

Our core service is open for anyone to sign up to and for a very small monthly fee, gives you access to regular networking breakfast and evening events, with the chance to meet with other like-minded business people.



Dave Frearson of Chiltern Water and Environments needed an office space outside his home where he could focus, but as he's often on the road he only pops in when he needs to. Through his Incgen subscription he now has a base at our Gateway headquarters, which he shares with other local entrepreneurs.

Dave says "There are lots of benefits; the phone service, the nice modern office space and the large meeting rooms that are available to us, mean we can have our team meetings here. It's worked out really well."

If you'd like a bit more support, we can offer a tailor made subscription-based package, including:

- Hotdesking and meeting rooms in our Entrepreneurs Club, with free WiFi and a relaxed and business-like environment
- Telephone answering service – bespoke call answering and messaging
- A stand-out business address: Your Business Name, The Gateway, Aylesbury
- Funding to take it to the next level – we have access to a range of commercial financial products, supplied through a local business finance company, that may be able to help you get to that next business level
- Cost saving and energy management/reduction advice – proven savings and even opportunities to make money, by better managing your energy

Find out more at: www.incgen.co.uk or call us directly on 01296 585728.



Home & garden services

Limecart – getting those little jobs done, without you lifting a finger!

Following the great feedback we've had from **1,400 residents across the Vale**, we have now **created three Limecart home support packages.**

These are based around the services residents told us they needed in their homes. We are working with local providers to package these under one monthly subscription, so you don't have to worry about sourcing them yourself, getting references, or managing them!

The options include home cleaning, wheelie bin cleaning, window cleaning, food waste bags delivered to your door, handyman services and more.

For more information and to pre-register for our Choice, ChoicePlus, or Premium Limecart bundles, go to: www.limecart.co.uk/registerme



Taking the hassle out of regular home and garden tasks

We'll keep you updated on the progress of Vale Commerce in future editions of the AV Times, but you can also go to: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-commerce

STOCKING FILLERS SORTED!



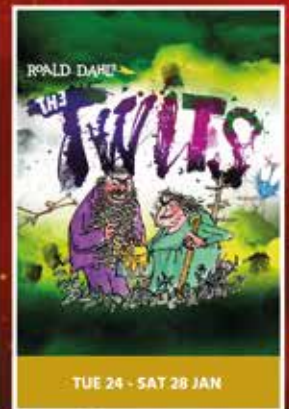
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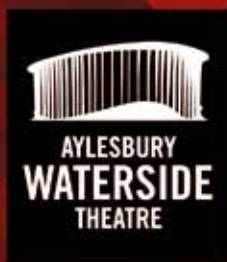
TUE 29 NOV - SAT 3 DEC (AGE 13+)



MON 16 - SAT 21 JAN (AGE 8+)



TUE 24 - SAT 28 JAN



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BOX OFFICE 0844 871 7607*

*Calls cost up to 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Phone and online bookings incur a transaction fee.

Vale Lottery's First Birthday Bonanza

Vale Lottery is getting ready to celebrate turning one, by giving away a guaranteed £1,000 in its First Birthday Bonanza prize draw! And, of course, there'll also be the chance of that £25,000 jackpot too!

The additional draw will take place during the Vale Lottery first birthday bash, on Monday 28 November, when AVDC will be inviting local good causes to join us to celebrate. The £1,000 additional prize draw is now open and will be available to anyone who has signed up to the online lottery by 8pm, Saturday 26 November.

Vale Lottery, the first online community lottery to be launched by a council in this country, currently supports 129 good causes, which all benefit the Aylesbury Vale community. These include local disability groups, animal charities, sports clubs, theatre groups and schools. Under the scheme, 60p in every pound goes directly to a good cause and the remaining amount goes towards the running costs and prize fund - AVDC do not take a penny. You can choose to either support a favourite local cause, or alternatively support the general good cause fund, which is administered by AVDC and provides vital support to a wide range of local organisations.



To date, Vale Lottery has celebrated with numerous winners, including one lucky person who won £2,000 after getting a five number match! Due to the lottery's success the jackpot was increased back in June to a whopping £25,000 and the good causes are on track to receive a total of more than £70,000 by the end of the first year.

For more information on taking part, or if you represent a local cause who wishes to apply, visit: www.valelottery.co.uk

Chilterns Dog Rescue Society, one of the many good causes, tell us what they think about Vale Lottery:

"The Vale Lottery is a fantastic idea and is beneficial to everybody involved. It allows people to support the Rescue Centre and also to get the chance to win themselves! One of our long-term supporters won £250 recently, which was amazing as it meant they were able to go away for a much-deserved weekend break. The money from ticket sales helps dogs like Zeffy, who came to us at seven months when his owners were unable to meet his needs and now has a lovely new home."



Developments on the unitary debate

Here at AVDC, as well as transforming our own services to be more efficient and commercially-minded, we believe that the system of local government itself is in need of review.

The public sector is facing the twin challenges of increasing demand and a reduction in funding. This requires a re-think about how all services are designed and delivered, in order to ensure

their long-term future, strengthen local decision-making and keep our residents at the heart of everything we do.

Along with the three other district councils in Buckinghamshire – Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks – we commissioned an independent report to find the best option for the future of local government across the county.

To read the full report, or our summary and for the latest updates on the unitary debate visit: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg

VALP consultation has closed, so what now?

Consultation on our draft local plan for Aylesbury Vale closed on 5 September after more than eight weeks of manning exhibitions, holding special briefings and handling hundreds of web, email and telephone queries.

Over 1,600 people submitted their comments during the consultation period - more than double the previous VALP Issues and Options consultation last year. Responses focused on the amount of new housing proposed and the suggested locations for new housing and infrastructure.

What happens next?

Informed by the analysis of the responses and finalisation of evidence, the local plan team are drafting the final version of the local plan. Discussions are continuing with neighbouring authorities on the housing needs that they are unable to meet, with further coordinated work on infrastructure.

The new plan is timetabled to be considered by VALP Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings in December and then Council in January, with pre-submission consultation starting in January and running until March.

All meetings are open to the public and will be held at AVDC's offices on Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury.

Subject to approval by councillors at the Council meeting in January, a statutory six week public consultation period will take place. Anyone who has taken part in any consultation throughout the local plan's preparation (and left their contact details), will automatically be notified when this takes place.

The plan should then be submitted to the government's planning inspectorate in March 2017.

We anticipate that a public examination will be held on the plan soon after that, with adoption of the plan taking place in mid-2017. However, after submission, the timetable will be in the hands of the government's planning inspector.

To find out more, please check our website: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/valp

Helping you to stay in your home



If you are struggling to remain in your home because it's no longer suitable, we may be able to help. Here at AVDC we've introduced new housing grants for residents who need some support in making improvements to their homes. The funding can help disabled people, older people and vulnerable households.

The new grants aim to improve the quality of private

sector housing in the Vale, boosting the wellbeing of people living in run-down homes and enabling disabled people to live independent lives for longer. The grants are funded by AVDC and the Better Care Fund (via central government).

If you are disabled, you may be eligible for a Hospital Discharge grant of up to £10,000, to provide stairlifts and ramps in your home so that you can leave hospital. A Relocation Grant of up to £20,000 is also available and an Essential Repairs Grant of up to £10,000 has been introduced, which can be used to make your home safe, warm and watertight.

To find out more and for information on how to apply please go to: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/housing-grants or call 01296 585605.

HS2

The latest situation as we went to print was that the HS2 Bill was still under scrutiny by the House of Lords Select Committee.

To reduce the impact of the Vale section of the rail link on local residents and businesses, AVDC has petitioned the Committee about a number of mitigation measures. Ground investigations are currently being undertaken on the whole line of the route, which includes the sections which fall within the Vale.

If the Bill receives Royal Assent, HS2 have advised that some enabling works, relating to its construction in the Vale, are scheduled to begin in 2017. HS2 will be providing further information and are promising to engage early with the council and communities, on works that require approval. For more information go to: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited



Calling Vale landlords and letting agents!

If you rent out property in the Vale, then come to our new Aylesbury Vale Property Meet, which is part of our Incgen initiative and replaces the Landlords Forum. It launches Wednesday 11 January, at 6pm at The Gateway. For more information, please email: kvaughan@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or call 01296 585881.

A boost for your business!



If you have a small to medium business in the Vale and are looking to expand, invest, or recruit, why not apply for a Velocity Grant? Velocity Growth revenue grants (£1,000-£10,000) are related to increasing sales, improving productivity and profitability and improving business processes. Maximum Velocity capital grants (£5,000-£50,000) cover projects including investment in technology, or development of processes that facilitate growth. The grants are for projects that will create jobs. To find out if you're eligible, go to: www.velocitybusinesssupport.com/grants or call 0300 01234 35.



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Back to nature - how our new Kingsbrook development is a beacon for wildlife

Green spaces around our homes make for happier and healthier living, but what can developers do to help deliver this vision? AVDC Ecologist, Paul Holton, describes some of the ways in which accommodating and encouraging local wildlife is a major factor in a new Vale development:



Kingsbrook development




If you have travelled anywhere close to Bierton and the east side of Aylesbury recently, you will have been greeted by the sight of a major housing development, including an extension to the Aylesbury link road. Once finished, it will deliver 2,450 houses, three new schools, an employment park, community facilities and road infrastructure. The Barratt Homes Kingsbrook development, is setting a new benchmark for housing development, that delivers not just biodiversity recovery, but real biodiversity gains, alongside new homes and facilities.

So why is Kingsbrook so good for nature?

Well, more than half the site is set aside for conservation and leisure space. This area, known as the “green infrastructure”, provides an integrated network of open space fully accessible to both people and wildlife. The site will have a myriad of green spaces across the three ‘villages’ and within these spaces, orchards, allotments, reed beds, meadows, ponds and pockets of woodland for locals to explore will be created. In addition, there will be a 110 hectare nature reserve including a nationally important wet woodland and a visitors centre.

The development is in its infancy and has many years of construction ahead, but has already received national recognition by winning a prestigious “*BIG Biodiversity*

Other features are also being incorporated into individual buildings and gardens, specifically with nature in mind:

-  A revolutionary new Swift box has been designed by the on-site team (main image above), which will house this fascinating bird in the eaves of new houses, above their human occupants.
-  Roosts for bats will help support local protected species and provision has been made for hedgehogs to move freely from garden to garden, in search of their supper.
-  Commitments have also been made to include plant species, specifically catering for bees and butterflies across the green spaces, a much needed boost for these important pollinators!

Award”. Wildlife conservation groups, like the RSPB, are holding the site up as a fantastic example of nature enhancement and management, that they’d like to see replicated throughout the UK.

Ultimately it’s hoped that by demonstrating the value of building wildlife provision into a major development such as Kingsbrook, more people will see the benefits on their doorstep and this in turn may encourage other major housebuilders to do something similar, enabling future generations to not only enjoy, but help protect, the natural environment.



© Andy Hay
rspb-images.com



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR BIN COLLECTION CREWS

Amy Bridgford, AVDC Recycling & Waste Operations and Projects Manager



AVDC Waste loaders

Waste services are something we all very much take for granted. Without our collection crews, rats would run riot and we'd all be suffering. Waste services are so vital

that the army would be called in if our crews weren't available!

With this in mind, I wanted to see what it was really like on the front line. So I spent three days out with the crews - that's a 4am start in order to arrive on time. Armed with a pedometer, on day one I covered 8.7 miles on foot, day two 13.7 miles and day three a WHOPPING 17.7 miles.

It's no stroll in the park, it's a fast walk and then a jog in heavy steel toe cap boots, battling the weather,

moving heavy bins and watching for traffic. All this while being courteous to residents and remembering the little nuances of the round - No. 30 needs an assisted collection and No. 15 has a suspicious dog that needs bribing with a dog biscuit!

To say their job is challenging is an understatement.

We all get our bins emptied and I'd ask you to be mindful of how hard it is. Your binman or lady will love it if you smile or wave, wait patiently if you're in a car, place your bin on a flat surface, or even put your bin out with the handles facing outwards. All these things are hugely appreciated and brighten your bin collector's day!



Amy on the bin rounds

AVDC collect more than 340,000 individual bins every week and this is done by just 110 loaders and drivers. On an average week we might miss around 60 bins – that's less than 0.02%, but understandably these residents feel let down and we do everything we can to resolve issues and learn from mistakes.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS

- things 'Yule' need to know!

We produce 30% more waste at Christmas and many festive items can be recycled:

- ✓ Christmas cards (but not foil or glitter ones please)
- ✓ Paper plates or napkins (unsoiled)
- ✓ Hats, paper crackers (but not the snap please)
- ✓ Cleaned aluminium foil
- ✓ Wrapping paper and gift tags (remove any ribbons and bows first)
- ✓ Card packaging

If you have extra recycling that doesn't fit into your recycling bin, please put it in clear plastic bags (or card boxes if it's dry), next to your bin. We do not take extra rubbish. To sign up for a garden waste collection, go to: www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/garden



CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTION CHANGES

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December

Please take a note of these changes, as all days are affected



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Collection week	Last garden collection	Next garden collection
Rubbish	Monday 21 November	Monday 30 January
Recycling	Monday 28 November	Monday 6 February

Collections are coming to an end for 2016. Your new dates are shown above depending on when your fortnightly collections takes place.



Around 75% of your household waste can be recycled in your recycling bins or food caddies, so there's no need to have larger or additional rubbish bins - unless you're a large family with children in nappies, or have clinical waste. From the beginning of next year we'll be removing any extra green-lidded rubbish bins from properties and will be writing to any households affected.

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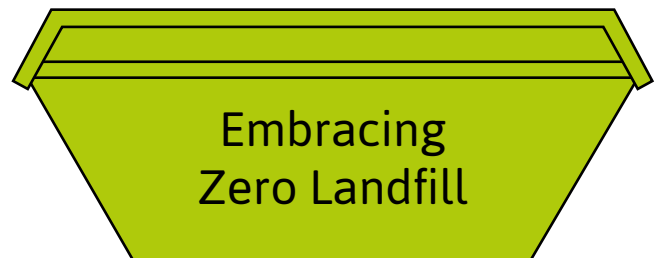
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A spectacular ceremony in Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, spearheaded the way for the Rio 2016 Games in September, as the Heritage Flame was lit.

Watched by an audience of around 1,500 people at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, many from Aylesbury Vale, the Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony was broadcast live on Channel 4 News and seen around the globe. It was directed by Bradley Hemmings, MBE, who also co-directed the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Ceremony.

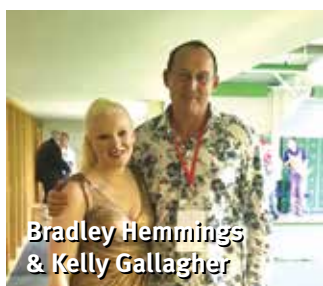
The event's theme was "Seeds of Diversity" and recognised how the first Stoke Mandeville Games, which



The Paralympic Flame lights up the Vale

were organised by Sir Ludwig Guttmann in 1948, have blossomed into a worldwide sporting phenomenon. The cast included dancers from the StopGAP Dance company, whose members are both disabled and non-disabled, along with a host of volunteers from the Vale and beyond.

Once lit the Flame was sent to Rio and combined with five others which had been carried through the main regions of Brazil, before igniting the Paralympic Cauldron in Rio on the opening night.



Bradley Hemmings & Kelly Gallagher

Director Bradley Hemmings described the night as "amazing" and said he was very proud of his incredible cast.



Gobi, volunteer

"I'm not used to performing, so I felt way out of my comfort zone – but it went really well!"



Laura, StopGAP dancer

"To be at Stoke Mandeville was an amazing thing, I felt extremely privileged."



Lorraine, volunteer

"Taking part meant absolutely everything to me."

Pam gets gold again



© BPA

Huge congratulations go to Pam Relph MBE, the cover star of the summer edition of the AV Times, who won a second Paralympic gold medal at Rio 2016, in the mixed coxed four rowing.

Pam, who's from Weston Turville, told us - "Winning gold in Rio was definitely the highlight of my career so far. It was the culmination of four incredibly hard years' work and it feels so good to have gone out there and finished on top of the podium!"

Good to talk

Over the summer months AVDC took to the road to talk to residents about the changes taking place, as we become more commercial.

We attended 13 popular local events with our Roadshow, listening to your views and sharing information about our new ventures, including Limecart and the Vale Lottery.

At locations from Pitstone to Buckingham, we spent 56 hours talking to residents and have generated almost 400 sign-ups to our new services. More than 35,000 people attended the events we visited and we're pleased to say the feedback from people who came to our stand was extremely positive. Thank you for dropping by!



Don't miss the chance to dip into our Community Chest!

Do you have an idea for your community which you'd like to make happen, but it needs some extra funding to get it off the ground?

Over the last decade an impressive £4.5 million has been given out through the Aylesbury Vale Community Chest. This has meant that voluntary and community organisations have been able to invest more than £32 million in resources for people living and working in the Vale, or visiting the area.

The programme's now entering its final phase. There are two rounds of microgrants left – offering up to £1,000 for your project – the deadlines for these are 15 November and 15 December 2016.

If you're looking for a bit more of boost, there are also grants available to cover up to 50% of the total cost of projects over £10,000 in total, up to a maximum of £25,000. Applications for these must be in by 2 December 2016.

The panel who award the grants are particularly interested in supporting projects that can demonstrate they have long-term sustainability – perhaps they will help generate income, or reduce running costs.

With a special business focus in this issue, it's not just charities, parish councils, recreation ground trusts, clubs and societies who have been awarded funding, but also social enterprises. There's been help for projects like the community run shops in North Marston and Twyford and a community hub with a café in Ivinghoe Old School, as well as Horses Helping People CIC, a therapeutic horsemanship centre in Ledburn.

For more information go to:

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/communitychest



North Marston Village Shop

North Marston Village Shop is run by volunteers supervised by a paid shop manager and stocks a wide range of local produce from meat and vegetables to organic toiletries.



Ivinghoe Community Hub

Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub brings people together for informal gatherings in the café and as a venue for special occasions.



Twyford Village Stores

Twyford Village Stores run a community bread club to bake for the shop every Friday evening and a welcoming café provides locally made cakes and other goodies.



Horses Helping People CIC

Students learn in an outdoor environment with Horses Helping People, which boosts their confidence and social skills and increases their knowledge of the natural world.



If you want to find out more about ways to fund your local project, then we've got a date for your diary. On Wednesday 1 March 2017, 1.00–5.30pm, the annual Funding Fair is taking place at The Gateway Conference Centre. It's an exhibition for community, charity, voluntary sector and social enterprise organisations, where you can find out what funding and other support is available. If you'd like to attend, call 01844 348820, or you can book online, visit eventbrite.co.uk and search for Buckinghamshire Community Funding Fair 2017.

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Flying the Flag

Both Aylesbury's Vale Park and Bedgrove Park have once again been awarded the prestigious Green Flag. It's the ninth year in a row that Vale Park has received it and the seventh for Bedgrove. Both are managed by AVDC, but did you know that it takes a bit more than just cutting the grass to make an award-winning park? Here are a few of the other criteria:

- Welcoming – positive and inviting for all members of the community
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well-maintained
- Methods used to maintain it should be environmentally sound
- Conservation and heritage must be considered
- The local community should be encouraged to be involved with the park

Vale and Bedgrove Parks have lots to offer for all the family, why not pop along and find out for yourself?

Are you registered to vote?

Did you know that if you're not on the electoral register, it could affect your credit rating? This could cause problems if you want a mortgage, a loan, a mobile phone, or even a new job. All residents are required by law to confirm, or update, the details of anyone at their address who is eligible to vote in the UK, even if the details haven't changed. You can do so by post, or online: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Amelia will light up the town!

The winner of July's Roald Dahl Festival fancy dress competition will switch on the Aylesbury Christmas lights this year. Seven year old Amelia's winning costume was the Queen from Roald Dahl's story, The BFG. She'll be joined on 17 November by Waterside Theatre panto stars Andy Collins and La Voix. For more information go to:



www.visitaylesbury.co.uk/xmaslights and for a full round-up of Christmas events across the Vale, see our What's On guide, on pages 19 and 20.

WIN, WIN, WIN!

Like us and you could be off to the panto!

Aladdin is coming to the Waterside Theatre this Christmas, starring Michelle Collins (Eastenders, Coronation Street) as the Genie of the Lamp and we have a family ticket to give away.

All you have to do to be in with a chance to win is to like our AVDC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/aylesburyvale or follow us on Twitter @aylesburyvale by 30 November.



WIN!

You will automatically be entered into a draw and could be off to the theatre! Anyone who's already following us on Facebook or Twitter will be included in the draw.

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Don't miss your chance to advertise in the next issue of the Aylesbury Vale Times which will be published at the beginning of March and delivered to more than 75,000 households across the Vale.



To find out more about how we could help your company or organisation, please email cperkins@aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk

Welcome to Winslow - where old meets new!

Vale living • 18



Winslow Hall



Market Square



St. Laurence Church

The market town of Winslow lies in the heart of the North Buckinghamshire countryside, between Aylesbury and Buckingham. It combines old world charm with modern day living, offering residents and visitors alike, plenty to see and do.

Stepping back in time

Winslow is quintessentially English, steeped in tradition and history. It is documented as having been given by King Offa of Mercia as an endowment to St Albans Abbey in 792.

If you'd like to find out more about its past, the town boasts its own historical trail that takes you on a tour of the ages, right back to medieval times.

Follow the trail to see Winslow's beautiful 16th century half-timbered

buildings. And don't forget to visit St. Laurence Church, Winslow's oldest surviving building, parts of which date back to the 13th century. Discover its unusual wall paintings, including a fascinating portrayal of the murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170.

Winslow Hall, however, still stands as the town's most impressive landmark and has been described as "the finest surviving house built by England's greatest architect, Sir Christopher Wren". The grand building now hosts Winslow Hall Opera, which stages annual performances.

Watch the world go by

This small town definitely takes good food and good living seriously! With olde worlde pubs and a range of restaurants and cafes, many offering outdoor seating, you're almost guaranteed to find your own perfect spot to relax and take in the impressive scenery.

There's also a charming selection of shops showcasing interior design, gorgeous gifts and deli goodies. And if you're after the best of Buckinghamshire, then Winslow Farmers Market is also well worth a visit. Taking place on the first Sunday of every month in Market Square, from 10am-1.30pm, it offers a wide selection of locally produced meats, cheeses, juices, jams, chutneys, sweets, treats and much, much more!

For more information on Winslow visit:
www.winslowtowncouncil.gov.uk

An Adstock pub is toasting success after being named the best village pub in Aylesbury Vale.

The Old Thatched Inn fought off stiff competition to be crowned the overall winner of Aylesbury Vale District Council's Village Pub Competition.

Judges described the venue as an imaginative pub with exceptionally good food.

The Five Elms in Weedon, The King & Queen in Wendover, The Old Fisherman in Shabbington, The Pointer in Brill and The Hundred of Ashendon in Ashendon collected awards for Best Food Pub, Best

Community Pub, Best Family Pub, Special Occasion Pub and One to Watch respectively.



All 14 pub finalists and winners will be included in the 2016-17 Recommended Village Pub Guide. Pick up your copy from village pubs or download it from www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk/pubcomp



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What's on? This Christmas

NOVEMBER

12-13 Nov, The Rose Thief Walking Play, 6pm and 8pm, Aylesbury. Join this interactive walking play around Aylesbury old town. Tickets £4.50 from Bucks County Museum and Aylesbury Town Council offices. www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

13 Nov, Remembrance Parade, 10.30am, Buckingham. Buckingham town centre. www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk



16 Nov - 11 Dec, Waddesdon Manor Christmas Fair, 11am-6pm Wed to Sun. Gifts, decorations and festive foods. Normal admission charges apply. www.waddesdon.org.uk

17 Nov, Christmas Lights Switch-on, 5.30-8pm, Aylesbury. Free family entertainment including funfair from 5.30pm. Enjoy the lights switch-on at 7pm with fireworks and late night shopping until 8pm. Free parking from 4.30pm every Thurs till Christmas, from today, in Friars Square and AVDC Aylesbury town centre car parks. www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

19 Nov, Akeley Christmas Market, 12-3pm, Akeley Village Hall. The festive hall and marquee will be bulging with Christmas food, craft stalls and seasonal fun. Hosted by St. James & St. John PTFA. stjamesstjohn.ptfa@gmail.com

24 Nov, Christmas Fair and Lights Switch-on, 5.30-8.30pm, Market Square, Winslow. Join Santa and his reindeer for festive fun with late night shopping, special Christmas stalls and live music. The lights switch-on takes place at 6pm. www.winslowtowncouncil.gov.uk

25 Nov, Ladies Indulgence Night, 7pm, Marsh Gibbon Village Hall. Pamper yourself at this luxurious evening. Contact holly_franklin@hotmail.co.uk



26-27 Nov, Festive Day Out with Thomas, Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton. Meet Father Christmas on a steam train; all children get a present! Free live entertainment, face painting and refreshments. Also on weekends in December. www.bucksrailcentre.org



26 Nov, Christmas Lights Switch-on, 6pm, Buckingham. Gather outside the Old Gaol for lights switch-on and carols. Plus Christmas artisan market during the afternoon and evening. www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

26 Nov, Bach to Rutter, 7.30pm, Aylesbury Methodist Church. Inspiring performance by the Aylesbury Festival Choir, tickets £12. www.aylesburyfestivalchoir.net

27 Nov, Santa's Parade, 11am-3pm, Aylesbury town centre. Welcome Santa and his friends as they parade through the town, and enjoy the funfair, donkey rides and foodie stalls. New this year is the exciting Santa dash starting at 1pm. www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

DECEMBER

3 Dec, Christmas Fair, 11am-5pm, Watermead Village Hall, Lakeside. www.watermead-pc.gov.uk

4 Dec, Christmas Craft and Gift Fair, 11am-3pm, Aylesbury town centre. Find unique and original gifts at this speciality fair. www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

7 Dec, Wendover Christmas Event, 4-7pm, Manor Waste, Wendover. There'll be late-night shopping, a Christmas street market and Father Christmas in Santa's Grotto! Plus a visit from panto stars to mark the Christmas lights switch-on. www.wendovernews.co.uk/events



8-10 and 15-17 Dec, A Christmas Carol, 7pm, The World's End Garden Centre, Weston Turville. Meet the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future – and discover the true meaning of Christmas with this enchanting production. www.uttc.info

9-31 Dec, Aladdin, Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. Wishes will be coming true this Christmas in magical style. Starring soap star legend Michelle Collins; with genies by the lamp-load, belly-busting comedy and chart-topping songs. www.atgtickets.com/Aylesbury

9-31 Dec, Alice in Wonderland, Queens Park Arts Centre & Limelight Theatre, Aylesbury. Take a trip down the rabbit hole and into pantoland for the Queens Park Arts Centre's spectacular at the Limelight Theatre. www.qpc.org/01296424332

10 Dec, Buckingham Christmas Parade, 10.45am, Buckingham town centre. www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

10 Dec, Buckingham Community Fair, 11.30am-2pm, Community Centre, Buckingham. Christmas gifts, cards, cakes and more. www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

10 Dec, Haddenham Winterfest, 12-5pm, Banks Park, Haddenham.

Not only a Real Ale Festival, but also a Christmas Party with live music and food too, tickets £10. www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk



10 Dec, Watermead Carol Concert, 6pm, Watermead Piazza. Including a visit from Father Christmas. www.watermead-pc.gov.uk

11 Dec, Festive Family Fun, 11am-4pm, Aylesbury town centre. Free Nutcracker fun and entertainment in Friars Square and funfair rides in Market Square. www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk

11 Dec, Carolfest, 6pm, St Mary's Church, Aylesbury. Join in with all your favourite Christmas Carols in a relaxed, family friendly atmosphere. www.aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk or Facebook @aylesburytc

23 Dec, Carols around the tree, 6pm, Manor Waste, Wendover. Get in the festive spirit with this traditional event. www.wendovernews.co.uk/events

FEBRUARY

2-4 Feb, Dick Whittington, Winslow Public Hall. The Winslow Players promise lots of laughs with this finale to the pantomime season. www.winslowplayers.co.uk

16 Feb, #AylesburyThursdays events, 11am-3pm, Aylesbury town centre. A fab, fun kids event every Thursday of Bucks CC school holidays. Facebook @aylesburyvale

If you have an event that's taking place between March - June 2017, please contact: whatson@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Local loves with Brendan Cole

Brendan has been a professional dancer on the hugely popular BBC television show *Strictly Come Dancing* since it first aired in 2004. He's coming to Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre in March, in his own dance, music and chat show, *Brendan Cole – All Night Long*. Brendan lives in the Vale and has shared some of his favourite local places with us.

Favourite attraction in the Vale?

We regularly take our daughter to the visitor centre at Tiggwinkles wildlife hospital in Haddenham. She loves to see the animals who live there and to play on the swings and it's great that by doing so we can support a brilliant local charity.

Favourite shop?

I have a bit of a penchant for George Browns in Haddenham which sells all sorts of garden machinery. I love my garden and I'm always popping in to ogle the latest ride-on lawn mowers and other equipment.



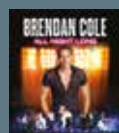
©BBC/Jay Brooks

Favourite pub?

The Seven Stars in Dinton is great. It's a really cosy, traditional country pub and the landlady, Steph, is always fun and welcoming. I think a good pub is always down to the landlord or lady in charge. The Churchill Arms in Long Crendon do a great Thai takeaway.

Best Memory in the Vale?

My wife Zoe will kill me if I don't say this, so it would have to be our wedding in Nether Winchendon, in 2010. We had our ceremony there in the medieval St. Nicholas Church and then went across to Nether Winchendon House, a local stately home where we had a marquee in the garden. It was the hottest day of the year and let's just say everyone ate, drank and made merry into the small hours. A perfect English country wedding.



Brendan's appearing at Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre on 17 March 2017. Go to www.atgtickets.com/aylesbury



How about Christmas or New Year at Hartwell House & Spa?

If you fancy a little bit of self indulgence this yuletide, why not visit the beautiful Hartwell House & Spa? Whether it's a delicious lunch, traditional afternoon tea, or romantic dinner you want to spoil yourself with, Hartwell can cater to your needs. And if you really want to get away from it all, Hartwell House & Spa offers Christmas and New Year breaks too.

For more details visit: www.hartwell-house.com

Do you value the AV Times?

Win a wonderful spa day for two courtesy of Hartwell House & Spa!

Services here at AVDC are currently under review to make sure we're doing things as cost-effectively as possible. We want to make sure this magazine is worthwhile and that you find it informative and useful.

In our last edition we ran a readers' survey and the feedback was really positive, but if you didn't have a chance to fill it in, we'd like to give you another opportunity. If you do, you'll be entered into our prize draw to win a fantastic spa day, including treatment and lunch for two, at Hartwell House & Spa. Anyone who filled in our survey last time will also be entered too (terms & conditions apply).

The deadline is Friday 13 January. You can find it at www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/avtimesurvey or call 01296 585861 to receive a copy by post.

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