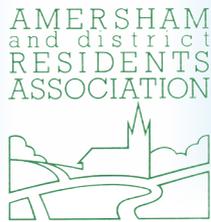


- Britain in Bloom
Thames & Chilterns Region
Silver Award
Amersham 2007
- Britain in Bloom
Thames & Chilterns Region
Silver Gilt Award
Amersham 2008
- Britain in Bloom
Thames & Chilterns Region
Regional Town Winner
Amersham 2009
- Britain in Bloom
Gold Award
Amersham 2009

ADRA
AMERSHAM
and district
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION



Annual Newsletter
Autumn 2009



Letter from the Chairman November 2009

Dear Members

Welcome to the 2009 ADRA Newsletter. In this issue you will find as usual the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held this year on 28 April at the Amersham Free Church. Once again we had a very good turnout.

Rob McElwee our guest speaker spoke on the effects of global warming something he sees at close range daily. Judging from the reaction he certainly struck a resonant chord with his audience.

Please help us to represent you by making your views known. There is so much happening in the community which will affect us all, that now more than ever, you need to be involved.

Please join us at our Social Evening Wednesday 20 January from 7pm to 9pm in the Large Barn Hall at the Amersham Community Centre. We would really like to see you and there's a lot to talk about!

Yours sincerely

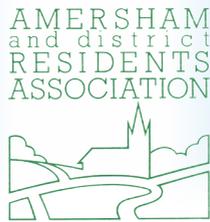
Bron Curley

Our thanks to the Amersham Town Council for allowing us to access to the Amersham in Bloom Portfolio which they produced, and for which they own the copyright



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th April 2009 at Amersham Free Church Hall

1. Chairman's Welcome The Chairman welcomed the members to the 48th Meeting of ADRA.
2. Apologies for Absence:- Cllr David Allen, Dennis & Pat Barnard, Audrey Begg, Laura Bennett, Alan & Diane Coulstock, Jane Denny, Ian Donnelly, Victor Faulkner, Arthur Foster, Maggie Kenzi, Ernest Newhouse, Roy & Celia Palmer, Lance & Anita Walton, Pauline Webster.
3. Minutes of AGM held on 24th April 2008 Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Norman Makins and seconded by Bob Darvell.
4. Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts) As attached. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Carolyn Spencer and seconded by Geoff Sherlock.
5. Planning Officer's Report (Bridget Woods) As attached.
6. Highways Report (Geoff Platts) As attached.
7. Environmental Officer's Report (Ann Terry) As attached.
8. Chairman's Report (Bron Curley) As attached. The Chairman also made mention of The Pheasant Public House having made an application for an extension to their opening hours. All residents wishing to object should make their views known – Application to be heard on May 19th.



9. Re-election of Committee. Three Committee members up for re-election: Bron Curley, Alan Smith and Ann Terry. It was also stated that Michael Teychenne would be co-opted onto Committee as Records Officer. The proposer was Joan Shepherd and seconded by Lee Cohen.
10. Re-election of Auditor Ernest Newhouse had agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Geoff Sherlock and duly seconded.
11. The Chairman introduced Mr Rob McElwee who addressed the meeting on Global Warming.
12. Open Forum:- The formal business of the meeting having been concluded, the proceedings continued in the manner of an Open Forum.
 1. *Martin King, the Town Mayor, mentioned the Annual Citizen Awards to be held in the Old Town on Sunday May 3rd at 2pm.*
 2. *Vanessa Griffiths enquired re flooding under bridge on Rectory Hill. Martin King explained drains were blocking in heavy rain and problems with cleaning.*
 3. *Barbara York raised concern re untidy corner of Chiltern Road and Woodside Road which was covered with brambles and had reported the matter to the Council. Martin King said ATC have taken on BCC work and delegated too contractor who seemed to have missed that particular area. Since ATC has become a proper authority mowing has been carried out 9 times a year but some is*



still under the BCC umbrella. The Chairman responded that over the years responsibilities have evolved changes in County Councils etc; every time a change happens, something falls by the wayside. The difficulty lay in ascertaining where responsibility lies.

- 4. Rob McElwee asked if residents felt County are no longer there to serve. The Chairman replied that a lot of people work terribly hard and some are frustrated whilst others sometimes seem to be almost deliberately obstructive. Mr McElwee enquired if residents were likely to be fined for trespassing on Council property if tasks were undertaken by others. Martin King praised BCC for supplying everything for the weekend of 26th April during the clean-up, and it was simply a case of going to the right organisation for help.*
- 5. A member queried whether someone had already been paid and contracted to clear litter. BC responded in the affirmative but stated all public services are costly and ATC receives only £1.35 per household. Resources are therefore stretched.*
- 6. A member queried whether anything could be done about the footpath between Grimsdells Lane and Woodside Road, specifically next to Just Tyres. The Council said they can only get involved if there is a hazard. Do Standard Tyres have some kind of obligation to upkeep as the building has not been touched for over 50 years and all the windows are smashed? The Chairman said there was no enforcement legally to approach and request repairs. It was felt a guttering fault may be contributing to the flood in that area. BC will approach Manager and/or speak to their Head Office. Martin King said it is usually the owner of the building who is responsible.*
- 7. The Mayor said scruffiness of streets was down to shop own-*



ers as landlords are responsible for litter around their shops.

- 8. A question was raised as to whether there was any chance of weed killer being put on the verges as some areas are quite bad. The Chairman responded by encouraging members to highlight the problem when a response is usually received.*
- 9. A resident mentioned the potholes outside Heatherton House which have been there for about six months. The Council had been notified but nothing has been done despite new budget. Martin King assured members it was due to be dealt with very shortly. Geoff Sherlock felt this was largely down to the amount of school traffic on a daily basis.*
- 10. Shirley Sherlock asked whose responsibility the escape lane down Gore Hill was as it is full of weeds and there is insufficient gravel. The Chairman thought it was probably the County. ADRA was asked to pick up and Bron to deal.*
- 11. A member queried whether it was true that more money is being paid out for claims rather than repairing the roads.*
- 12. Norman Makins was concerned about the large number of commercial vehicles travelling along North Road/Long Park. The Mayor said the same problem occurred in Amersham Old Town and that it was due to faulty satellite navigation systems.*
- 13. There was a query re the proposed speed restriction down Chesham Road and to change de-restriction zone from 40 to 30mph. Martin King stated it was to be from 40 to 30mph and consultations were going on. Members were asked to write in.*



14. *A member questioned how ADRA proposed to increase their membership. The Chairman replied that participation in fetes and Xmas shopping evenings produced a few applications as well as placing adverts in the local newspaper; but ADRA are attempting to make transmissions over the Internet and the e-mail. He felt ADRA must take a higher profile at local events and track down new people. Mail drops were also mentioned and the need to work some streets not visited since the 1980's. Whilst Boy Scouts could be used for messages as per Xmas cards, a suggestion of using estate agents was discounted. ADRA need to get in touch with welcoming organisations and a member queried whether there were any forms that could be give to neighbours. Rosemary Dean stated that she had a few for collection after the meeting. Deliverers of AGM Notices also include a few extra copies for distribution to non-members.*
15. *David Crozer proposed thanks to the Committee and their Chairman for conducting the meeting.*

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

AMERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2008 (including for comparison a summary for 2007)

2007	INCOME	2008	2007	EXPENDITURE	2008
£		£	£		£
1353	Subscriptions	1460-67	278	Printing, stationery postage & telephone	185-73
117	Bank Interest	126-40	233	Hire of Halls	211-00
	Adverts in Newsletters		33	Affiliation Fee	33-00
			225	Insurance	225-00
340	2007		131	Social Evening	136-54
	2008	410-00	49	Millennium Garden	220-00
			500	Hanging Baskets	-
				Newsletter 2007*	-
400	Contribution for Christmas Lights From Bucks. C.C. Leaders Fund		4	Newsletter 2008*	286-55#
			77	Bank Charge	-
	Donation	4-00	1530	AGM Refreshments	79-90
				Christmas Stall	56-86
				Christmas Lights	900-00**
				C.Bois Fete Stall	10-00
				Deficit over year	2344-58
					(343-51)
<u>2210</u>		<u>2001-07</u>	<u>2210</u>		<u>2001-07</u>

* Cost of printing donated by a member of the Association #Distribution costs

** Includes £400 donated by Bucks. C. C. Leaders Fund in 2007

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008

2007		2008	2007		2008
£		£	£		£
1759	Opening Surplus	2439-23	522	Current Account	399-25
680	Surplus/(Deficit) on year	(343-51)	2955	Deposit Account	3155-86
2439	Closing Surplus	2095-72		Cash in Hand	14-01
	Subs, paid in		340	Debtors 2007	
916	Advance re 2008			Debtor 2008	80-00
462	2009	983-94		Creditors 2008	(69-51)
	2010	497-95			
	2011	2-00			
<u>3817</u>		<u>3579-61</u>	<u>3817</u>		<u>3579-61</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the above accounts having regard to the matters referred to below. This Association, in common with many others of similar size and organisation, derives a substantial portion of its income from subscriptions, advertisements, etc., which cannot be fully controlled until it is entered in the accounting records and is not therefore susceptible to independent audit verification. In my opinion, subject to the foregoing the accounts give a true and fair view of the Association's affairs as at 31st December 2008, and of the Income and Expenditure for the period then ended.



Ernest G Newhouse, Hon. Auditor
80 Bois Lane, Chesham Bois



Geoff C Platts Hon. Treasurer
12 Runrig Hill, Chesham Bois



Treasurers Report

On the top left hand side of the Accounts Report you will see a statement of the income in 2008 and for comparison, that of 2007. You will note that the income for 2007 was about £200 more than for 2008. However if you look a little more closely at the figures you will see that this is solely due to the donation of £400 in 2007 for the Christmas lights from the Bucks C.C. Leaders Fund. Without this donation the income in 2008 would have exceeded that of 2007 by about £200, £100 of this from subscriptions. This increase in subscription income is not due to a change in membership numbers, but because we increased the three year subscription rate by £1 from January 2007.

Explaining the £400 contribution from the Bucks C.C. Leaders Fund, County Councillors, and in our case, Pauline Williamson, are given limited funds to spend as they think fit for the benefit of the area they represent, generally to be spent on items which would not otherwise be funded by the County. For example Citizens Advice Bureau, new footpaths etc. In this instance our County Councillor decided to support Christmas lights in Amersham.

Now moving onto expenditure, shown on the top right hand side, relative to that in 2007; comparable Printing, Postage and Telephone costs were down by about £90; Hire of Halls, Affiliation, Insurance and Social Evenings were much the same. We contributed more for maintenance of the Millennium Garden but less for hanging baskets. You will note that although the cost of printing of the 2008 Newsletter was donated by a member of the Association, its distribution this year was via the postal system, rather than by hand by volunteers, resulting in postal and envelope charges of £202.32 and £84.23 respectively making up the £286.32. Refreshments at the AGM were virtually unchanged, but



there were three additional items. The Christmas and Chesham Bois Fete stalls were essentially publicity events and £900 was donated for the Christmas lights. Of this sum £500 was donated by the Association and £400 from Bucks C.C. Leaders Fund in 2007 mentioned earlier, which couldn't be used in 2007. I understand the reason for this was that the old lights couldn't be used under new EEC rules, which require low voltage lamps for safety reasons, though why this should be so when the lights are out of reach I do not know. It seems the new lights could not be purchased in time for Christmas 2007.

Looking now at the Balance Sheet figures – on the left hand side the opening surplus for 2008 is shown as £2439.23, which includes the £400 from the Bucks C.C. Leaders Fund for the Christmas lights in 2007. The surplus on the year 2007 is shown as £680, but this again includes the £400 for the Christmas lights so that the surplus, ignoring the £400, was only £280. Now looking again at the income and expenditure for 2008, we see that income in 2008 was £2001.07 and the expenditure £2344.58, which includes £400 for Christmas lights, hence ignoring the £400 from Bucks C.C. Leaders Fund, the expenditure was £1944.58 and the surplus £56.49. That is an effective surplus of £280 at the end of 2007 which had fallen to £56.49 at the end of 2008. Whilst we had a small surplus in 2008 we cannot assume that the member who has donated the cost of printing the Newsletter in the past will continue to do so. Hence your committee feels that subscriptions need to be increased and your Chairman will tell you more about our proposals when he speaks to you.



Environment Report

Another year has gone by and I feel in spite of our efforts the appearance of our town does not improve. We still have no signs up to say where Amersham-On-The-Hill begins or ends or even where it is.

Our residents are very concerned about our pavements and footpaths and no amount of complaining to the relevant authorities brings a much improvement.

The path between Woodside Road and Grimsdells Lane floods or freezes in bad weather. It is the main route for many residents to the station and town and we have been requesting improvements for some years.

I will leave the Highways Report to deal with potholes.

I feel we were very fortunate to win an award in “Britain in Bloom” when one sees the displays by other towns and areas. All around us there have been wonderful displays of spring flowers. For several years we have asked for bulb planting at Oakfield Corner but to no avail.

It would be good to see schools become involved. Heatherton House planted bulbs some years ago, which have been so appreciated. There are so many corners that could be planted.

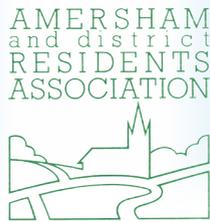
The flower beds by the library, planted by contractors, have been so poor and one cannot blame the weather altogether. The beds maintained by the Town Council are still colourful and we congratulate their staff.



Unfortunately, the man we employed to maintain the Residents Flowerbed has resigned for health reasons. We are actively looking for a replacement; any offers?

Litter is still a problem but I see the Council has a clean-up planned and is hoping residents will come forward. This will have taken place by the AGM. So many residents are doing so much to cut the use of poly bags; I only wish our supermarkets were making more effort to cut their use.

It is very sad to know Raans Field is to be built on. Residents at that end of town will have NO open space and I feel, more importantly, the very many children, many living in flats, will have no play area. With so many more houses the conditions will be exacerbated



Planning Officers Report

This year the character of the spread of planning applications has changed noticeably. This is understandable given the prevailing economic climate. Previously there was a steady flow of applications for large extensions on individual properties and some 2 for 1 proposals for sites known as windfall sites, which were large enough to accommodate a greater density – while complying with policies to maintain and enhance the character of the area.

Recently, while there has remained a basic flow of smaller extensions, we have been involved in commenting on a few large sites. These will bring more families to our area and will undoubtedly have significant infrastructure requirements – a point which your Association has consistently included in our responses to consultation.

Now to address some of the larger developments with an update of the current situation:

- Raans Field Site (second application) – 83 homes and a church building for Kings Church, Amersham. No objection from the Secretary of State, CDC minded to approve subject to conclusion of legal agreement on certain conditions – mainly highway matters.
- Amersham and Wycombe College, Stanley Hill campus – redevelopment plans for a new college building. Awaiting response from the Secretary of State, CDC minded to approve. We understand that the Learning and Skills Council has withdrawn its offer of funding for this project.



- Greenways, 2 Amersham Road, Chesham Bois – redevelopment of site with 12 flats. Appeal lodged against CDC refusal, to be decided after a local hearing – date to be advised.
- 30 Rickmansworth Road, Amersham – redevelopment with 8 flats. A recently appeal against CDC refusal has been dismissed.
- 123 and rear of 121 Hundred Acres Lane, Amersham – back garden development of 4 flats and 2 semi-detached houses. A recent appeal against CDC refusal has regrettably been allowed.

In addition, the Former Sawmill site, Bell Lane, Little Chalfont has been granted outline planning permission for 253 homes. Following an appeal, the Inspector recommended approval to the Secretary of State, which was confirmed subject to legal agreement, particularly to provide funds for increased education provision.

A note of explanation: applications which are a departure from the Structure Plan are always referred to the Secretary of State for confirmation of approval.

Rural Housing Trust Members will remember the report in 2007 regarding the Bury Farm site in Old Amersham, where the Rural Housing Trust submitted an application for 50 “affordable” dwellings on a high density site in the Green Belt (GB) and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). After strong local objection the application was refused by the Planning Committee at Chiltern District Council. The latest information regarding the Rural Housing Trust is – quoting from their press release of 19th January 2009:



“Trustees of the Rural Housing Trust (the Trust) have decided to wind down the development activities of both the Trust and its subsidiary, RHT Developments Ltd.

Although demand for affordable rural housing is high and there is potential value in its work, the organisation is unable to withstand the prevailing, difficult trading conditions. The Trust generated the larger part of its income from developing small village schemes for registered Social Landlords.

The Trust specialised in fieldwork which enabled rural exception sites to be developed so that affordable housing could be reserved for local people. Having established a significant pipeline of schemes by working closely with parish councils and landowners in particular, the Trust is concerned that these potential schemes are not abandoned. During the winding down process, the Trust will aim to ensure handover of these schemes to like-minded organisations.”

I am very relieved that planning permission was not given for the Amersham site, where the case for exceptional development within the GB and AONB was not established and there was little local support. A permission could have set a precedent and could subsequently have passed on with the land to another developer. This highlights the need to ensure that residents’ views are argued clearly and tenaciously.

Sainsbury’s I am sure that members have read or heard that Sainsbury’s is very interested in establishing a large store in Amersham on the Hill. I requested a statement from the Company so that I can accurately inform members of the situation to date. I will read their position statement dated 27 April 2009 so that members know what to expect in the near future and will, I hope, respond thoughtfully to the proposed consultation.



Sainsbury's Proposals for Amersham-on-the-Hill Position Statement

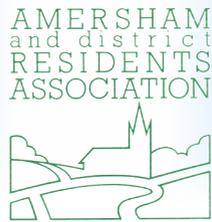
Sainsbury's is planning to improve food shopping choices in Amersham-on-the-Hill and introduce new life and activity into the town by providing a new foodstore with improved town centre parking.

Sainsbury's believe that existing food shopping choice in Amersham-on-the-Hill is limited and new investment would encourage more people to shop locally. A new Sainsbury's store in this location would substantially improve the shopping offer locally and help to stem the leakage of shoppers travelling out of the area, which could also benefit other local traders and assist in the ongoing revitalisation of Amersham-on-the-Hill.

In order to enable a town centre redevelopment scheme to be brought forward, Sainsbury's purchased the freehold of 67 to 75 Sycamore Road, comprising Iceland, Chiltern & Watson Opticians and Cargo. Sainsbury's also agreed to work with Chiltern District council to explore how proposals which would incorporate land at Rickmansworth Road car park, owned by the Council, could be progressed.

Following the Council's agreement to explore matters further, Sainsbury's has held initial discussions with Amersham Town Council, Amersham Action Group and District Residents' Association as a starting point to discussing key issues associated with proposals for a new foodstore and additional town centre parking in Amersham-on-the-Hill.

These discussions highlighted some important local issues that Sainsbury's needs to consider as the proposals begin to evolve, such as servicing arrangements, the design of the scheme and connectivity with the



rest of the town centre to encourage linked shopping trips.

Since these initial meetings were held, Sainsbury's has also met with officers at Chiltern District Council to discuss how proposals for a new foodstore could evolve. However, proposals are still at an early stage and detailed plans are yet to be developed.

Sainsbury's intends to commence widespread public consultation on the proposals during May and June which include contacting approximately 9,000 households and businesses in Amersham-on-the-Hill, Old Amersham, Little Chalfont and Chesham Bois, which comprises the catchment area for the new store. The first stage of consultation will focus on concepts and issues associated with the scheme and help to inform the evolution of the proposals.

There are obviously interesting times ahead for Amersham! We must all keep abreast of developments and respond with our views and ideas to maintain and sustain the Vision of a revitalised



Highways Report

At last years AGM I mentioned that the latest plans for revised flight paths in South East England would not have any significant impact on Amersham. I have heard that these plans have not yet been finalised but have asked to be informed of any further changes. If there are changes your Association will comment as appropriate.

I'm sure you are all well aware of the potholed state of your local roads – our Vice Chairman certainly is as he wrote off not one but two tyres in a water filled pothole in Little Chalfont. You may have seen my letter published in the Bucks Examiner, pointing out that potholes are not only a potential source of damage to our cars, but also a distraction, as looking out for them means that your attention to other hazards is compromised – I recommend that we all report potholes to 'Highways on Call' on 0845 230 2882.

On the subject of road sweeping, it is apparently Council Policy not to sweep minor roads and side roads until requested, so if you want your road swept contact Highways on Call. To be fair to the Council whenever I've sought this service the road has been swept within a few days.

I reported at last years AGM, that we had been pressing CDC to get on with the provision of extra car parking spaces in the main car park behind the Iceland store. So far I know this has not been done and I suspect no action will be taken pending the decision on whether or not Sainsbury's are to build a store on the site currently leased to Iceland, Chiltern and Watson Opticians and Cargo Shops.

I've written to CDC regarding the flooding at the bottom of Holloway Farm, Chesham Bois, during heavy rain and suggested the drains which



discharge water into the River Chess be moved to the lower point. CDC say they will monitor the situation. Also near this point on the turning right toward Chesham visibility is reduced by growing vegetation. I've requested this be cut to minimise the risk of accidents. Previously at the same junction on the approach from Chenies, there was no junction warning sign for the left hand turn into Holloway Lane, which itself was on a right hand bend in the road from Chenies. A 'Bend' sign has now been erected.

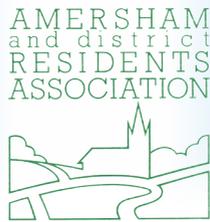
You may recall the application to permit most vehicles to use certain bridledways, including Bunns and Bottom Lane had been submitted. We objected to this and our objections were upheld.

Finally, you may have heard that it is proposed to introduce new rolling stock on the Met Line during 2010. The new stock will have hand grab rails and greater passenger carrying capacity, though fewer seats! However, more frequent services are planned so that the total number of seats, per hour, will be increased. One of the new carriages (or a mock up) was displayed at Euston Station during the week commencing 28th September 2008.

Highways Update

Prior to the AGM and since then, I have reported a number of mains water leaks and I am pleased to say, these have been dealt with generally with little delay

I understand that Sainsbury's have recently completed the purchase of one of the houses in Rickmansworth Road between the launderette and car park entrance, and hence any further parking spaces are unlikely to materialise in the near future.



Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to the 48th AGM of the Amersham and District Residents Association.

It's customary at this point for me to talk about changes to your committee, and this year there are some to talk about.

In the autumn Yvonne Konieczna agreed to join the committee. You remember I'm sure that Bridget Woods, our Planning Officer announced at the last AGM that she would be standing down this year. So I'm afraid this will be the last AGM for Bridget in her current capacity. Bridget has served ADRA as Planning Officer since 1995 and her contribution has been extraordinary.

Another of our Officers has also decided to retire from active duty after a long period dedicated service. Rosemary Dean has been Membership Officer since 2000, and during that 10 year period has done a superb job of recruiting and co-ordinating the activities of the band of collectors and distributors and maintaining our membership records. To both these ladies we say thank you. The organisation functions because of efforts like yours.

Michael Teychenné has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee to do the Membership job.

As you've heard from the reports we've had a busy year, working on your behalf in pursuit of our organisation's objectives, not only in isolation, but also with other bodies like the Amersham Action Group. As Committee members we act on our own initiative in the areas where we're individually responsible- reporting pot holes and getting them



filled in, contacting County, District and Town authorities on footpaths and overhanging branches, phoning and writing to individual businesses about litter and so on. This is the “watch dog” aspect of what we do on your behalf. As you know we also monitor planning applications very closely and do what we can to protect and act in the wider interests of the community. In addition to the watch dog stuff, we also act on behalf of members or groups of members who approach us with specific concerns affecting or concerning them. We are respected by local authorities and when we take action supporting or opposing a particular issue, we are noticed. I would encourage you to continue contacting us when you need help. An individual voice carries greater weight when backed by an established organisation like ours, which is known to represent the wider community. Our strength is in our number.

In June we took a stall at the Chesham Bois Fete and recruited ten or so new members as well as seeing lots of you there. We also put up a stall at the Christmas shopping event in December. It was a blustery evening but again we signed up some new members including the Vicar at St Michaels and the Mayor!

The Christmas lights in Amersham and the hanging baskets are both initiatives that in a well ordered world would have total support of local businesses, but they don't and the town (which receives zero from business rates) is again appealing for support and, as in past, we will participate.

Last year, Amersham was awarded a silver in the Britain in Bloom competition. This year Councillor Ros Aitken who's leading the Britain in Bloom committee, is going for gold! There will be competitions for front gardens, hanging baskets, schools and best allotment, amongst other categories with £50 garden vouchers to be awarded at the Carni-



val July 2nd. Nominations are being solicited – Jump in!

The Clean Up Amersham Day event Sunday last was very successful with over 100 bags of rubbish being picked up by volunteers from many organisations, including us. Areas blitzed included King George V fields, Station Road and Raans Road.

Cllr. Vera head has asked me to point out that Pheasant Pub, Plantation Road has applied for an extension of opening hours on Friday and Saturday. If you have a view which you'd like to be considered, please ensure that it is lodged by May 19th.

At this point I'll make my annual plea for help. We need more members to join the Committee. We've not fallen short of a quorum this year, but our Treasurer is also covering Highways, you're your Chairman is also doing the Newsletter. We are long standing members who are going to retire sometime! As is the case with all volunteer organisations, more input yields more output. ADRA is nothing more than the collective effort of its members and committee.

Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except August), at 8:15pm in The Small Barn Hall at the Community Centre. They normally last about an hour and a half and commitments can be flexible. Please consider joining us.

As an organisation we are facing a number of challenges which we must adapt to if we're to continue being able to meet our objectives – quality of life, communication between local government agencies and residents. We must attract new members. Our members aren't declining, but they're not growing in proportion to the area's growth either. Last year at the AGM we asked you to complete a survey and most of



you did. Of the responses, 80% wanted more regular communication, 60% wanted internet access and all wanted email. 65% thought the January Social was a good idea and wanted more. Membership growth and increased communication are vital, but will of course come at a cost. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult for Rosemary to attract new helpers and large areas of the town are uncovered. Those who are willing to give their time to deliver are more reluctant to collect subs, which I think we can all understand. Often it means multiple attempts to reach people and so on. It's simply no longer a viable approach when there are other options available.

Although our finances at present appear robust, we have been subsidised for the past four years by a member who has donated the cost of producing the newsletter and most other printing. This, plus advertising revenue for the Newsletter exceeds £1500 per year. We cannot rely on this in future and without it we would be in substantial deficit. Our subs were flat for 15 years from 1991-2006. Three years ago they increased by 33p per year per household.

The committee has decided therefore that it is necessary to move to a simplified system of subscription payments by annual standing order, removing this burden from our long serving collectors, and to increase the subs to £5 per household annually.

This change will come into effect at the end of your existing subscription period, i.e. this year, 2010 and 2011. We will write to each of you at the appropriate time with instructions.

We are convinced this change is in the best interests of the Association and its members as we go forward.



Finally let me express my thanks and I'm sure yours to our Committee who soldier on to keep ADRA going and to those how help by delivering Newsletters, etc. Particular thanks again to Bridget and Rosemary for their many years of service.

And now I'll welcome Rob McElwee who will speak to us about the effects of global warming.



Amersham in Bloom 2009



Britain in Bloom is one of the largest horticultural campaigns in Europe, working year-round to create a cleaner and greener Britain through community action. Participants can earn top marks in horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation.

In our first year, with just 8 weeks preparation, we achieved a SILVER Award. This experience, albeit short-lived, enabled us to realise that to improve the high standards we set, it was essential to get additional community support and involvement. This support would help to improve Amersham and help to develop both social cohesion and civic pride. This would benefit the community and visitors alike.

In 2008, Cllr Ros Aitken and her growing working party dedicated a vast amount of effort and time getting more volunteers involved and putting the greatest emphasis on the community;- most notably Schools & Businesses. These efforts were rewarded with Amersham gaining a SILVER GILT. The Royal Horticultural Society recognised the improvements that were made in Amersham.





On to 2009, the Amersham in Bloom committee recruited more volunteers and encouraged the community to become involved in conservation projects. The Mayor organised a cleanup day which was very well supported by over 50 volunteers. Schools were also encouraged to participate which proved very rewarding and helped them

understand the need to take care of the environment.

The efforts during 2009 resulted in Amersham receiving the GOLD AWARD and the regional winner's trophy in the Best Town Category. Amersham also won the award for the best presented portfolio and the prestigious Mark Mattock Cup for Best School went to Chestnut Lane School. This proved quite an achievement beating off competition from entrants from the wider area of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxon.



An extract from the RHS judges report sums up all our efforts

“There was a good mix of residential, education, community spirit and business, and there is much evidence of strong publicity, together with community involvement, enthusiasm and friendliness from all involved making Amersham a joy to judge.”



Our aim for the future and the basis for our 2010 entry, is to improve our Town's environment for the benefit of all the community. We have never sought to impress the judges with any artificial enhancement.

Areas of Achievement



“Sunny Amersham should be congratulated on a very competent entry”.

At Chestnut Lane School the judges were greeted by staff and children who had given up their time from their summer holidays to proudly show the vast array of work carried out within the school and its grounds.

The business involvement was first class with excellent summer bedding colour and wonderful permanent planting. A good mix of residential, education, community spirit and business is to be seen. There is much evidence of strong publicity, together with community involvement, immense enthusiasm and friendliness from all involved making Amersham a joy to judge.





Badminton Court (formerly the local brewery) with the River Misbourne running through the grounds, and ‘Aston Hearing’ are fine examples of business premises with their colourful bedding. Residential, courtyard gardens and the main municipal run Memorial Gardens in the town centre, are very colourful and the business bedding and topiary displays compliment some of the fine old buildings in parts of the town. Elmodesham House Court with the two volunteer resident gardeners Mrs Hayward and Dr Brooks deserve a glowing comment.”

The recent competition and examples of some of the gardens seen by the judges.



- *Wildflower areas at the Cemetery.*
- *Evidence of ‘like’ repairs to heritage features owned by the local authority.*
- *Initiatives regarding fly posting and graffiti removal.*
- *Clean up day involving all ages in the Community.*
- *Museum gardens in keeping with the museum exhibits are very interesting and different, with plant labels for the lay visitor.*

Obtaining sponsorship from London Transport for bedding displays outside the underground station.

Evidence of ‘In Bloom’ within the Town Guide, newsletters etc produced for Amersham residents and businesses.

“The Town Council wish to place on record its appreciation to all resi-

dents, businesses and community groups who, knowingly or not, contributed to the Town's success. Particular thanks should be expressed to the Amersham in Bloom Working Group led by Councillor, Ros Aitken, Mr Max Davidson (local competition judge and advisor), Lady Jean Johnson (local competition judge) and the Town Council groundsmen and staff."

Local Competition Winners

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's Amersham in Bloom Competition. The awards were presented by the Town Mayor, Cllr. Martin Phillips, at the Amersham Carnival.

The winners are:

Best School Winner:- Chestnut Lane Infant School

Runner up:- Chesham Bois Primary.



There was strong competition from the local schools that put a great deal of thought and effort into the competition and the judges were highly impressed with the knowledge and skill these "young gardeners" displayed which bodes well for the future.



Best Garden Winners (joint):-
Mr & Mrs B. Jones and Mr & Mrs E. Denton.



The winners showed that you do not need a large garden or a great deal of money to have a really fabulous garden.

Best Hanging Basket/Window Box Winner:-

Mrs Claire Twyde

Runner up:- Melissa Sneath.





Among the many entries for hanging baskets and window boxes were some ingenious examples of choosing the perfect plants in unusual containers. Using some initiative, we can all pick up some great ideas for displaying an array of beautiful plants not all being in traditional bowls. The Hanging Baskets at Amersham Station looked great, Well Done.

Best Business Premises Winner:-
Aston Hearing Services,
Joint runners up:- Badminton Court



The Business Gardens exhibited fabulous displays of flowers with some very creative touches with an excellent choice of plants in pleasing colours. They presented a magnificent floral display to be enjoyed by the staff and customers alike.



Best Communal Gardens Winner:-

Mrs Hayward

Runner up:- Amersham Museum.



In the Best Communal Gardens category, the judges were pleasantly surprised by the co-operation of groups of neighbours to ensure that their surroundings could be enjoyed by everyone.

What is important to remember is that whilst Amersham has been recognised for its achievements with the awards received, we must maintain consistency and integrity by reiterating that whilst the competitions in themselves, are a reflection of ALL our efforts over the last three years, it is the continual momentum of participant involvement and the real-time effects on Amersham Town that is the “real winner”.

Our consistency comes from the fact that we have never sought to impress the judges with any artificial enhancement, WE HAVE improved, and will continue to improve our Town’s environment for the benefit of all the community.



The competition results are important but they only play a small part in terms of what we are trying to achieve. Hopefully, this prestigious award will trigger even more interest and encourage active community participation for 2010. When you see the memorial gardens in full bloom

and you notice the beautiful hanging baskets displayed in the Town, you just know that we have made a difference.

We are delighted to announce that in September 2010, Amersham have been chosen to host the RHS Regional Award Presentations. It is important that we don't rest on our laurels, so please let's continue with all the good work and maintain the high standards. We are actively looking for sponsorship or sponsors to help us maintain Amersham's GOLD STANDARD. The difference it makes to our town is tremendous – ***Well Done Amersham!***



If you are interested in getting involved with any aspect of the AMERSHAM in BLOOM project or you would like a full copy of the Judges Report or press releases, please drop a line by email to Cllr Ros Aitken at amershaminbloom@btinternet.com or Amersham Town Council at info@amersham-tc.gov.uk



Woodrow High House



Woodrow High House is the training and residential centre for London's largest youth charity 'London Youth'. Every weekend member clubs visit the centre and enjoy a variety of activities

and programmes. During the week the centre is occupied mainly by primary schools most of which are from Buckinghamshire and during the holidays, respite care, play schemes and holiday schemes. Set in 25 acres of grounds and based in the Chiltern Hills it provides a beautiful environment for training of all ages and abilities.

Parts of the house date back to the 17th century and it is believed that Oliver Cromwell lived here during the English civil war. Bequeathed in 1945 by the worshipful company of Goldsmiths, the centre has seen countless visitors since then who have enjoyed the facilities and currently there are around 5000 visitors each year visiting the residential centre. Woodrow Swim School operates in our modern indoor heated swimming pool and we deliver around 900 individual swimming lessons each week. Our brand new 3rd generation football pitch is in use every night by local football teams and our conference facilities, camp site and day visitor provision used on a weekly basis.

Without doubt our most famous visitor is our very own ghost the Lady Helena Stanhope, (the Green Lady). She lived in the house during the English civil war and hid her betrothed who fled the battlefield in a semi underground chamber in the grounds, which still exists today.

Whilst taking provisions to him she was followed by enemy soldiers



looking for him. Later upon return to the chamber Lady Helena found that he was missing, searched the grounds and discovered his dead body. She was so upset that she returned to the house, went to her bedroom and opened a secret cabinet, drank poison and took her own life. It is reported that she now re-enacts those last moments again and again.

Whether you are “earthly” or not there is something for everyone; If you wish to know more about the work of the charity, wish to join in our fund raising activities or just find out more then visit our website www.woodrow-high.co.uk

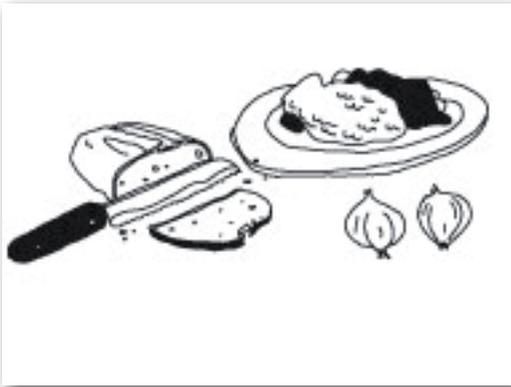




The Big Lunch

On 19th July over 2 million people took part in the Big Lunch and over 50 of them were in Parkfield Avenue in Amersham. The idea of the Big Lunch was developed by the Eden Project to help bring communities together:

“Our aim was for people to get out on their street, raise a glass and share a bite with their neighbours – that’s The Big Lunch.” – Eden Project Chief Executive Tim Smit



From the Celtic Gateway to the Humber Bridge, and from Aberdeen to Bodmin, thousands of neighbourhoods took part in this glorious celebration of community spirit in the biggest collection of open-air parties since the Golden Jubilee.

When the idea of the Big Lunch was first suggested all the residents of Parkfield Avenue were consulted and there was almost universal enthusiasm. Parkfield Avenue is a mix of generations with families with young children, teenagers and people who have been living on the Avenue for over 30 years. In the past there had been a history of street parties and the plan for a new one was most welcome. In the event we were unable to close the street and only 30% of the parties in Britain took place on closed streets. In Parkfield Avenue the lunch was held in the garden of Phyl and Dave Curry and we are all most grateful to them.



Almost everyone contacted welcomed the idea of the Lunch and most of those who were unable to attend had previous engagements. A meeting was held at the home of Lyn Josey to talk about the arrangements.

At that first meeting, people met together for the first time and spent an enjoyable summer evening finding out about each other. With Phyl and Dave's generous offer of their garden, the logistics were quite simple. Everyone brought a main dish big enough for themselves but suitable for sharing, together with some sausages for the barbecue. The even side of the street produced the desserts and the odd side (!) produced the salads and bread. We all provided the drinks. Enough cutlery, plates and glasses were soon found.

The day of the Big Lunch was one of those summer days of sunshine



and showers. In the morning, we got together to put up the variety of gazebos that had been provided. It was a case of putting up a gazebo and using it as shelter from the rain, until the sun came out and another gazebo went up. The barbecues arrived and at 1.00

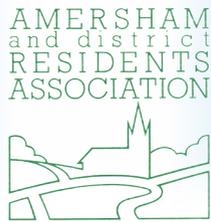
everyone turned up with their food and drink. The sudden showers helped everyone to get together, often under the drinks gazebo, to meet up and talk. We were all amazed at the quality of the food we had produced. The whole afternoon was spent in talking, eating and drinking, playing with the children and enjoying just being together.

The aim behind the idea of the Big Lunch of getting us to meet our neighbours was illustrated when two residents who met together on a



regular basis through their work suddenly realised they lived on the same street.

The afternoon was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time. More importantly, we now know who we all are and we are looking forward to another ***Big Lunch in 2010.***



ADRA Committee Members

Chairman
Bron Curley
Hyrons Lodge
129 Woodside Road
Amersham HP6 6AW
724988 broncurley@aol.com

Treasurer
Geoff Platts
12 Runrig Hill
Chesham Bois HP6 6DL
725063 gcplatts@talktalk.net

Secretary
Lyn Josey
13 Parkfield Avenue
Amersham HP6 6BE
725319 lynjosey@hotmail.co.uk

Planning Officer Vacant -
Portfolio currently covered by the committee

Environmental Officer
Ann Terry
79 Grimsdells Lane
Amersham HP6 6HH
724061



Highways Officer
Geoff Platts
12 Runrig Hill
Chesham Bois HP6 6DL
725063 gcplatts@talktalk.net

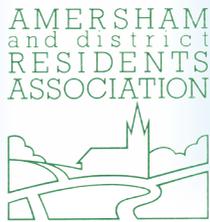
Membership Records
Michael Teychenne
Greenacres
27 Copperkins Lane
Amersham HP6 6QF
727278
(m) 07990 525592 teychennem@hotmail.com

Press Officer Vacant

Yvonne Konieczna
Highgrove
24 Clifton Road
Chesham Bois HP6 5PU
722229 y.konieczna@btinternet.com

Christine Summers
43 Woodside Close
Amersham HP6 5EF
433903 kathtineam@btopenworld.com

Pauline West
52 Copperkins Lane
Chesham Bois HP6 5QR
727166 paulinebwest@btinternet.com



Calendar of Events
September 2008 – September 2009

Date	Function Committee Member Attending
04/09/08	Amersham Action Group Meeting Christine & Alan
18/09/08	Community Association Meeting Bridget
22/09/08	Representatives of BBB met with Amersham Action Group re Raans Field Ann
07/10/08	Re-formed Neighbourhood Watch (topics included anti-social behaviour, speeding & parking) Ann
18/11/08	Neighbourhood Action Group Ann
04/12/08	Amersham Action Group Christine & Alan
10/12/08	Carol Concert Geoff & Pauline
10/12/08	Planning Appeal Local Hearing 30 Rickmansworth Road, Amer sham Bridget
12/12/08	Amersham-on-the-Hill Xmas Shopping Evening All
15/01/09	Amersham Action Group Christine & Alan
21/01/09	ADRA Social All
19/02/09	Planning Meeting Geoff
26/02/09	Amersham Action Group Christine & Alan
04/03/09	Planning Appeal Local Hearing re 42 Oakfield Close, Amer sham Bridget



- 09/04/09 Amersham Action Group Meeting
Christine
- 15/04/09 Neighbourhood Action Group
Ann
- 27/05/09 Neighbourhood Action Group
Ann
- 28/05/09 Amersham Action Group
Christine
- 11/07/09 Amersham Action Group stall at Carnival
Christine
- 11/07/09 Neighbourhood Action Group
Ann
- 06/08/09 Planning Meeting to include Woolworth site
Ann, Christine & Lyn
- 19/08/09 Neighbourhood Action Group
Ann

AMERSHAM
and district
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION



AMERSHAM
and district
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION



ADRA Social Evening

Please join us for a Social Evening

on

Wednesday 20th January 2010

between 7pm and 9pm.

Venue: Long Barn Hall, Amersham Community Centre.

Come and have a drink and meet some of your fellow members!