

AOTRA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2007



Castle Street looking towards Temple Square, 1930s.
Photograph from the Buckinghamshire County Museum Collections

Temporary Editor's pitch.

I'm doing this in order to get a Newsletter out while the regular man is otherwise engaged. I chose the heading photo because a passer-by commented to me recently that he could remember when the East's office was there as shown. It's only about 40 years since that disappeared. The Old House has lost its bay windows and rendering, the chapel portico is visible beyond, and the Black Horse was still trading, and there are still people driving the wrong way down the street!

I'm told we shall get a bit of new pavement to connect with that on the right-hand side above, when the contractor can work out how to get it in without halting all traffic up Castle Street.

Committee Members

The current members are:

Diana Amies (Castle Court)	Rachel Lucas (St Mary's Square)
Graham Aylett (St Mary's Square)	James Crafts (Ripon Street)
Kyle Michael (Rickford's Hill)	Malcolm Nickolls (Rickford's Hill)
David Vowles (Chadbone Close)	Joan Croker (Church Street)
Claire Hedger (Chadbone Close)	Mike Doe (Church Street)
Adrian Harford (Castle Street)	Steven Mitchell (Ripon Street)
Marilyn Norwood (Church Row)	Rick Pearce (Granville Street)
Will Martin (Parson's Fee)	

AYLESBURY OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations – to Rachel Ashby on her marriage to Paul Lucas, and to James and Miranda Crafts on the birth of their son (Alfred James).

James Crafts has retired as chairman after the now fashionable one-year stint and Rick Pearce has been elected in his place.

Forthcoming Events

1. The Secret Gardens is taking a rest this year (and so are the gardeners, if that's ever possible). In order to provide an alternative social event there is a Garden Party proposed for Sunday 24th June in the gardens of Green End House. Planning is getting under way and more news will be circulated when things are firmer.

2. Visit to the Judges Lodging in Aylesbury Town Centre - proposed date Friday evening June 8th.

Final details are to be confirmed but expect the visit to start 5.30 pm or 6pm and to last about one hour. Probable assembly point at the Kings Head and then on foot to the lower end of the Market Place. The Lodgings are reputed to be a fine set of rooms with an interesting history, furnishings and paintings.

There is a group charge made of £25, and a maximum group size of 16.

3. Visit to Nether Winchendon Manor - a suitable Saturday afternoon in May.

The manor is an attractive old building, with 'Strawberry Hill Gothic' extensions, set next to the River Thames in the village of the same name. It is open to the public throughout May, with guided tours at a cost of £5 per head. As it is so close, and inaccessible by public transport, a car sharing arrangement would need to operate so volunteer drivers would be welcome. The adjacent church is also worth a view and no doubt afternoon tea could be found nearby in Waddesdon. See <http://www.netherwinchendonhouse.com/>.

Precise date would depend on interest expressed, but it would probably be a good idea to avoid the Bank Holiday weekends.

Please contact Adrian Harford (415107, or 29 Castle St, or adrian.harford@tiscali.co.uk) if you are interested in either of these two visits, with your details so that I can get back to you to confirm arrangements.

Low flying aircraft

Town centre residents are again complaining about low-flying aircraft circling Aylesbury, writes Graham Aylett, who gives the following information from the Civil Aviation Authority website (<http://www.caa.co.uk>), or ring 0207 453 6524 and ask for the 'Low Flying' section. To make a complaint you need to record the registration mark (which starts with a 'G') of the aircraft from the wings - which you will probably need binoculars to see. If the craft is lower than 1000ft

AYLESBURY OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

over a built-up area then this is an offence. You need 3 independent witnesses in all to make a complaint.

Toddlers Group at St Mary's

I have been asked to draw attention to the Toddler's group that runs at St Mary's Church on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30. Phone 01296 437642.

Policing

The Neighbourhood Action Group is a contact mechanism between local residents and the police – there were inaugural meetings last year for the general public. Rachel Lucas is our representative, and the Town Centre group also includes local councillors. Please contact them if you want to have input.

Also, use the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number, 0845 8 505 505 to report crimes or give information. I have found it quite responsive. Alcohol is a major factor in anti-social behaviour, and the consumption of alcohol in public in the Old Town is an offence. If you see it, you can report it as a crime using the number above – remember to have a good description of the individual, or individuals involved.

Planning

Malcolm Nickolls believes he has been successful in his campaign to keep the Friarage Road underpass – it was going to be filled in by the next phase of 'Hub' development.

BIG HAND MO'S update by David Vowles....

Following a lengthy debate at the AVDC Development Control Committee on 19 April 2007, the officers' recommendation that they be given power to approve the latest flats redevelopment by Michael Shanley Homes at Big Hand Mo's was rejected. A resolution that planning permission be refused was also rejected on the casting vote of the Chairman, the Committee vote having been tied 7–7. A further resolution was then passed instructing the officers to negotiate revisions which would reduce the bulk of the development and would have less impact on the adjoining Conservation Area. The officers must report back to the Committee the outcome of their negotiations before a final decision is reached. This latest application therefore remains undetermined at present but is subject to negotiations to seek an improved scheme.

Meanwhile the Inspector conducting the appeal in respect of the earlier application for 24 flats, also by Michael Shanley Homes, which was refused planning permission by the Council last November, carried out the site inspection on 23 April. His decision should be made shortly.

If Michael Shanley Homes win their appeal against the November 2006 refusal they will be free either to proceed with that scheme and abandon their

AYLESBURY OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

latest application or to negotiate a revised scheme with the Council planners. If they lose their appeal they will presumably try to negotiate an acceptable scheme in accordance with the Committee resolution.

In principle AOTRA is in favour of residential redevelopment of the site, but we opposed both the schemes so far put forward by the developers. Although the latest scheme was an improvement on the earlier one, both were considered wholly unsatisfactory for this prominent site.

We welcome the decision of the Development Control Committee to seek a more sympathetic redevelopment and hope that this will not be prejudiced by the outcome of the appeal.

Prebendal House. The new owners are seeking to turn this into residential accommodation, which AOTRA welcomes in principal, but the building is Grade II* listed so is protected by English Heritage against inappropriate changes. There is a meeting of the Town Council to review the current application on Monday April 30th at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber at 5 Church Street, which is open to the public.

Advertisement



www.martinkemp.com

[The Old Bank, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2LL.](#) [01296 422171](tel:01296422171) [01296 397137](tel:01296397137) property@martinkemp.co.uk
[Chiltern Court, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6EP.](#) [01296 622911](tel:01296622911) [01296 696081](tel:01296696081) wendover@martinkemp.co.uk