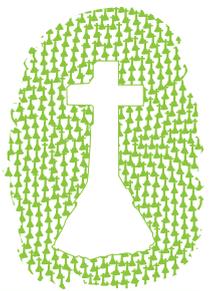




# CROSStalk



## STOP PRESS RESULTS OF RECENT ELECTION

Iain McLauchlan – 305 votes  
Billy Pettigrove – 150 votes  
Iain McLauchlan has been duly elected



RAF High Wycombe Freedom Parade, 28th May 2012 - Photo courtesy of Graham Lee Photography

*Each Town Councillor gets an opportunity to write an editorial item for Crosstalk, and in this edition it's my turn, so here we go.*

Firstly I would like to say thank you to all those who voted me into office in last year's local government elections. I have lived and worked in Princes Risborough all my life and I'm married with children (three of which are still at school). Currently I am assistant manager in the M&S Simply Food store.



Obviously, I have seen a lot of changes in Risborough over the years as the Town has grown. The Town Centre in particular has seen drastic change since my youth. Firstly, there was the new bypass (1984!) that took the increasing through traffic away from the High Street and through "Back Lane", now of course called New Road. Following national trends there have been changes to people's shopping habits, with many opting to do the bulk of their shopping in supermarkets rather than go from butcher to greengrocer to general store, etc, etc. As a result, like many other towns, Risborough's High Street suffered a general decline. However, in our Town I really am pleased to see a reversal of fortunes with once empty shops opening up

again. The mix of existing and new arrivals is excellent, from small independent outlets, such as haberdashery, butchers, clothing and cafes, to name a few, to national chains like WH Smiths, Costa Coffee, M&S and Tesco. All helping to return a vibrancy to the Town Centre, and with the re-vamped weekly market you can hardly move for shoppers in the High Street on Thursdays. I am also pleased with the latest change to the roads which has seen the one way system introduced through the Town Centre, with many people commenting to me that it was long overdue. The Town Council have worked very hard on town centre regeneration initiatives and I'm proud to be part of that team.

I am also very passionate about our parks (my two youngest children love our regular visits to enjoy the play equipment) and also the Stratton Memorial Garden, which of course the Town Council manage and maintain. As part of my duties I am (along with Cllr Alan Turner) a Town Council representative on the board of trustees for the Princes Centre which provides day care facilities. It's a challenging position, but thoroughly worthwhile. Overall, I am enjoying my work as a councillor and I promise to continue to do my very best for our wonderful community.

**Cllr Adrian Rolfe**

# CHAIRMANS REPORT



***With five years having passed since I last took the helm of Princes Risborough Town Council my colleagues have voted in their wisdom to return me as Mayor / Chairman of the Council. It is a great privilege and I promise to continue to stick up for the town, its people and their interests to the very best of my capability. I will give praise where it is due and I will certainly speak out where something is wrong or needs fixing.***

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, former Cllr Eunice Clifford. Eunice has put in a sterling effort over the past 12 years; she has been passionate about her town, never afraid to speak out when something isn't right and has been totally committed. She was among the most regular attendees at meetings and in essence worked very hard despite ill health. I genuinely wish Eunice a very happy retirement; she will be missed, but I hope she won't disappear from the local government scene completely. There was a by-election on the 13th September to fill this vacancy.

Bucks County Council are currently working on and costing a number of potential changes for the High Street. These include removal of the cycle lane, parking spaces in Duke Street, a decent bus shelter for passengers and the creation of a paved 'plaza' extending from the library towards the centre of the existing street. There will be further updates in future Crosstalks.

To enhance the status and particularly to promote tourist interest in Princes and Monks Risborough we are in discussions with BCC for replacement town entry signs. The council has agreed in principle to replace the existing scruffy old white/black signs with smart new green/white ones. It is proposed that these signs will inform visitors to Princes Risborough of its medieval heritage and links to the Black Prince, while Monks Risborough's will reaffirm its status as a village since 903AD. We think it's a great idea to promote ourselves as a place of interest to visit.

A number of roads are to be re-surfaced this August-October and not before time too. It has been made very clear to me in private conversations that BCC has made a deliberate choice to concentrate spending in certain areas at the expense of roads maintenance. Thankfully the newer regime at BCC has had the foresight to change things around somewhat, but it is

going to take years to get our neglected, underfunded roads anywhere near those in neighbouring counties. I regularly report pot-holes that I notice and these are usually repaired within 10 days. I urge all of you to either phone or email the locations of pot-holes as soon as you notice them, but you must be very specific; if you tell BCC that the pot-hole is 'Wellington Avenue near the school' that is not good enough, it may not be inspected and repaired. You must be specific and say 'outside number 212 Wellington Avenue' for example. Pot-holes are often left because they are not reported. If you report it and the inspector finds that it is deep enough to warrant repair then it will be fixed within days. To report a pot-hole please contact, Bucks County Council, Transport for Bucks, Tel: 0845 230 2882, email: Tfb@buckscc.gov.uk.

The council has now relocated its offices to the Princes Centre in Clifford Road as the rent for the previous offices became unaffordable. The council has a good deal and the day centre as such gets the benefit of the rent revenue from the council. All our meetings will now be held at the centre including the monthly full council meetings which take place usually on the last Tuesday of every month commencing at 7.00pm. The first part of every meeting is dedicated for the public to come along and ask questions or raise issues. Everyone is welcome and there is comfortable seating freely available for all.

Please continue to contact us with your thoughts, whether they are concerns, queries or whatever. We are very approachable, we can be emailed directly or via the website, and all the other contact details are printed on the back cover of this edition.

**Cllr Gary Hall**

*Mayor & Chairman*

*Princes Risborough Town Council*

## RISBOROUGH REWARDS

For those of you who have not heard of Risborough Rewards, it is part of the initiative to attract more customers to our local businesses within and around Princes Risborough.

So, if you have not already obtained your Risborough Rewards loyalty card please go either to the Princes Risborough Information Centre or any one of the participating retailers in town who will gladly provide you with an application form. Please do help us to help Risborough by joining the Risborough Rewards scheme.

**Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown**





## We have moved!

**After seven years at Tower Court, the Town Council has moved the office to the Princes Centre in Clifford Road.**

The Town Council had been fortunate enough to sublet the upstairs office at Tower Court for an annual rent of £5000 including bills for the past seven years. This year the Town Council was advised that the rent would increase to £19850.00 per annum (including bills), an expense which would have needed to be paid from reserves as an unforeseen expenditure. A decision was therefore made to find alternative office space.

The Town Council is part of the Social Enterprise formed to save the Day Care Centre from closure. The Town Council has been supporting the newly formed centre with administrative help and it was agreed by both the Town Council and the Princes Centre that having the Town Council office staff on site would be beneficial for the staff and the clients. Office space was identified in the newly formed Princes Centre, although some alterations would have to be made, combining two rooms, to make the office suitable for the Town Council. An annual rent equal to what the Town Council was paying was agreed at £5000.00 per annum which would ensure that no increase would need to be made in the precept next year. Quotations were sought for the cost of the work and the Town Council made the decision to issue a work order to complete the work. The total cost of the work including necessary electrical work required by Health & Safety was £4350.00.

To summarise, if we had stayed at Tower Court it would have cost the Town Council £19850 per annum, compared to £9350 (including moving costs) at the Princes Centre. However, 2013/2014 will see this cost return to £5000 for rental charges only.

I would like to personally thank Paul Williams and Richard Perry Electrical Services for working through the weekend to ensure that the Town Council was able to move into the new office on the date planned. I apologise to any resident who tried to contact the office during the move by e-mail as unfortunately BT did not provide the same high level of service and we were without internet access for over a week.

Please do visit us in our new office in Clifford Road, it has a car park and is much easier to access with no stairs to negotiate.

**Sue Griffiths**  
Town Clerk



## *Citizen's Awards for 2012*



It was a great honour, at this year's Annual Town Meeting, to present our Citizen's Awards for 2012 to residents Malcolm Maultby and the family of the late Rita Woodwards. Both have provided outstanding commitment to the community.

A bench has been dedicated in recognition of Rita; a Princes Risborough fundraiser whose friends say went the extra mile to help.

The Risborough Car Booters funded the bench, which has been placed in Wades Park.

Cllr Wally Woolf, who was a friend of Rita and also a car booter, said: "No matter who spoke to her, needing money for a particular good cause, she would turn around and say 'the next dance is for you' - she was such a generous person, who really went that extra mile."

## Town and Parks update

Firstly, you may notice that these 2 regular Crosstalk items have been rolled into one. The former Parks committee and Town and Lighting committee have been combined into one large committee, open to all councillors, responsible for the maintenance of all town and park issues that are the responsibility of PRTC. The main reason for this 'merger' stems from our highly successful in-house maintenance team being involved in so many areas of the Town Council's duties within the town and parks. By combining the committees it has been much easier to identify and schedule work required for the maintenance team and has proved more efficient in managing the budget for all this work.

The maintenance team have proved very effective in keeping the town in good order and the constantly improving flexibility and experience they have has proved invaluable to the Council by responding to any issues promptly and by being able to deal with areas of the town formerly neglected.

The Town Council has received many compliments this summer on the appearance of the town. The planting scheme of Red, White and Blue (to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and London 2012) has been popular and still looks good as autumn approaches. With the work of the maintenance team keeping some areas of the town's grass, parks and flower beds in good condition Princes Risborough attained a Highly Commended in this year's national Best Kept Village competition. With these continuing improvements (and also with your help on your 'frontages') let's hope we can do even better next year. It must be noted that much of the grass cutting in and around the town is the responsibility of BCC and although the TC would like to see these areas maintained to the same standard, this is not always the case. The TC is in constant dialogue with BCC on grass-cutting issues which hopefully will lead to a better service in future years.

Although much of the litter picking and other routine jobs may not be so obvious to some, there have been a number of recent initiatives and improvements that many will have noticed around the town: Duke Street Gardens has a new post and chain link fence around it; the parks have had a number of new benches, tables and litterbins installed, the town's flowerbeds have been raised with new soil to show off the displays better and formerly neglected verges in places on the Wycombe Road, Station Rd etc. have been more efficiently kept in order.

Also with the great support and help of The Heritage Society, the Town Council has been able to replace and update the information sign by the Stratton Road Car Park, which explains the history of the town and its links to the manor of The Black Prince. The old sign here has been hard to read and very tatty for a number of years and something that many have been keen to see improved for a long while. WDC, who were originally responsible for this, have been happy for the town to take responsibility for it, and the very recently installed new board looks great and details the history of this area with some interesting recent updates that have come to light. Many thanks must go to the Heritage Society for their contribution and support.



There has recently been an efficient composting area created at the Stratton Memorial Garden (SMG) for the garden's waste and grass-cuttings, so by next year we should be able to start using our own compost in the town's flower beds. The wildlife area of the SMG is also steadily evolving. With the help of The Countryside Group, this area of the memorial garden is being treated as a wildlife garden until a time when it will be needed for memorials. A path has been mown through this area and there soon will be an information board that



shows what flora and fauna you are likely to see. Creating a wildflower meadow is not an instant process and although many interesting species have already been identified this year, it will be fascinating to see what crops up next spring as the meadow starts to respond to its careful management. A consequence of wildflowers is of course the spreading of seeds, which has proved a small headache for the maintenance team in keeping the more formal part of the gardens in good shape. A job they have done admirably, but a special thanks must also go to Mr and Mrs Munday who are regularly seen volunteering their time in their gardens. It must be said, it is a rather lovely place, with great views, for gardening.

Trees are a great feature of our town, and the TC has undergone a programme to maintain and improve trees this year. The Cherry trees of Station Road were originally planted to celebrate the Queens Silver Jubilee, so after 35 years of natural development, it seems very appropriate that in 2012, they are about to undergo a major refurbishment, this late summer, to improve their shape, clear power lines and pavements and have all dead and damaged parts removed. The 14 Willow trees along the stream in Wades Park have also become very wild, straggly and overgrown over the last few years and these are also to be 're-pollarded' and completely tidied up this winter. The Diamond Jubilee saplings planted in the far corner of Wades Park have taken well. Some have been damaged and a few have not 'taken', but the TC plans to replace these and to continually work on additional planting here as this small wood/copse develops. It would be nice to eventually install a small footbridge across the stream in this far corner.

The hedges of the KGV playing fields have also been undergoing some major refurbishment this year. They have had an initial clip/trim, and during the Autumn (when nesting birds have flown) a more major reshaping programme is planned. This will improve the park's appearance enormously and also improve visibility in and out of the park and allow for simpler, regular maintenance by the maintenance team. The TC is also considering a 'smartening up' of this park's border to the Aylesbury Road by replacing some sections of the hedge and the entrances with smart railings.

A light has been installed by the very popular play area on KGV, upon the recommendation of the Police, as this has been used as a night time 'hangout'. A light should be welcome to those who want to enjoy the park at night, but hopefully a deterrent to those wishing to do something more unsavoury. Repairs to play equipment, as a result of vandalism, is a constant item on the maintenance team's schedule, with a recently vandalised bench on Wades Park costing £300 to replace!

Dog waste is also a constant issue for the TC and park users. We welcome reports of those who don't clear up after their dogs. However, it is also becoming quite apparent that many dog users do clear up after their dogs, but struggle to find dog waste bins when not in the parks. Dog waste bins around the town's borders are few and far between but the responsibility of WDC. We are currently trying to identify locations where additional bins would be welcome. Please let us know if there are areas that you think would benefit from new dog waste bins, so we can request some installations.

The Town Council does of course have a 'duty of care' for many aspects of the town's running. These include maintaining all our streetlights. Our contractors are regularly repairing lights and many thanks go to those who report any issues. As the evenings are drawing in, problems with streetlights become more apparent. Please let us know of any issues you may have and remember we do need the light number (painted on each lamppost) and a fairly accurate location, so that we can ensure these are dealt with as promptly as possible.

Our other 'duties of care' include the some of the listed buildings within the town: namely the Dovecote, in St. Dunstons park, and the Market House. Both of these buildings are in need of some expensive work. The Dovecote is currently undergoing some essential work, including installing new 'tileguards' to prevent damage from falling tiles, and work to repair any damaged stone work is planned. This lovely building is, by the nature of its simple construction, of constant concern to the TC and a building for which we hope funds can be raised to help maintain and secure it properly. Likewise, the Market House is in need of some major work, but the costs involved here will be very great. The building is now secure though, whilst engineers and surveyors are being sought to investigate and cost the work needed. This is never an easy process for the Town Council as one of our duties is to ensure best value at all times and acquiring comparable quotes for this work has proved tricky as suggested levels of involvement vary greatly between contractors. Whatever the outcome, it is certain that as many grants available and fundraising initiatives will be needed. There seems to be a growing desire in the town to see this building restored which will also be much needed to ensure this major project for the town is fully realised.



As ever we welcome your views, so please contact us with any queries, concerns or issues that affect you.

**CLlr Will Streule**

*Vice-chairman, Town Committee*

## Planning Matters

Many friends and neighbours have been asking me what is stopping the approved Pictsmede development from starting. The sign on Picts Lane states that these residential properties will be available 'from late 2012'. Work has not begun and this target now seems impossible.

It seems that the delay is due to a single late objection to this residential development despite it already having been approved by WDC, fully supported by PRTC and generally extremely popular amongst the residents of Risborough. This 'brownfield' area around the station now looks extremely scruffy and is frankly, an embarrassing image of Princes Risborough, especially by those travelling to or through by train.

I would like to urge all of you who are keen to see this development realised to contact WDC with your support. Delays such as these must be extremely frustrating for the developer and it would be a great shame if this was not to go ahead and something less appropriate took its place.

The Planning Committee have been busy with fairly straightforward applications for extensions and conservatories (and the usual requests for tree works) over the last few months. Some of these may no longer fill our postbag once details of the government's new planning proposals are finalised. Unless there are specific planning issues, or the committee feels that the proposals are in the public interest, we generally offer 'no comment' to these.

A recent application for the demolition of the Post Office sorting office on Park Street and replacing it with a block of flats was one that did concern the Planning Committee and for which we recommended refusal. It was subsequently refused by WDC.

Although the closure of the sorting office is now certain and the building has been sold to developers, the Town

Council feels that this building (or at least the site) is very important to the town, being in such a prominent position. The future use of this site needs much greater consideration before demolition should be considered and although residential space is needed and likely, this site is currently commercial and a mix would, perhaps, be more suitable especially considering that this part of the Town Centre will become more important as the town grows. We would be interested to hear of your thoughts on the future of this building/site whilst we await further proposals.

Another iconic building in the Town has also been the subject of much debate (and gossip) of late. The Old British School on the corner of Station Road is currently being converted into apartments. The building is not listed despite its history and having played an important part of many residents' lives, past and present. It has also been the victim of a lot of unsympathetic alterations over the years and recently has begun to look very dishevelled and run down. Its position has always been an obstacle to previous development plans; however the current conversion intends to retain much of the original features of the building bringing it back to its original shape whilst making it useable as residential property. It seems the current works are arguably the most sympathetic and appropriate plans for this building and it will be good to see it in use and cared for again.

We are always keen to hear your views on proposals that may affect you. All applications that fall within the parish are on the Town Council website and it is worth checking regularly as notice of applications are not always obvious and easy to miss.

**Cllr Will Streule**  
*Chairman Planning Committee*



## Risborough Youth Club

Summer  
holidays  
over

New Youth  
Leader in place

New  
School Term  
started

Risborough Youth Club has a new leader and is open again on Monday nights, now that the new school term has started.

Since becoming independent of Bucks County Council, Risborough Youth Club has continued to grow and now has a regular and growing band of young people from all over the town and surrounding area from a variety of schools and of a variety of ages.

The Club is open for all 13 – 18 year olds and is a regular Monday night event. There is a wide range of activities and programmes on offer and there are plans for a regular Wednesday night to start soon.

The club now has a dedicated, but small, group of volunteers to help out, but we are always keen to welcome more.

**For more information on the club and it's activities, please contact the club secretary, Sarah at [prycsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:prycsecretary@gmail.com) or on 01844 274595.**



# MOLINS SPORTS GROUND UPDATE



During the last five years the Town Council, the old sports club trustees and Wycombe District Council (WDC) have been jointly working to find a way of gaining ownership of Molins sports ground just off Mill Lane. Led by the Town Council our initial efforts to purchase the site were rebuffed out of hand by Molins plc, the asking price being in excess of two million pounds. In conjunction with WDC we then considered the possibility of a compulsory purchase order, but after endless meetings and a huge amount of time and effort given to drafting and re-drafting a business plan (many thanks go to Mike Payne of the trustees who devoted so much effort towards this) based on expert advice from a specialist in compulsory purchase issues, WDC advised us that they were not prepared to move this forward unless the Town Council signed a binding agreement to pay all costs (open ended) possibly in excess of one million pounds. Obviously this would not have been legally nor financially feasible. So we then concentrated our efforts on once again trying to persuade Molins plc to sell the site to us. Meetings were held with Molins representatives and at times hopes were raised, only to be dashed. Although the gap between their original asking price and what we could reasonably pay was narrowed, we were still short of a deal. In a last ditch effort to reach agreement, and with potential further financial input from a sports body, a final offer was put to Molins plc for the purchase of the site. That was some three months ago, and after several chase-up requests, the offer has been formally declined. Unfortunately, after dedicating so much time and effort and trying every possible angle you can imagine, we have to concede that at this moment in time Molins plc are simply not going to sell the site to us as a sports ground. Whilst it is situated in "greenbelt" and "AONB" one can only assume that they are willing to sit on this asset until such time as they hope planning policy changes to allow housing development on the site, even though this is unlikely to happen in my lifetime. It is a sad day, but who knows what the future may bring. We tried our best. The job must now be to concentrate our efforts in finding an alternative site to create a new, much needed multi-use sports ground. Finally, I would like to thank all those individuals who kept faith over the last 5 years, for the time and effort they gave, in particular the members of the working group, the trustees and the Town Councillors.

**Cllr Alan Turner**

## *Theatre in the Villages* to be held at St Mary's Church

Following on the success of the last performance by Theatre in the Villages we are proud to announce that we are to have another performance later this year.

We are aiming to attract a family audience and so we have invited a pair of Victorian Time Travelling Magicians to perform in the late autumn.

**So please make a note in your diaries for:**

### **Morgan and West – Time Travelling Magicians**

A family friendly magic show featuring two Victorian-styled magicians travelling 100 years into the future presenting baffling magic, laughs and a whopping 20 audience volunteers.

Full of magic, wit and whimsy.



**The date for this extravaganza is Saturday 24th November 2012  
starting at 7.30 pm at St. Mary's Church Princes Risborough.**

Tickets and further information are available from the Ticket Office on 01844 344791 or from the Princes Risborough Town Council Office at The Princes Centre, Clifford Road.

Bar and refreshments available before and during the performance.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £8 for concessions. Book early to avoid disappointment!

**For more details about their show you can go to: [www.morganandwest.co.uk](http://www.morganandwest.co.uk) where you can see a small sample of their show.**

# MEMORIAL FOR AIR CREWS

**With the support of Princes Risborough Town Council, it has been proposed that a Memorial could be sited in the Town next year to commemorate those airmen who lost their lives in the three accidents.**

---

On 30th January 1943 Avro Anson Mk1 serial No. L7964 was on a Night Navigation Training exercise. At 02.50am the Anson crashed at Longdown Farm Nr Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. 4 crew members died; Sgt E.A. Merry, Pilot, Sgt J. R. Craven Pilot, Sgt K.R. Blakey Pilot and Sgt A.C.Poulton Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner. The accident was witnessed by an Instructor in a second aircraft.

---

On 17th December 1943 Spitfire Mk.VB AD315 crashed at 3.15pm at Green Hailey Nr Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. The pilot was Flight Sergeant Peter Yorke-Morris. Peter Yorke-Morris died at the crash site and is interred at Brookwood Military Cemetery. The weather was poor with patchy fog and the aircraft, flying at tree top height, clipped the trees and crashed into the beech wood. F.S. Yorke-Morris was on the strength of RAF Ford, Sussex, 287 Squadron and the Fighter Interception Unit.

---

On 21st October 1944 Douglas D-47A Dakota took off from Grove Airfield, Oxfordshire to fly to Stansted, Essex. Approximately 15 minutes from Grove, at 10.30am the aircraft crashed at the top of Kop Hill, Nr Princes Risborough, killing all five crew members. The five members that died were:

Pilot	1st Lieutenant Edwin E. Walker
Co-Pilot	Flight Officer Sam P. Rubinowitz
Radio Operator	Technical Sgt William P. Lulf
Engineer	Sgt Cecil A. Edmonds
Engineer	Private 1st Class Merl C. Stutesman

I have spoken to several eyewitnesses who remembered the day of the accident and the plane flying over Princes Risborough trailing smoke. The Pilot managed to keep control over the built-up area then lost control and crashed at Kop Hill, which is 811 feet above sea level.

On impact the plane caught fire and the local National Fire Service attended the accident. I was seven at the time and with a friend, Dennis Eggleton, went to the crash site, but we were kept away by the RAF Police. The National Fire Service station was at Princes Risborough and the HQ was at Iver, Buckinghamshire. I have been trying to access records of NFS for that period without success. If any readers could help in tracing these records, it would be very helpful.



Further details on this memorial will be announced in due course.

**Cllr Dennis Green**

## The Princes Centre update

Since the last edition of Crosstalk the Social Enterprise has now taken over the running of what was previously the combined Day Care Centre/Red Cross unit in Clifford Road, now renamed The Princes Centre. As you know, the whole centre was to be closed by Bucks County Council as a cost cutting measure, so it is with great pride (and relief) that we have been able to keep this wonderful facility open. The Princes Centre's qualified staff care for users with physical disabilities, mental health issues, learning disabilities and the elderly. This invaluable facility not only provides a wide range of activities (both on and off site), but also enables an element of respite for the user's carers. The Social Enterprise is comprised of representatives from four community groups who are committed to the long term future of the Centre. These are; Princes Risborough Town Council, Risborough Cares Charity, Risborough Area Partnership and Churches Together in Risborough. The Community as a whole fought very hard to save this facility and I would like to give my personal thanks to everyone who gave their support.



Now that we have achieved this milestone comes the even harder part. We have two years in which to raise £200,000 for the purchase of the building from the County Council plus a further (approximately) £100,000 for a rolling programme of essential repairs and improvements, in total some £300,000. It's a lot of money, but it's not an impossible amount and I'm sure that with continuing support from the wider community we can do it. If you would like to get involved in fundraising activities or make a direct financial contribution, however big or small, please contact us.

**Cllr Alan Turner**



## Royal Mail Delivery Office

Unfortunately the fight to save the Royal Mail delivery service in Princes Risborough was lost and it has now been transferred to a depot near Wendover. The service will be sadly missed. Over the years our local postmen/women have provided us with an extremely efficient service, to the benefit of households and business alike. I doubt if we shall ever see such a level of service again. However, unlike many other communities across the Country faced with similar closures, this community did stand up and try to save our service. The Town Council was proud to support our local "posties" and organise the protest at Royal Mail Headquarters in London and subsequent visit to the Houses of Parliament where we met our MP and speaker of the House John Bercow, and which gained so much publicity (and pressure) for our campaign. Indeed, at a later meeting at Westminster between John Bercow, myself and the Royal Mail "No2" I really felt that we had proved our case and the decision would go in our favour. Alas, Moira Green the Royal Mail CEO clearly was determined to close our service regardless.

So, on behalf of the Town Council (and, I am sure, of the broader community as well) may I take this opportunity to thank all



our local postmen and women for the many years of dedicated service they have given to this Town and the surrounding hinterland. I would also like to thank all those who gave such wonderful support to the campaign, and in particular those who were able to join us on the protest in London. To do nothing would have guaranteed failure; at least by putting up a fight we had a chance. It's time to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves down and start preparing for the next challenge.

**Cllr Alan Turner**

# Rotary's Chess Competition for Youngsters

Ten primary and junior schools from Aylesbury to High Wycombe, more than ever before, fielded 26 players in this year's Rotary Club of Princes Risborough's chess competition held at St Teresa's Primary School in Princes Risborough on Saturday, 16 June.

The winner was Sean Cohen from Hamilton Road School, High Wycombe whilst Hal Burtenshaw, a local pupil at St Teresa's, was runner up. Walter Adams, president, presented certificates to all the entrants and prizes to the winners.

The annual chess competition is organised jointly by Rotary Club of Princes Risborough and the Bucks Chess Federation. Commenting on the standard of this year's competition, Tom Winkworth, RCPR's incoming President, said "To have boys and girls aged 7 to 12 competing at this standard is something to behold. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment is truly wonderful. A big thank you goes to all the youngsters who took part as well as to St Teresa's School and the Bucks Chess Federation."



## HALLOWEEN FIREWORKS NIGHT

Olympic Firework Company Kimbolton will be part of the Rotary Club of Princes Risborough! Halloween Fireworks Night on Saturday 27th October starting at 5.30 pm.

After their fantastic displays at the Olympics and Paralympics they will give us an equally exciting and impressive display to close the evening.

There will also be a bonfire-Traditional Fair- Pig Roast and licensed Bar. There will be the usual Halloween fancy dress parade with a small gift for all participants. Some of the costumes in previous years have been excellent with evidence of a lot of hard work and thought going into each creation.

The event will start at 5.30 pm in the Princes Risborough Upper School playing field.

Parking is available with access being up Clifford Road.

Pedestrian access will be at the top of New Road Hill.

Tickets will be on sale at the Information Centre Bell Street, Special Days in the High Street, Iain Rennie Shop Market Square and the Longwick Post Office.

For further details please contact Peter Cline  
01844 344621/07950 312682 email.pjcline@gmail.com  
or Chris Brooks 07831 873249 after 25th September

# Princes Risborough Primary School

*is a "Good" School!*

Staff, pupils and parents of Princes Risborough Primary School are celebrating their excellent Ofsted report. Inspectors have just named Princes Risborough Primary School as a "Good" School. The official report, which was published earlier this year, is full of superlatives and gives particular mention to Headteacher Paul New, whose leadership is described as 'inspirational'.



With a current roll of 258 children, the school is expanding and evolving rapidly. Results are acknowledged in the inspectors' report, which describes attainment in both English and Maths as 'above average' by the time children move on to secondary education. Teaching is described as 'good with some outstanding practice' and behaviour is also 'good'.

In addition, 'parents and carers appreciate [the school's] caring and inclusive ethos'. Congratulatory messages from parents have reinforced the inspectors' findings, with comments such as: "Since our son started in Reception last year, we have known that this is a great school and are very pleased that Ofsted now agree!" and "It's a report which would make me want to send my children to the school – if they weren't already there!"

## RISBOROUGH AREA BUSINESS GROUP



The RABG was started some seven years ago but due to the illness of the last Chairman it unfortunately became moribund. We decided to resurrect the Group late last year and a small committee was formed of which I am part, who worked hard to update the list of local businesses within and around Princes Risborough to include email addresses. We have been very surprised to learn that there are now over 500 businesses locally.

### **The RABG seeks to:**

- provide a united voice for all local businesses
- create business opportunities between members
- create a better business environment within the Risborough area
- help the wider community to focus on local business issues
- create employment for the local unemployed
- promote the revised Risborough Rewards loyalty card scheme for the benefit of members and the wider public.

Membership of the RABG is free for local businesses and any future subscriptions will be determined by Members at a later date. Any funds raised will be used for the promotion of RABG and good causes locally. If you are a local business and you have not heard of RABG then we don't know of you! We want to ensure that we have knowledge of ALL local businesses so please get in contact through [rabg@talktalk.net](mailto:rabg@talktalk.net) or phone 01844 275327. Our website, <http://www.rabg.org.uk>, is currently being updated. Bi monthly meetings are planned to be held in the George & Dragon, lasting no more than 1½ hours, where we will have talks on local issues followed by networking time.

So don't delay, join today.

**Bill Bendyshe-Brown**

## Information Fayre

Join us at a **FREE** Information Fayre in the Oasis Centre (old Royal British Legion Club) Princes Risborough on Thursday 11th October between 10.00 – 1.00. You can come and speak directly with people who provide a huge range of FREE services to the general public and businesses locally. Health and care support is targeted at the over 55s. We will have up to 25 agencies from such diverse areas as:

- Bucks County Council Adult Social Care.
- Health organisations providing free health checks and a range of health advice.
- Energy agencies and companies providing advice on how you can save money by reducing your heating and lighting bills.
- Organisation providing recycling facilities for local businesses and the general public.

No need to book. Go to whichever stands you are interested in. Stay as long as you like.

**For information ring**

**Sheila Bees 01494 421714, Deborah Taylor 01494 552244 or Bill Bendyshe-Brown 01844 275327**

**Free refreshments**



## Date for your diary!

**Annual Town Meeting**

**Wednesday 24th April 2013**

**7pm at the Princes Centre, Clifford Road**

**all welcome to attend!**

## Princes Risborough Town Council

The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0DP

**T:** 01844 275912 **E:** [towncouncil@princesrisborough.com](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisborough.com)

**Please visit our website:** [www.princesrisborough.com](http://www.princesrisborough.com)

Mayor & Chairman of the Council:	CLlr. Gary Hall
Vice Chairman:	CLlr Alan Turner
Chairman of Finance Cttee:	CLlr Alan Turner
Chairman of Admin & HR:	CLlr. Gary Hall
Chairman of Maintenance Cttee:	CLlr John Coombs
Chairman of Planning Cttee:	CLlr. Will Streule
Chairman of Public Relations Cttee:	CLlr. John Coombs

### Councillors

CLlr. Bill Bendyshe-Brown	CLlr. Dennis Green	CLlr. Reg Orsler
CLlr. Adrian Rolfe	CLlr. Iain McLauchlan	CLlr. Pam Summerbell
CLlr. Spencer Swanson	CLlr. Wally Woolf	CLlr. Pamela Williams

Clerk to the Council:	Mrs. Sue Griffiths
Deputy Clerk:	Mrs. Kirsty Pope
Clerical Assistant:	Mrs. Caroline Page

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm

The full Town Council meets at 7.00pm on the last Tuesday of each month at The Princes Centre, Clifford Road. There is a 10-minute slot at the beginning of each meeting when the public can express a view or concern relating to town matters. Please check the website to confirm time and venue. The next meetings are:

**Tuesday 30th October**

**Tuesday 27th November**

The Town Council aims to be as accessible as possible, and welcomes the views, comments and concerns of the Princes Risborough electorate. Although the views of the whole Council are given wherever possible, for constitutional and legal reasons we must state that the views expressed here in Crosstalk, and in any personal correspondence received from individual Councillors, are those of the author concerned and do not necessarily express the opinions or policy of PRTC unless explicitly stated.