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Good quality breakfast ingredients are from local suppliers where possible.
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SITUATED in the heart of North Norfolk since before the Norman Conquest, you will find the country market town of Aylsham. Main routes from Norwich to the coast and King’s Lynn skim its edge, and a network of lanes will lead you to the villages in the wider area. With the famous Norfolk Broads, the North Norfolk Coast and the magnificent cathedral city of Norwich only ten miles away in each direction, and the gently rolling Norfolk countryside on its doorstep, Aylsham is a central and excellent base for holiday makers, as well as being in constant demand by those looking for somewhere to live.

The famous National Trust properties of Blickling Hall and Felbrigg Hall are nearby – Blickling is in fact only about a mile out of the town – and Oxburgh Hall is further to the west of the county. Holkham and Sandringham are also within easy reach. These are just some of the wonderful country houses near to Aylsham. For those whose preference is gardens, there are many, including Mannington, Hoveton Hall gardens at Wroxham, Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden at South Walsham, and Sheringham Park, designed by Humphry Repton. Pensthorpe, well known to BBC Springwatch, is also easily accessible from the town. If steam railways are your hobby, the Bure Valley narrow gauge railway starts its nine mile run to Wroxham from Aylsham, and the North Norfolk standard gauge railway runs along the coast from Sheringham to Holt.

On Mondays, Aylsham Market Place bustles with stalls, and the goods auctioned at the sale yard a few minutes walk away range from bric-a-brac to bicycles; there is a further general market each Friday. Every first and third Saturdays each month a Farmers Market sells local produce in the Market Place, (different producers each market) and at regular intervals on a variety of days there are specialist auctions of different types of antique goods in the sale rooms. Aylsham shops vary from small to medium sized supermarkets to family owned businesses. Parking everywhere is free.

Although the town’s population has more than doubled since the 1960’s – now over 6000 – the town remains a community, with many active societies and clubs that often come together at events in the town. The Aylsham Show that originally began in 1946 as a gymkhana on the Recreation Ground has long outgrown its former home to become one of the most successful one-day shows in the country, held at Blickling Park each August Bank Holiday Monday.

Aylsham became a Cittàslow town in November 2004, and is now part of an international network of towns that celebrate quality of life, towns that care about their heritage, local produce and skills, and their residents – and that includes our many visitors – whom we regard as “temporary residents”!

Finally, as a Town Council we have tried to produce a guide that is of help both to visitors and to present and future residents. Any suggestions that could help us improve it would be most welcome and should be addressed to the Town Clerk.
AEGEL, a Saxon thane, set up his homestead of Aegel's Ham near the Market Place in about 500 AD – the name was later to become Aylsham. He was not the first settler though, as a hoard of Bronze age metalwork was discovered in 1968 close to Aylsham High School on what was then a new housing estate. However it was in the following five hundred years that Aylsham grew so that by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 its population was around 1000, approaching a sixth of its present size.

By the fourteenth century the town was famous for its high quality linen, supplied to royal palaces, and when Edward III granted the manor of Aylsham in 1372 to his son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the town became the principal town of John's lands in Norfolk, with accompanying privileges for the townsfolk.

The linen industry declined in the sixteenth century to be replaced by the manufacture of worsteds but the industrial revolution of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the accompanying competition from the towns of the north put an end to local textile manufacture.

For centuries boats using the River Bure could get no further upriver than Coltishall. Then in 1779 a canal extended river navigation to Aylsham and the town linked to the sea at Yarmouth. However in 1912 enormous floods washed away the canal and because the coming of two railway stations to the town had by then removed much of the river trade, the canal was not dredged and repaired. The railway stations were lost during the 1960's. The Town Council owns one of the two station sites, together with the Staithe close by, where the boats used to unload when they came upriver from Yarmouth.

The first official census in 1801 shows a population of 1667, not quite double the population at the time of the Domesday Book. By 1841 the population had grown to 2448, and it remained more or less the same for over a century, growing again only with the steady addition of housing estates from the 1960's onwards. The population now is over 6000.

**Around the Town**

Most travellers going through the town would originally have entered from the north by Red Lion St and exited to Norwich by Hungate Street, crossing the Market Place on the way. The main building materials were bricks, tiles and timber and some buildings are timber framed, with brick frontages added later. The steep pitch of the roofs shows that they were probably originally thatched with reed, and only later replaced with pantiles. Several have the characteristic Dutch gables reflecting the early close links between East Anglia and what is now Holland. Renovation work to 18 Red Lion Street a
few years ago revealed many Tudor characteristics. Apart from this, the footprints of the properties in Red Lion Street are much the same today as in medieval times.

The Market Place
The Market Place is owned by the National Trust as part of the Blickling Hall estate. It has been the focal point over the centuries for many celebrations – in 1897 1700 people dined in the open air at long tables on the Market Place to celebrate Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee, and in 1902, 1800 to celebrate Edward VII’s coronation – and in later years the Silver and Golden Jubilees of HM The Queen, as well as town carnivals and other events. The Town Hall, to the side of the Market Place, was built by a private company in 1857 as a corn exchange, extended in 1872 and sold to the then Parish Council in 1908 for £1400.

The Black Boys pub on the corner was probably built in the 17th century; its present frontage dates to between 1710 and 1720; the coach entry from the market place to the stable yard at the back was blocked up in the 1930’s to be replaced by what is now the bar.

The John Soame Memorial Pump
Until 1938 there was no public water supply in Aylsham. Townsfolk drew their water from private wells. In 1911 after John Soame’s death a public well was given to the town by his uncle, a wealthy financier.
The artesian well is 170ft deep with a cover thatched in Norfolk reed and stands at Carr’s Corner between Penfold Street and the Cawston Road. The Soame name lives on as one of the road names in the town – Soame Close.

**The Buttsland**

Now 170 yards long the Butts originally stretched 220 yds from Cawston Road to Mill Road and was where the men of the town practised the longbow as required by law. It is currently owned by the National Trust as part of the Blickling estate and is mainly used as a car park.

**The Bridewell**

The buildings on the corner of Red Lion St and Burgh Rd were once the local prison. It was closed in 1825 when Norwich castle became the principal gaol. Some of the cells remain to the rear. The triangular-shaped building known as 1 Burgh Road was recently restored and was the office for the Aylsham Community Partnership, but has now reverted to residential use. The building’s slightly peculiar shape was due to being literally chopped in half to make Burgh Road wider – obviously well before the days of planning legislation!

**The Parish Church**

The distinctive small spire on top of the 90ft. tower of St. Michael & All Angels Church can be seen for many miles around Aylsham.

Building the Church began in the late 13th century with the construction of the nave, aisles and chancel; followed by the tower and ground floor of the south porch in the early 14th century. The north transept was built under the patronage of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, about 1380, Aylsham at that time being the principal town of the Duke’s duchy in Norfolk. In 1488 the upper floor of the south porch was added by Richard Howard, Sheriff of Norwich, who was a native of Aylsham.

Only the lower part of the rood screen remains, with painted figures on 16 panels, some of which have been disfigured by Puritan reformers. The cost of painting the panels was borne by Thomas Wymer and John Jannys, whose portraits may be seen on the first and third panels.

The grave of Humphry Repton, the celebrated landscape gardener, can be found in the churchyard in a small walled garden near the south chancel door, the spot having been chosen by him. It was restored by the Aylsham Association in 1969, and the garden planted in accordance with the sentiment expressed by the epitaph which Repton composed. The garden is now maintained by local resident volunteers.

**Further information**

“Aylsham Remembered” – and “Sapwell’s History of Aylsham” – now out of print, but reference copies are available in the Library.

Several books on Aylsham’s History available from the Local History Society – contact details are in the Directory of Organisations elsewhere in the guide.

Other Aylsham leaflets are available from the Tourist Information Centre at the Bure Valley Railway, and from the Town Council office.
SHOP in Aylsham – where the traditions of the past are combined with current expectations.

Aylsham has three supermarkets. So have many towns. Aylsham has multiples – a few. And it has banks, building societies, and estate agents, a post office, newsagents. Nothing apparently different there from many other towns. But what it also has are many, many individually owned and family owned shops. And how many towns now have those?

In Aylsham you will find three family – truly family – butchers, one the Eastern Daily Press Food Awards Butcher of the Year in 2008, and a finalist in the Rural Retailer of the Year competition. You will find the twice winners of Norfolk Independent Greengrocer of the Year – much of the food they sell they grow. Here there is an Ironmonger who will find you exactly the number of nails you need rather than the pre-packed assortment that you don’t. And an electrical retailer who actually knows about the goods he sells, will deliver, install and check the appliances, and take away the packaging that you don’t want. Personally owned clothes shops, personally owned florists, personally owned petshops, a bicycle shop, computers, carpet shops, gifts, a cobbler, hairdressers, … antiques, books, artists’ materials … and a design studio.

And what the staff of all Aylsham shops have in common, whether they work in a supermarket, a multiple, or a shop that is family-owned, is a desire to help you, the customer; for you will find that not only do they know their stock, but what they don’t know they will take the trouble to find out.

So come along to Aylsham and try the shops, where you will find people that are willing to spend time on you.

And don’t forget there are general markets every Monday and Friday, the Aylsham Country Market selling home-made and home-grown produce/crafts every Friday in the Town Hall, (formerly the W.I. Market), two fully FARMA accredited Farmers’ Markets (winner of the Best Farmers’ Market category in the 2008 Eastern Daily Press Food Awards) every 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month, craft markets, and specialist and general auctions at Keys saleground every Monday plus other days.

FARMERS Market

FARMERS’ Markets, both in our area and across the country, are the real success story of the past few years. Recent media articles have questioned the “authenticity” of the produce sold at Farmers’ Markets. Aylsham Town Council has worked hard to make sure that at our markets this is not the case.

Aylsham’s Farmers’ Markets, run by the Town Council under the management of the Cittaslow Co-ordinator, are both fully FARMA accredited Markets. FARMA – the Farm and Retail Markets
Association – ensures that the markets operate under very strict guidelines and rules, and visits the market to carry out a rigorous assessment process. Only when you have satisfied their inspector that you are conforming to their and your own rules will they give certification.

For the consumer, this ensures that all produce sold on the market is genuinely produced within a given radius of the market – for Aylsham it is 40 miles with preference given to producers within 30 miles – and also is produced by the person selling it. Aylsham Farmers’ Market won the EDP Food Awards Best Farmers Market 2008, this is testament to the rigorous maintenance of both our own and FARMA’s rules.

The Cittàslow Co-ordinator also works closely with the Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams, whose officers regularly visit the markets and attend Producers Meetings to offer help and advice.

Aylsham's Farmers' Markets are held in the Market Place, on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month, between 9am and 1pm. Further information on the Farmers' Markets and details of producers, is available from the Town Council office during normal opening hours of 9.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday, by email to events@aylsham-tc.gov.uk or on the Town Council’s website – www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk. Or speak to the Cittàslow Co-ordinator in person at the market; he is in attendance throughout the morning.

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Proprietors: Denise Denis, BSc, C.Q.S.W., R.M.A.
Carl Denis BSc, BCom, A.C.A.

Deputy Manager: Lynda Howes R.M.A.
Current Responsibilities
Town and Parish Councils have statutory powers to provide a variety of services, but a statutory duty to provide only certain of them.

Currently Aylsham Town Council:
- maintains the street lighting, including the replacement and the installation of additional standards (except in Red Lion St, Norwich Rd, Sir Williams Close and Henry Page Road, which are the responsibility of the County Council)
- maintains three properties belonging to the town (The Town Hall and 23 Market Place, both listed buildings, and the Cemetery Cottage, originally the home of the cemetery keeper)
- cares for certain open spaces (The Staithe and Old Station Yard in Millgate, the Lychgate Garden, and various play areas and amenity land on local housing developments)
- maintains the Cemetery and the Churchyard
- provides and manages the allotments
- manages the Market Place and its markets, including the two fully FARMA (Farm and Retail Markets Association) accredited Farmers’ Markets
- monitors street cleaning and the Burgh Road and Buttsland car parks on behalf of Broadland District Council
- carries out highway verge cutting on behalf of Norfolk County Council
- provides and manages the public toilets and provides, inter alia, litter bins, dog waste bins, bus shelters, and the Christmas lights and decorations.

The Town Council is also consulted by Broadland District Council (the local planning authority) on all planning applications referring to Aylsham. These are discussed at the monthly Town Council meetings (Aylsham has no planning committee) and are available for study beforehand in the Council office (open 09:30 to 12:30 Mon–Fri), and in the Library (see Directory of Organisations for specific opening times) or online via Broadland District Council’s website (www.broadland.gov.uk and follow the links through to planning). The plans for discussion at the coming meeting are listed on its agenda (posted the week before on the council notice board on the wall of the Town Hall and on the Council’s website at www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk). The Town Clerk can also supply details of when a particular application is likely to be considered. Opinions on a plan can be expressed both in writing and during the public adjournment during the council meeting at which it is to be discussed.

The Town Council is Custodian Trustee of the Recreation Ground, a living War Memorial given to the town by the Goulder family, in memory of their sons killed in the First World War. A significant portion of the precept is allocated each year towards the maintenance costs of the Recreation Ground, which, as a registered charity, has its own Management Committee, including three Town Council representatives.

Aylsham attained Cittàslow status in November 2004, and in line with the rules of this international
organisation, the Town Council appointed a Cittàslow Committee, which meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except August and December). The Cittàslow Committee is made up of Councillors from all three tiers of local government plus individuals and representatives of a wide range of community organisations. The main Committee has a Community Events Sub-Committee which organises a variety of activities and events throughout the year to suit all ages, including the summer carnival and the Christmas lights switch-on evening. The main Cittàslow Committee has responsibility for the Farmers’ Markets and the regular craft markets.

The Town Council receives the income from recycling glass and paper, which it earmarks as a grants fund to local charities and organisations that benefit the town. Applicant organisations are asked to write to the Town Clerk with details of the project and the organisation itself. Larger organisations are asked to include a copy of their last audited accounts. Currently, the Town Council prefers not to subsidise annual running costs. Full information and guidelines are available from the Town Council office and on the Council’s website at www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk. The two Town Trusts generally benefit from annual grants – but have to apply and therefore compete with other organisations. The Aylsham Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Trust awards grants to local young people for educational visits and trips, and at the other end of the age range, the Cressey Henry Page Charitable Trust provides assistance to groups and individuals in need.

The Town Council also looks after the interests of Aylsham in other less tangible ways:

- by attending a variety of local government and other meetings on topics relevant to the town
- by returning an opinion on numerous government, county and district consultation documents,
- by sitting on the committees of various town bodies (e.g. The Old Peoples’ Welfare Association, Aylsham Twinning, the Aylsham Area Forum, North Walsham Citizens’ Advice Bureau, to name but some)
- by liaising with the police, county and district council officers on a variety of issues, and last, but not least, by pursuing queries, complaints, and suggestions from the public as to possible new or changed services. The council is always pleased to receive constructive suggestions.

Council Meetings take place every 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm. The Council Chamber is accessed from the green door opposite the Daisy Chain florists in the Loke and is on the first floor. Anyone who wishes to attend a meeting but has difficulty climbing stairs is asked to telephone the Town Clerk on 01263 733354, so that the meeting can be moved to the Green Room on the ground floor.

Committee Meetings take place according to the timetable set by the Council – generally the Cittàslow Community Events Sub-Committee meets on the 1st Thursday each month, with the main Aylsham Cittàslow Committee on the 3rd Thursday each month.

Agendas for all Council and Committee meetings are published on the Friday of the week before and can be seen on the notice board close to the double doors which are now used to enter the Town Hall. They are also available, along with the draft minutes, on the Council’s website.
website at www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk  All meetings are open to the public and adjourn so that members of the public can address the Council.

Working parties are formed from time to time to look at issues or projects in more detail. These are advisory groups without any delegated powers, and report to the Town Council; consequently, they are not legally obliged to meet in public. Current working parties are: Town Hall (looking at the next stage of the essential maintenance work and ways to “market” the building following the recent refurbishment works), Staff, and Effectiveness of Internal Audit (to comply with Audit Regulations).

In addition, as required by law, the Annual Town Meeting is held each spring, in the main body of the Town Hall. This is a meeting of electors, and provides an extended opportunity for the public to question the council on the past year, hear about the plans for the future, and to listen to and question other speakers on issues affecting the town. As the meeting was so poorly attended this year, the Town Council will be re-examining the format (apart from the statutory requirements) later in the year.

Other public meetings are also held from time to time, also meetings with the Farmers’ Market Producers and the Market Traders.

**Obtaining Information & Contacting Council Officers**
The Council Office is on the first floor of the Town Hall, and is open from 09:30 to 12:30 Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays). Access is via the single door to the left of the double doors now used to as the everyday entrance to the Town Hall. (The original main entrance facing into the Market Place was re-opened during the 2010 refurbishment works, but is intended for use on special occasions only, as there is no level access). Visitors who do not wish to climb the stairs should use the intercom telephone in the lobby; a member of staff will either deal with the enquiry over the telephone or come down to the ground floor to talk in person. The Council notice board is to the far right of the double doors. Council information is also published in the community

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newspapers delivered to every Aylsham household, in the Church Magazine and on the Council's website at www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk Agenda and Minutes of Council meetings are available from the Council Office, in the Library on a read-only basis, or may be downloaded (Minutes usually in draft form) from the Council's website, address above.

The Town Clerk is Maureen (Mo) Anderson-Dungar, assisted by Hilary McCann (Admin.), Annette Palmer, (Finance and Assistant Town Clerk), and Paul “Smudge” Smith, MBE, Cittàslow Co-ordinator. Due to administrative commitments and the variety of meetings the Clerk attends, she is available only by prior appointment. The Town Council also employs Roger Mann (Town Hall Caretaker), Martin Davies (Market Superintendent) and Stephen Newstead (Market Place/Public Toilets).

Address: Council Office, Town Hall, Market Place, Aylsham, NR11 6EL.
Tel: 733354 Fax: 735663.

E-mail addresses:
Hilary McCann – info@aylsham-tc.gov.uk – for information, general enquiries, Town Hall bookings, Street Lighting faults, Burial arrangements and registration, Allotments administration
Annette Palmer – finance@aylsham-tc.gov.uk – for accounts and general financial enquiries. As the Assistant Town Clerk, Annette deputises in the Town Clerk’s absence.

Paul “Smudge” Smith, MBE Cittàslow Co-ordinator – events@aylsham-tc.gov.uk for Farmers’ Market, craft market enquiries and information, booking forms and tickets for all community events.

Maureen(Mo) Anderson-Dungar – townclerk@aylsham-tc.gov.uk – for more detailed information from Council and Committee meetings, and to make specific appointments

Lloyd Mills – archive@aylsham-tc.gov.uk for enquiries, access to the Town’s archive (see separate section).

Carole Matthews – comma@aylsham-tc.gov.uk for enquiries, information, and to add material to the town’s Community Multi-Media Archive (see Archive section).

Aylsham has thirteen Town Councillors who each represent the whole town (no wards). Current councillors are:

Mrs. E. Springall Tel: 735205 (Chairman)
Mr. J. Parkes Tel: 733416 (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. A. Wilton Tel: 733902 (Dep. Vice-Chairman)
Mr. M. Bush Tel: 732051
Mr. D. Harrison Tel: 735316
Miss E. Jones Tel: 732920
Mr. P. McGrath Tel: mobile 07853 864178
Mr. N. Marriott Tel: mobile 07717 368025
Mr. M. Martin Tel: 731075
Mrs. H. Morton Tel: 731686
Mrs. A.M. Overton Tel: 732612
Mr. J. Pannell Tel: 731087
Mrs. V. Shaw Tel: 732472

Town Council elections take place every four years. The next election is in 2011. If there are insufficient candidates to fill every vacancy or a vacancy occurs between the main elections, Broadland District Council advertises and will invite the Town Council to co-opt if there has been no call for a by-election from 10 or more electors. There is information about the role of a Councillor on the Town Council website/the Town Council office, or any of the current Town Councillors would be very happy to speak to anyone interested.

Quality Council Status – the Town Council was awarded Quality Town Council status in 2008 following the submission and acceptance of a portfolio of evidence based on a series of criteria. Quality status indicates that the Council is well-run and in a good position to take on additional services from the principal authorities should the opportunity arise.
Broadland District Council – Current responsibilities
The District Council is responsible for planning and conservation, housing, homelessness enquiries, environmental health, waste collection and re-cycling, car parks, providing tourist information, business development, supplying and/or distributing subsidised bus, train and leisure passes, and organising elections and the Register of Electors. Besides its own council tax the district collects the Town Council’s council tax, called the precept, Council Tax on behalf of the County council and the Police Authority, and business rates on behalf of central government.

A detailed list of the District Council's responsibilities can be found in the telephone directory and comprehensive information on Broadland District Council’s website at www.broadland.gov.uk

Aylsham has three District Councillors:
Mrs. Jo Cottingham, Sunshine Cottage, Cawston Road, Sankence, Aylsham, tel: 735481 email: cllr.joella.cottingham@broadland.gov.uk

Mrs. Cottingham is also the immediate Past-Chairman of Broadland District Council.

Mr. Ian Graham, 75 Sir Williams Close, Aylsham tel: 734401 email: cllr.ian.graham@broadland.gov.uk

Mr. David Harrison, 30 Bure Way, Aylsham, tel: 735316 email: cllr.david.harrison@broadland.gov.uk

Broadland District Council office enquiries
Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St. Andrew Norwich NR7 ODU
Tel: 01603 431133 – main switchboard, or check the contact details on the website or in the telephone directory for direct lines and/or email addresses.
Enquiry email: reception@broadland.gov.uk / website: www.broadland.gov.uk

Enquiries can also be made at the Council Information Centre within Aylsham library – telephone 731517

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AYLSHAM TOWN GUIDE

Norfolk County Council
Current responsibilities
The County Council is responsible for all highways and footpaths issues, education, social services, libraries, etc. A detailed list of its responsibilities can be found in the telephone directory.

AYLSHAM has one County Councillor.
Mr. David Harrison, 30 Bure Way, Aylsham, Norwich NR11 6HJ
Tel: 735316 – email: david.harrison@norfolk.gov.uk

County Council enquiries
County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH
Tel: 0344 800 8020 – enquiries – direct lines for various departments can be found in the telephone directory.
Website: www.norfolk.gov.uk
Enquiries can also be made at the Council Information Centre within Aylsham Library – telephone 531517

Member of Parliament
Mr. Keith Simpson MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Members of European Parliament
See notice boards for details

AYLSHAM COUNCIL INFORMATION CENTRE
In the library opposite the Post Office, near the Market Place
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 09:30–17:00
You can pay your council tax here, collect bus and rail passes, and obtain information on a wide variety of District & County Council matters.

AYLSHAM TOWN HALL
ORIGINALLY built in 1857 as a Corn Hall, and extended in 1872, the Town Hall has had a variety of uses including a court, and is now used as a community hall by a vast number of individuals, clubs, organisations and commercial companies.

Following the identified need to re-wire the building, the Town Council decided to take the opportunity of a forced closure period to address other necessary works – including upgrading the heating, lighting, toilets, IT systems and finishing with complete re-decoration. A redundant stage area was removed to reinstate the original main entrance – now providing a perfect “grand entrance” for civic occasions and receptions. Double doors were installed from the Green Room to allow easier access. Ceiling mounted digital projectors and screens were installed in the Main Hall and the Council Chamber, the latter also has tele-conferencing facilities. The PA system includes a hearing loop, and now has the facility to play music from a CD or memory stick.

Cellar space was re-designated as a storage area
for furniture, and a scissor lift installed to bring items up into the main hall – through a hatch that dates back to the hall’s use as the local “Corn Hall.”

The Town Hall’s status as a Grade II Listed Building means that any alteration work, or even decoration, must be carried out in a sensitive way.

Later this year, assuming the application is successful, the Town Hall will be licensed for sales of alcohol – this will remove the necessity to apply for a Temporary Events Notice (which currently is limited to 12 per annum).

Hiring of rooms is flexible according to requirements – the main hall and kitchen, just the Green Room (a smaller room suitable for up to 20 people) or the whole of the ground floor – maximum overall permitted number is 150. The Council Chamber, on the first floor, with its long “council table” is also available for meetings – and comfortably seats 15 people.

Equipment is included in the hire fees – some is described above, but there is also demountable, flexible staging, a dishwasher and full size catering oven in the main kitchen. Crockery – 150 place settings are supplied, but currently not cutlery. The entrance foyer is suitable for wheelchair access and there is a ramp into the hall itself. Cloakrooms include a wheelchair accessible facility. There are two sizes of folding table for flexibility of use.

As mentioned earlier, The Green Room is ideal for that smaller, more informal meeting, and has a small kitchenette for making tea/coffee. Optics are also provided in the kitchenette for those occasions when the Green Room is used as a bar for functions in the main hall.

To book any of the rooms, please contact Hilary McCann at the Town Council office, who will be pleased to supply a list of hire charges, tours and general advice on the facilities available.
CITTÀSLOW grew out of the “Slow Food” movement, which itself started in Italy in 1986 as a reaction to a “fast food” restaurant opening in Rome. This movement is now hugely successful with 50,000 members worldwide, cherishing local food and traditions. Each group is known as a “Convivium” and Slow Food Aylsham was formed in August 2004. The Convivium arranges events for both its members and the whole community, the most notable being the Annual Aylsham Food Festival during the first weekend in October, to coincide with British Food Fortnight.

The principles of “Slow Food” were subsequently applied to quality of life, and all that is “special” to a town, beginning in Italy, hence the name Cittàslow – “A town where the living is good” – for both residents and visitors.

The independent assessment of a town’s characteristics against very stringent criteria provides an internationally recognised seal of approval for the quality of life the town provides. The scheme emphasises and celebrates local distinctiveness such as good quality local food and drink, traditional skills, heritage, environmental quality and hospitality, to encourage people to take time to consider and appreciate the quality of their surroundings.

Aylsham was accredited as a Cittàslow in November 2004, and in doing so, became the second UK Cittàslow (Ludlow was the first in 2003). The number of Cittàslow towns in the UK has now grown to nine, including towns in Scotland and Wales.

The Aylsham Cittàslow Committee has representatives from all three tiers of local government, plus a wide cross-section of community organisations, and individuals with an interest in developing the Cittàslow ethos in the town.

The annual Carnival which takes place on the first Sunday in July every year has become the main event for a series of on-going community events, with something for all ages, including craft markets and a variety of musical events, all arranged by the Cittàslow Community Events Committee, under the overall “umbrella” of the Town Council. A part time officer post was created in 2006 to help with the organisation of the events, and has now been expanded to include the organisation of the Farmers’ Markets, first and third Saturday of each month, and the regular craft markets on the third Saturday of each month. Under the part time officer the Town continues to work towards Fairtrade status which should be achieved in the not too distant future, many of the traders within the Town offer fair-trade goods for sale including furniture and clothing along with the normal tea and coffee!

The Town Council, through the Cittàslow Committee, was pleased to support the "Plastic Bag Free Aylsham" campaign led by Norfolk County Council, in partnership with Aylsham Traders’ Association and Broadland District Council. Shoppers are encouraged to bring their own shopping bags and as an incentive each Aylsham household was given a cloth bag. Aylsham was the first town in Norfolk to go "plastic bag free" and others are now following, building on the experiences gained in Aylsham.
AYLSHAM Recreation Ground – “THE Rec”

AYLSHAM Recreation Ground is a very popular and important part of the community, not only for sports teams but for families using the play areas, teenagers with the skateboard park – and just somewhere for people to sit and talk. The history of the Rec. appears elsewhere in the Guide, and today’s facilities have come a long way from those early days.

Numerous clubs use the facilities, all the adult and youth football teams share 3 football pitches, two cricket clubs share the cricket square during the summer, the tennis club has use of hard courts and bowls players are able to use a county standard green.

The Rec. changed quite dramatically during 2009 with 4 new hard tennis courts being built to make them fully available for all-year use. The public may use the courts on a “pay and play” basis.

Also, as promised, two “Smile Park” play areas were built – these splendid areas with state of the art equipment for both under-12’s and over-12’s are proving very popular with positive feedback from parents and children.

Representatives from all user groups and the Town Council make up the management committee of this registered charity to provide support and self-help to ensure that all the facilities on this splendid asset to the town remain in top class condition for everyone to enjoy.

**Smile Park**

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or email: enquiries@aylshamlodgehotel.co.uk
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FOOD AND DRINK

AYLSHAM and the surrounding area is well known for its standards and belief in quality food and drink from local sources. Whether it is from local farms or from the North Sea, residents and visitors can be sure of getting quality produce, both in the local markets and catering establishments.

Meat from local farmers, local fish, cheese, fruit vegetables, honey, and jam from local fruit are all much in evidence in Aylsham's independent shops, and on the market stalls, especially those on the two Farmers' Markets – and the producer/cook of “Britain's Best Dish 2007” (Spiced Belly Pork) is amongst them. Last year's finalist for the Norfolk Greengrocer of the Year can be found in Aylsham – his produce is really local, grown on a smallholding half a mile outside the town. And the Farmers' Market won the Best Farmers' Market in 2008.

A wide variety of restaurants, pubs and cafes serving local food all help to underpin the Slow Food and Cittàslow ethos of quality, tradition and conviviality, complemented by a wonderful choice of wine and local beers. Another showcase for local food is the annual Food Festival organised by Slow Food Aylsham. The Town Council also does not allow commercial caterers on the general market or at town events unless they use local produce.

So, whether it is a leisurely lunch or dinner, morning coffee, afternoon tea, or lunch on the move, you will be certain to find what you want in Aylsham and the local area.

Aylsham also has aspirations to become a Fairtrade town – more information within the Cittàslow article.

TOWN TRUSTS

Cressey Henry Page Charitable Trust
THE object of this small trust is the “relief of need due to sickness, disability, age or poverty, and the protection and preservation of mental health and emotional health and stability.”

Its origins go back to 1638 when Thomas Cressey bequeathed 12 tenements in Millgate known as “Smithsons and Grykes” to Aylsham Churchwardens.

The parish workhouse was built in 1776, on part of the land shown on the 1838 Tithe Map in the angle between Commercial Road (now Bure Way) and New Road. The Aylsham Union, formed in 1834, made this workhouse redundant and it was demolished in 1842. The land and remaining cottages were sold for £1138 in 1856 and the money invested by the Charity Commissioners into “Cressey's Charity.” This charity also distributed the income from Town Meadow (in Drabblegate, between the road, the river and the common), which had been given to the town in 1673, with the proviso that it should be let and the rent (5/- p.a. circa 1900, £1 by the 1990's) used for the relief of poor widows.

In 1940, a prosperous town shopkeeper, Henry Page, bequeathed £3000 to be invested, with the income to be distributed annually to needy residents in the form of vouchers for food, clothing or fuel, redeemable at Aylsham shops.

The 3 charities were combined into the Cressey Henry Page Charitable Trust in 1990, and its current combined income from investments and rents is just under £500. The Town Council appoints the Trustees, who each serve a term of four years, and may be re-appointed. All Trustees must be past or serving members of the Town Council (at least one must be a serving Town Councillor). Mr. Ben Rust, a Trustee and also a former Clerk to the Trustees, has served the Truste for an uninterrupted 44 years!

Today, the income is often used to buy items that either improve facilities for residents in the town’s homes or sheltered housing schemes, or in other centres that benefit the town as a whole.
The Trustees are always pleased to receive applications on behalf of eligible individuals and welcome donations to the capital to increase the annual income available for distribution.

**The Aylsham Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Trust**

Formerly the Aylsham Silver Jubilee Trust, it was renamed following the Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002 when a significant amount of the proceeds from various events was added to the capital of the Trust. The original Silver Jubilee Trust was formed by Deed in 1987, although the Trustees had first met in 1980. The Town Council appoints the 3 Trustees; at least one must be a serving Town Councillor, the other 2 may be past Councillors. Trustees must be resident within the Parish of Aylsham.

The Trust assists young people under 20 years with grants towards the costs of educational visits or events connected with their chosen careers. Currently, applicants must have been resident within the parish of Aylsham for at least two years, or pupils at an Aylsham School, or involved with a recognised community organisation for that same period of time. Past grants have helped to fund visits to diverse locations such as Malawi, Indonesia, Switzerland, Italy plus within the UK. Every recipient of a grant has to produce a report of his/her experiences, and there is no doubt that all the young people have benefited enormously, and possibly would not have had the opportunity to participate without the assistance of the Trust.

Enquiries related to both Trusts may be directed to the Town Council Office.

**Aylsham Archives**

THE existence of the Aylsham Archives is largely due to Harry Proudfoot, a former parish clerk. During his term of office he collected and preserved all papers and documents relating or belonging to the parish. This collection has been preserved by the Town Council and added to by subsequent archivists.

Dr. John Sapwell, the author of A History of Aylsham (1961) seems to have been the first to organise and catalogue the material. He was followed by the late Ron Peabody, Tom Mollard and Derek Lyons. The present Archivist is Lloyd Mills – assisted by a small team of volunteers who are carrying out the daunting task of cataloguing and maintaining the ever growing collection.

The material is mixed and includes Poor Law records relating to the town, minute books and accounts of the Turnpike and the Aylsham Navigation, and the earlier records and all the minute books of the Parish Council (now a Town Council since 1994). In addition there is a considerable collection of papers, photographs and documents relating to the history of the town, which have been donated by Aylsham residents and organisations. Most of the output of members of the Local History Society is preserved in the collection, along with the Parish Magazine and local newspapers. The collection of photographs commissioned by the Aylsham Association in the 1970’s provides a survey of several contemporary Aylsham buildings.

As part of a wider Heritage Project the Archives now also includes the COMMA (Community Multi-Media Archive) project and donations (or copies) of any material relating to the history of the town are always welcome. The system can also accept video and audio reminiscences as well as printed documents. COMMA is also usually seen at community events and often provokes lively debate when people are identifying faces on photographs! Local schoolchildren studying the changes in their town over the past 50 years were fascinated with this photo showing the collapse of a building in the 1960’s.
The Archive is housed within the Town Hall, and is usually open on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 to 12 noon for those wishing to view documents. Copies of documents and photographs can be provided, and a list of charges is available from the Archivist or the Town Council office. If necessary, other times for visiting the Archive can be arranged.

Contact: Lloyd Mills, Archivist, and Carole Matthews, COMMA, by telephone via the Town Council office – 01263 733354 or via email – archive@aylsham-tc.gov.uk and comma@aylsham-tc.gov.uk

A dedicated Archive page has been added to the Council’s website – www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk

AYLSHAM Community Partnership Ltd

AYLSHAM Community Partnership Ltd. was set up in 2006 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is a non-profit making organisation with a membership of people and organisations from the town and surrounding area.

The aim of the organisation is to work with the Town Council to set up and run community heritage and environmental projects, not only for the town, but the wider area.

Our current flagship project is work to the Parish Room in the Churchyard, to provide a Heritage Centre for Aylsham. The repair work to the building is complete. The next task is to complete the interior and provide a part-time Education Officer. The centre will provide educational and exhibition facilities for visitors and residents alike.

**THE SALVATION ARMY AYLSHAM CHURCH**

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First Sunday of month 15.00pm
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Tel: 01263 733883

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We are working with the Town Council to produce a Town Plan for Aylsham; this project is making good progress with working groups already established.

Aylsham Community Partnership is always open to new ideas or initiatives for the town and welcomes any suggestions.

If you would like more information about our work, or joining the Aylsham Community Partnership, please contact Giles Margarson, telephone 01263 533518 or mobile 07678 892047.

AYLSHAM TWINNING – FRIENDSHIP AT HOME AND AWAY

AYLSHAM has enjoyed more than 10 years of friendship with the French town of La Chaussée-St-Victor, a small town on the bank of the River Loire adjacent to the city of Blois, having established a friendship in 1999 that was formalised to become an official twinning in the ring of the Aylsham Show in August 2000.

Since that time the Twinning has enjoyed very strong support and continues to develop. The organisation is a social one, not a political one, and although it has enjoyed some small support from European twinning funds, it relies

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on its own fundraising in the main to support the entertaining of our guests when they visit.

The fundraising is necessary for the organisation to thrive, but it is also a very important aspect, as each activity not only adds in a small way to the funds but is a catalyst, bringing together the people of Aylsham, helping to cement firm and lasting friendships within and around our own town. Generally there are at least 6 events during the year, plus one visit yearly to or from France.

Aylsham Twinning is open to individuals and families from the town and surrounding villages, and for a small subscription it is possible to enhance social life, take the opportunity to learn a different culture, and perhaps pick up a word or two of another language. On our visits we stay with host families and in return we play host ourselves, but the ability of an individual to host is not a criteria to join in, any more than knowledge of other languages is necessary.

In tandem with the official twinning there is an unofficial friendship link by individuals with the German twin town of La Chaussée-St-Victor, Ochtendung, a few miles to the west of Koblenz.
THE Bure Valley Railway is Norfolk’s longest Narrow Gauge Steam Railway and operates over the nine miles between Aylsham and Wroxham. It was built in 1989–1990 on the track bed of the former Great Eastern Railway, dating back to 1880. The line was opened in 1990 and has stations at Aylsham and Wroxham, with three unmanned stations en route at Brampton, Buxton and Coltishall. The journey time is 45 minutes. The railway carries in excess of 120,000 passengers each year and is one of the area’s main tourist attractions.

Trains operate on a daily basis from the beginning of Easter to the end of October with special events throughout the year, including Santa and Mince Pie Specials. The railway also offers a very popular boat train which gives the opportunity for a journey by steam followed by a cruise on the Norfolk Broads. For those who would like to realise their childhood ambitions to be a train driver, Driver Experience Courses are available during off-peak periods.

Aylsham station is open each day, whether or not trains are operating. You can visit the workshop, a large souvenir and model railway shop and the Whistlestop Café, which provides everything from a cup of tea to a full meal. Refreshments are also available at Wroxham Station. There is ample free car and coach parking at both stations with fully equipped facilities for the disabled.

All trains have special wheelchair accessible coaches which allow wheelchair and able bodied passengers to travel together. All coaches are fully enclosed and upholstered with heating during the winter months.

Apart from being a visitor attraction, the railway provides connections with the Bittern Line at Wroxham which offers direct services from Norwich, Cromer and Sheringham.

For further information, contact Bure Valley Railway, Aylsham Station, Norwich Road, Aylsham, NR11 6BW, Tel: 01263 733858, Fax: 01263 733814 or visit our website www.bvrw.co.uk
SURROUNDED by gardens and parkland, Blickling Hall was built in the early 17th century and is one of England’s great Jacobean houses. Blickling is famed for its spectacular long gallery, which has a Jacobean plaster ceiling and a remarkable collection of 12,000 books.

The garden has colour all the year round; spring bulbs, magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons, herbaceous borders and glorious autumn colour. There is also a Temple, Orangery, Dry Moat and Secret Garden to explore in the grounds. The gardens and parkland offer many good walks, ranging from a short stroll to longer walks in the 4,777-acre estate.

The Aylsham Agricultural Show takes place in the parkland on August Bank Holiday Monday each year, having outgrown its original concept as a Gymkhana held on the Town’s Recreation Ground. It is now one of the biggest one-day agricultural shows in the country.

The Garden Rooms offer that perfect setting for receptions, lunches or dinners, plus civil marriage ceremonies and receptions.

Close to Blickling is Felbrigg Hall, which stands in its own 1,750-acre estate, situated within North Norfolk’s “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.” One of the finest 17th century houses, it has its original 18th century furniture and pictures, including one of the finest collections of “Grand Tour” paintings by a single artist.
The traditional walled garden has been restored and has an 18th century octagonal Dove House. The garden also has an impressive orangery and a national collection of colchicums. There are woodland and lakeside walks.

Both Blickling and Felbrigg offer refreshments ranging from that simple reviving cup of tea to a full menu of superbly cooked local and regional produce. There are also plants for sale and a well-stocked gift shop at each location.

Various events are held throughout the year at both houses – see leaflets for details of these, other facilities and information on opening times.

Blickling Hall, Blickling, Norwich NR11 6NF
Tel 01263 738030 Fax 01263 8035
e-mail: blickling@nationaltrust.org.uk / web site: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blickling

Felbrigg Hall, Felbrigg, Norwich NR11 8PR
Tel 01263 837444 Fax 01263 837032
e-mail: felbrigghall@nationaltrust.org.uk / website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/felbrigg

NORTH Norfolk has a wonderful network of bridleways, footpaths and recently, cycleways, many are in and around Aylsham.

Thirty years ago many of these paths were unused and quite difficult to find. Members of the Aylsham Association set about restoring them, erecting signposts and producing an excellent illustrated map of all the paths in the Parish of Aylsham. The Association continued to maintain the local paths until the late 1980’s when Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council began to take a more active interest, creating new paths through the area and waymarking suggested circular walks.

The Weavers’ Way, passing through Aylsham is a 57 miles waymarked route connecting Cromer and Great Yarmouth, and linking at its ends with the Coastal Path and Angles’ Way. These three long distance paths may be combined with Peddars’ Way to make a 200 mile circular trek.

Marriott’s Way, connecting Aylsham to Norwich via Reepham, provides a 21-mile route for walkers, horses and cyclists. It links to the five miles long Riverside Walk in Norwich and the nine miles Bure Valley Walk from Aylsham to Wroxham. Marriott’s Way is also connected to Weavers’ Way via a waymarked link between Heydon Road and Green Lane.

An extension to Queen Anne’s Walk on the Blickling Estate was added in 2003, enabling pedestrians to walk safely between Aylsham and Blickling – walk out of town along the Blickling Road and join the walk opposite Peterson’s Lane. There are also several walks of varying lengths around Blickling Hall, Gardens and Park – leaflets are available at the Hall.
There are many circular walks from car parks along these long distance routes — leaflets and information on all local walks, produced by Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council and other organisations, are available from the Tourist Information Centre at the Bure Valley Railway, and the Library.

**NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES**

TAKE a trip around the local villages, you will find churches, walks …. good food ..and much more!

**Burgh & Tuttington** lie in farmland to the east of Aylsham. Tuttington has St. Peter and St. Paul’s Church with its round tower, one of 119 in Norfolk, and built soon after the Norman conquest. The famous painter, John Sell Cotman, visited Tuttington in 1841 as part of what turned out to be his last visit to the County, as he died the following year. In Burgh, now a Conservation Area, there is pretty, partly thatched St. Mary’s next to the River Bure, where you will find yourself at the start of a circular walk across the beautiful water meadows. Burgh Mill dates from the 16th century, but the Domesday Book records the use of water power in the early Middle Ages.

**Buxton with Lamas** is just 4 miles from Aylsham, with a stop on the Bure Valley Railway. It has several lovely walks, many with magnificent views of the Bure. It is a thriving community with a school, and other good facilities, including a new playing field with skatepark.

**Banningham & Colby** are just 3 miles to the north, off the A140 towards Cromer. Two villages that share a primary school, village hall, playing field and a pub. “Wild About Colby” an environmental group created following the publication of the Parish Plan in 2007, has worked...
very hard to create a meandering walk through the copse at one end of the playing field – part of the first stage of developing the field to provide something for all ages. Very individual hand-crafted village signs were erected in 2006, each with information relevant to the village. Visit the churches of St. Botolph in Banningham and St. Giles in Colby.

Cawston is easily accessible from Aylsham on foot, by cycle along Marriott's Way, or by car along the B1145. The 14th century church, with one of the finest hammerbeam roofs in the country, is well worth a visit. Refreshments are available from both the village pubs and teashop.

Ingworth is a tranquil village situated upstream of Aylsham and an important crossing of the River Bure since Domesday. Visitors are welcome to visit the thatched church that dates back to the 11th century, walk the green lanes and footpaths and enjoy the views.

Marsham lies to the south of Aylsham, off the A140, has a 12th century church with an interesting rood screen. The village sign depicts a Soame steam cart, made at the old foundry. A plaque at 2 Meadowview, Fengate commemorates George Edwards, founder of the Agricultural Workers' Union, who was born there. For walkers there are 30 footpaths, including 180 acres of heathland.

Oulton is in two parts, Oulton Street, and the parish surrounding Oulton Hall, and the church with its perpendicular architecture. Hidden by trees near the Hall is the Congregational Chapel, built after 1725.

Mannington, Gardens and Countryside
Wolterton and Mannington are about two miles apart in North Norfolk, 20 miles north of Norwich. Cromer, Sheringham and the coast are eight miles away.

Mannington is signposted near Saxthorpe by the B1149 Norwich to Holt Road.

Walks and Car Park open every day 0900 to dusk. Admission charge. Car Park £2.00 (free for garden visitors). Wheelchair accessible lavatories.

The Hall opens by appointment – special interest groups and Charity Days.

Wolterton Park
Wolterton Park is six miles north of Aylsham, through Erpingham Village, well signposted from the A140 Norwich-Cromer Road. The Park is open daily from 09.00 to dusk for walks with views of the lake and Hall. Car park. Wheelchair accessible lavatory. Permanent orienteering course, children's adventure playground.

Hall
Contact details below for information on openings, special events, themed Sundays, etc. Rooms and Grounds may be hired for weddings, receptions, entertainments, conferences, etc. There is a holiday cottage in the stable block.

Country Walks
Over 20 miles of waymarked footpaths and permissive paths run around Mannington and Wolterton linking into the Weavers Way long distance footpath and the Holt circular walk. There is a boardwalk at Mannington for wheelchairs/pushchairs across a wet meadow.

For further information contact:
Lady Walpole, Mannington Hall, Mannington, Norwich NR11 7BB, Tel: 01263 584175,
Fax: 01263 761214, Email: laurelwalpole@manningtongardens.co.uk
Website: www.manningtongardens.co.uk
The following list is not exhaustive and is constantly updated. For the latest version, please go to www.aylsham-tc.gov.uk and follow the links to the Directory of Clubs and Organisations.

**Area Telephone Code 01263**

**Education**

**John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School**
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Tel 732844
Age range 3–7
E-mail: head@johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.johngaunt.norfolk.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. Fiona Chant

**St. Michael's C of E V.C. Nursery & Infant School**
Schoolhouse Lane
Blickling Road
Tel/Fax: 732260
Age range 3–7
E-mail: head@st-michaelsaylsham.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.st-michaelsaylsham.norfolk.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Jewers

**Bure Valley School**
Hungate Street
Tel: 733393 Fax: 732217
Age range 7–11
E-mail: office@burevalley.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.burevalley.norfolk.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr. J. Starling

**Aylsham High School**
Sir Williams Lane
Tel: 733270 Fax: 732918
Headteacher: Mr. D. Spalding
E-mail: office@aylshamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.aylshamhigh.com

**Post-16 Education**

There is currently no provision in Aylsham itself, but opportunities for post-16 education are provided by Paston College at North Walsham, Norwich City College, Great Yarmouth College and a number of schools within a 10–15 mile radius of the town. All offer a wide variety of AS-level, A-level and GNVQ courses.

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www.lovewell-blake.co.uk

Registered to carry on audit work in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Details about our audit registration can be viewed at www.auditregister.org.uk, under reference number CO05341012. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority to advise on Corporate Finance Business.
Aylsham Pre-School Playgroup
The Drill Hall, Cawston Road
Tel: 07979 890443
Ofsted registered. Children aged 2 to 5 years.

Aylsham Tiny Tots
Methodist Church Hall, White Hart Street
Tel: 733047 for details of sessions
Age range – Toddlers

Broadland Tots 2 Teens
Tel: 01603 430538
Age range 5-16
Holiday activities for children resident or at school in the Broadland area
Website: www.broadland.gov.uk/t2t

Grapevine
Aylsham High School
Tel: 733270
Age range 9–11
Activities for Yr 5 & Yr6 students prior to moving to Aylsham High School
Website: www.aylshamhigh.com

Childminders Group
Tel: 733193

SureStart
10b Red Lion Street
Tel: 07919 045559

HEALTH

Doctors:
Hungate Surgery, Hungate Street
Tel: 733693
Appointments system. All enquiries to Reception.

The Market Surgery, 26 Norwich Road
Tel: 731031 – appointments
733331 – enquiries
734840 – repeat prescriptions
Out of hours service – details on surgery answerphone
Appointment system

NHS Direct
0845 4647

Hospitals
Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital
Colney Lane, Norwich NR4 7UY
Tel: 01603 286286

Cromer & District Hospital
Mill Road, Cromer
Minor Injuries 08.00 to 22.00
Tel: 513571

Aylsham Community Hospital, Cawston Road
No accident or emergency facilities
GP community beds, some therapy services
Tel: 732341

Dentists:
Aylsham Dental Practice, 21 Red Lion Street
Tel: 732127
Contact Reception for appointments and opening times

Woodview Dental Practice, Burgh Road
Tel: 733577
Contact Reception for appointments and opening hours

Chemist
Lloyds Pharmacy, Market Place
Tel: 733118
Open Monday to Saturday

Chiropodists
Private treatment available via the Doctor’s surgeries

Opticians
Abbott & Murdoch, Cawston Road
Tel: 733239

Nikki Nelson, St. Brides, Burgh Road
Tel: 734307

Veterinary Surgery
Hungate Street
Tel: 732130
Appointments system

PUBLIC SERVICES

Library
Hungate Street Tel: 732320
Mon 09.30–19.30
Tues/Thurs: 09.30–17.00
Wed 14.00–19.30
Fri: 09.30–19.30
Sat: 09.30–16.00
Sun: 11.00–14.00
Plus special events – telephone or email
libraries@norfolk.gov.uk

Council Information Centre
Within the Library, Hungate Street
Tel: 731517
Information and advice on all District and County Council services – see display board in the library for precise times

Tourist Information Centre
Norwich Road, NR11 6BW
Tel: 733903 Fax: 733814
e-mail: aylsham.tic@broadland.gov.uk
website: www.broadland.gov.uk or
www.visitbroadland.co.uk
Information for visitors, details of local services, regional and national holiday information and accommodation bookings, information on local events
AYLSHAM TOWN GUIDE

Police
Police Base, Richard Oakes Road, Aylsham NR11 6FD
When unstaffed, use yellow phone by front door
Tel: non emergencies 0845 456 4567
Minicom: 0845 345 3458
Fax: 0845 345 4567
Email: enquiries@norfolk.pnn.police.uk
Emergencies: 999

Aylsham Safer Neighbourhood Team (Police)
Police Base, Richard Oakes Road, Aylsham NR11 6FD
Tel: 0845 456 4567 and ask for Aylsham Blackberry
Email: sntaylsham@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Fire
Fire Station, Cawston Road (part time retained)
Emergencies: 999

Ambulance
Emergencies: 999

Gas
See listing in telephone directory for various services
Emergencies (24 hour) 0800 111 999 (Transco)

Electricity
See listing in telephone directory for your supplier
Power cuts and emergencies – EDF 0800 7838 838

Water
See listing in telephone directory for account queries – Anglian Water
Emergencies – including water/sewerage operational enquiries – 24 hour
08457 145 145

TRANSPORT

Buses
Frequent services to Norwich, and to Cromer, Sheringham & Holt.
Other services to North Walsham, Wroxham.
See timetables in Market Place, enquire at Tourist Information Centre,
use Norfolk County Council website:
www.norfolk.gov.uk or Traveline
(national bus enquiries) 0871 200 22 33

Dial-a-Ride operated by North Walsham Area Community Transport Association
Tel: 01692 500840

Trains
Nearest stations: Norwich Thorpe, North Walsham
Bus to Norwich or North Walsham to connect.
Also connection to Norwich or Sheringham via Bure Valley Railway, changing at
Wroxham on to the Bittern Line.
Timetables available from Tourist Information Centre

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direct or via Amsterdam

CHURCHES & CHURCH ORGANISATIONS
St. Michael’s & All Angels Parish Church
Vicar: Rev. R. Branson,
64 Holman Road, NR11 6BZ
Tel: 733871 e-mail: thebransons@tiscali.co.uk
Sunday Services: 08.00 Holy Communion &
10.00. Holy Communion with Music & Hymns
See weekly pew sheet for details of activities and
services on Festivals and Saints’ Days
Mothers’ Union: Tel: 731380
Website: www.aylshamparishchurch.co.uk

Aylsham Community Church
Jubilee Family Centre, Norwich Road, Aylsham,
Norwich NR11 6JG
Tel 733332
Email: info@aylshamcommunitychurch.org
Website: www.aylshamcommunitychurch.org.uk
Also see Jubilee Family Centre entry for other
activities.

Churches Together in Aylsham
Tel: 733307
The organisation to which the 7 churches in
Aylsham are affiliated. The committee arranges a
variety of ecumenical events

Emmanuel Church
Tel: 735011
Sunday Worship – 10.30am
Sunday Junior Church Groups & Crèche
Variable Sunday evening programme

Kingdom Hall of Jehovahs Witnesses
Tel: 734862

Methodist Church
White Hart Street
Minister: Rev. Graham P. Miles 732102
Contact for details of Services and programme of
family activities

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Tel: 735316 (Clerk)
Friends’ Meeting House, Peggs Yard
For children’s classes and further information
contact the Clerk.

St. John of the Cross Catholic Church
White Hart Street
Priest: Fr. David Bagstaff Tel: 01692 403258
Sundays & Holy Days: Mass at 09.00
Website: www.sacredheartnorthwalsham.com

The Salvation Army
Hungate Street
Tel: 733883
Website: www2.salvationarmy.org.uk/aylsham

SPORTS CLUBS
Aylsham Badminton Club
Tel: 01603 279522
New members welcome

Aylsham Bowling Club
Tel: 731881/734834
Recreation Ground
Social & competitive bowling available for junior &
adult members

Aylsham & District Bowmen
Tel: 732321
Website: www.norfolkarchery.org

Aylsham St. Giles Cricket Club
Tel: 01603 250519/510102
Age range 11 to adults
Website: www.aylshamstgiles.play-cricket.com

Aylsham Football Club
(AFC) http://www.aylshamfc.co.uk
AFC offers opportunities to everyone who wants
to play and/or help run football locally.
AFC Girls & Womens section: tel: 731772
AFC Mixed Juniors & Boys’ Section: tel: 731497
AFC Men’s Section: tel: 734104
email: michael.mccann@btinternet.com

Aylsham Netball Club
Tel: 733514
Training: Wednesdays at Aylsham High School
Year 7 (U12) to Adults

Aylsham Recreation Ground Committee
Tel: Gerry Grimes (Chairman) 733027
We aim to provide as many facilities as possible
for sporting and leisure activities

Aylsham Tennis Club
Tel: Secretary 734959
Email: secretary@aylshamtennisclub.co.uk
Website: www.aylshamtennisclub.co.uk

Aylsham Youth Amateur Boxing Club
Tel: 732983
Age range 8- adult

Cyclists Touring Club – Norfolk District
Association
Tel: 01603 402645
Age range – all ages

North Norfolk Vikings Swimming Club
Tel: 511919
Variety of lessons and activities for all ages
LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Aylsham Band
Tel: 733006 (evenings only)
Age range 7 – adult
Website: www.aylshamband.org

Aylsham & District Bridge Club
Tel: 01603 262908

Aylsham & North Walsham Bridge Circle
Tel: 733889

Aylsham & District Ex-Service & Social Club
Hungate Street
Tel: 732182

Aylsham & District Wildlife Society
Tel: 732508
Website: www.aylsham-wildlife.co.uk

Aylsham Local History Society
Tel: 731087
Encourages interest in local history through lectures, classes and research.
Publishes Journal & Books

Aylsham Music Society
Tel: 768441
Website: www.oclassical.com/festival/53
Lunchtime Concerts of Popular Classical Music.

Aylsham Musical Friends
Tel: 734328

Aylsham Players
Tel: 07798 611233
Amateur Dramatic Society staging 2 productions per year. New members welcome – onstage and backstage.

Aylsham Twinning
Tel: 732994
Website: www.aylshamtwinning.co.uk
Officially twinned with La Chausée-St.-Victor in France and now developing a strong Friendship link in Germany

Aylsham Yoga and Meditation Group
Contact: Cherry Cooke, 732426,
email: cherry.cooke@btinternet.com
Daily classes and retreats,
established 1983

Bure Valley Male Voice Choir
Tel: 722159/722693
Rehearsals Tuesday evenings Sept–May 7.30–9.30p.m. Cawston Road Chapel

Jubilee Family Centre
Norwich Road, Aylsham NR11 6JG
Tel: 734801 email: info@jubileefamilycentre.org
Website: www.jubileefamilycentre.org
Jubilee Tots – Tuesdays 9.45a.m. for pre-school children, their mums, dads and carers
Discovery Coffee – last Wednesday each month 10a.m. – fun, coffee and cakes for the over-60’s, including summer holiday clubs
Keep in contact for details of other clubs and activities

Ladies Walking Group
Tel: 731336

Presto Park Scalextric Club
Tel: 754319
Age range 12 – adult
Website: www.prestoparkmmrc.co.uk

St. Michael’s Guild of Ringers
Tel: Tower Secretary 732462
e-mail: aylshamtower@supanet.com
website: www.aylshamtower.org.uk
Experienced ringers and learners welcome at this fine 10 bell tower

Sutton School of Dancing
Contact: Barbara Sutton, 733162
Classes for 2 years old up to Teaching Qualification, IDTA exams

Workers’ Educational Association – Aylsham Branch
Tel: 732637
Autumn and Spring sessions, with interesting and varied subjects

OTHER LOCAL, NATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Aylsham & District Care Trust (A.C.T.)
Tel: 734578
Website: www.aylshamcaretrust.com

Aylsham & District Probus Mens Club
Tel: 734565

Aylsham Evening W.I.
Tel 735056
Meetings 1st Thursday each month, Town Hall 7.30p.m. (May meeting at Friendship Club, Cawston Road)

Aylsham Friendship Club
Tel: 732879
Social Meetings every Friday 2p.m. Outings for Retired Persons living in Aylsham

Aylsham Round Table (No 784)
Tel: 01692 403233
Website: www.roundtable.org.uk
Aylsham Traders’ Association
Tel: 733145
Email: info@aylsham-traders.co.uk
Website: www.aylsham-traders.co.uk
Supporting businesses in and around Aylsham

Broadland Conservative Association
(Aylsham Branch)
Tel: (Chairman) 01263 733401/580499
(Secretary) 01263 732927
New members welcome to enjoy our friendly gatherings and events.

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship –
Aylsham Group
Tel: 731955
2nd Monday in month at Friends Meeting House, Peggs Yard, Red Lion Street, 10.00-12noon.
Meet for coffee – speakers, outings and friendly social gatherings. Retired Civil Servants and partners welcomed.

Facing It Together (Widows and Widowers Group)
Tel: 731670
2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month, 2pm Emmanuel Chapel, Cawston Road

Friends of St. Michael’s Community Units &
Aegel House
Tel: 732233
To provide items for comfort and recovery of patients and residents

Norfolk Civil Protection Volunteers
Tel: 734682
We can produce emergency feeds, tentage, etc. and assist the Police in searches for missing persons.

“The Mardler” – The North Norfolk Talking
Newspaper Association
Tel: 01692 538432
“The Mardler” provides weekly Local News (on CD or cassette) to those unable to read papers for themselves.

Rotary Club of Aylsham
Tel: 731627 01603 279370
Rotary is a service organisation supporting local charities and international projects. New members are always very welcome.
Website: www.aylshamrotary.org.uk

Royal British Legion (Aylsham & District Branch)
Based at Aylsham Ex-Service Club, Hungate Street
Tel: Secretary 734792
Meetings on 1st Tuesday of each month
Here to help Ex-Service Personnel and Dependents

Royal British Legion Womens’ Section
(Aylsham & District Branch)
Tel: 434115
Meetings on 1st Monday each month.

St. John Ambulance
Contact: Margaret Gilham 733501

ARTS & CRAFTS, FOOD & FLORISTRY
Aylsham Country Market
Tel:: Mrs. B. Carr 731293
TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE,
FRIDAYS 08.50–12noon
Bakery, Preserves, Vegetables, Plants, Crafts
Special Orders Welcome

Aylsham & District Flower Club
Contact: 01603 279274/01263 731273

Aylsham Methodist Church Art
& Craft Group
Contact: Paul James 733736
Methodist Church Hall, White Hart Street,
Thursday 14.00–16.00
A variety of crafts, drawing and painting in any medium. Open to all.

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS
Girl Guiding Aylsham District
Rainbows – for girls aged 5–7 years
Meetings held on Monday evenings in Aylsham

Brownies – for girls aged 7–10 years
Meetings available on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday in Aylsham
Thursday evenings in Cawston
Tuesday evenings in Corpusty

Guides – for girls aged 10+
Meetings available on Monday and Wednesday evenings in Aylsham

Senior Section – for girls aged 14+
Meetings held on Monday evenings in Aylsham

For further information tel: 01603 502590
Website: www.guildguidingnorfolk.org.uk

1st Aylsham Cubs & Scouts
Tel: 734843

Aylsham Youth & Community Centre
Cawston Road, Aylsham
Tel: 732213
Variety of activities for young people

Musical Keys
Tel: 01603 405858
Age range 0–16
FINE ART AND GENERAL AUCTIONEERS providing a complete Auction Service with sale appraisals. Valuations to include Probate, Family Division and Insurance

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