

EDITOR'S WELCOME

For an historic town, we don't like to dwell too much on the past – which is why in this issue of *Engage*, there's going to be a lot of looking ahead.

For one thing, there's the commemorations next year in 2014 to mark the outbreak of hostilities and the start of the First World War. This terrible but important event needs to be remembered, not only for those Warminster residents who went off to fight, some never to return, but because it's essential that future generations know the meaning of sacrifice and what the awful cost of war is.

On a more cheerful note, next year also brings the famous Warminster Festival back on to our late summer agenda. This is always an enjoyable mix of acts and productions, which goes to make a memorable programme to suit all tastes and all ages. But next year, we want to make the festival even more different. How different? Well, we're going to ask you for ideas. See the article in this edition and dig out your thinking cap.

When the settlers left their native England to start a new life in the New World, they too were looking to the future. Our twinning with Warminster Pennsylvania – which is not an official civic arrangement and therefore doesn't incur costs for the Council – is not so much for the future, it's for now! But we're sure it will be an arrangement that will sew the seeds of a happy relationship for years to come.

Another event that's happening now is *Inspire of Warminster*. A good family outing, this has all the makings of a perfect summer Sunday. For all who like a 'lie in' on a Sunday, the organisers have sympathetically arranged for the opening to be late morning. Bring a cushion, a rug and a picnic and you can continue your 'lie in' in the park – and have some great live music to relax to. There's no better way to spend an August day.

NEW SEASON OF MOVIE MAGIC



The movie matinees are becoming a feature of Warminster's Wednesday life. And with the price still pegged at £3.50, including tea and biscuits, not to mention the stunning range of high quality movies, it's not hard to see why.

Our next programme of films for the September to December season has now been chosen and as usual there's a good mix to help while away a Wednesday afternoon. There's a thriller, historical drama, comedy, and a musical.

Arbitrage is the thriller and is set squarely in the dark depths of high finance. But don't think this is a dry piece of movie-making. This thriller is awash with 'edge-of-your-seat' drama. Richard Gere plays the part of a happy family man and hedge fund dealer, trying to sell his business before the reality of his fraudulent past is revealed.

For those who like their history more recent with not a knight in sight, *Hyde Park on Hudson* is for you. It tells the story of when President Franklin D. Roosevelt hosted the King and Queen in 1939, the first visit to the United States of a reigning monarch. The royal couple are eager to gain the support of America on the eve of war, but the state of affairs in Roosevelt's domestic life tends to interfere with affairs of state.

Robot and Frank is a comedy set in the future when robots are pretty smart. Frank is a retired burglar, who has got to the age when the kids are worried about him being on his own. So it's either a home for the poor old ex-felon or a robot to look after him. Take your hanky – it'll come in useful for both the poignant moments and the great comedy.

If you think the golden age of musicals is long gone, you're in for a treat with *The Band Wagon* from 1953. Here Fred Astaire proves he was the master. Partnered by Cyd Charisse (she of the legendary legs), he plays an ageing star, overshadowed by a pretty girl and an intimidating director, who fears his career is on the slide. Come on, we've all been there.

MAYOR'S PARLOUR

As someone who was born in Warminster, I considered it essential in my Mayoral year to promote charities that have an impact locally.

'Walking With The Wounded' is such an important military organisation. Not only does it underline our historic connections to British forces, it supports all those who selflessly defend our freedom far away from home in foreign lands. As a UK charity, it retrains and re-educates wounded servicemen and women as a means of helping them to secure long-term employment.

My other charity is a growing presence in towns throughout Britain. Our own Warminster Foodbank is a lifeline for many families who have been hit by the recession and the general economic downturn. This is a vital charity and an essential safety net for those people who live locally and cannot even afford the basic things in life so many of us take for granted.



P. Batchelor

On a lighter note, I am delighted that we are to be twinned with Warminster, Pennsylvania. This is the first new twinning for the town in forty years. Although not a formal twinning – like the one we enjoy with Flers in France – it will nevertheless be a great feather in our cap to be linked with a town in the United States that bears our name and whose roots are entwined with our own history.

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GO MAD AND GET INSPIRED



If summer's not the time for doing something out of the ordinary, then what is. That's why the Council has been so keen to back *Inspire of Warminster*, a day of live music in the park on Sunday, August 4th. Starting at 12 noon and running all the way through until 6.00pm, it's the brainchild of Doug Halls and Pete Bartley, two members of 'Enterprise Warminster', who believe in the power of music and dance to inspire people of all ages. So whatever the weather you can be sure of a good time – and with three rock bands on the play list, it'll certainly be a day to remember.

But it's also a day for the family. So come along with the kids and bring along a picnic. You can also buy food at the event, so if you want a complete rest, or someone's got to the picnic basket before you, you won't be going home feeling peckish.

If there's a main theme to the event it's young people. Doug and Pete realised that many of the live music events in Warminster take place in pubs, which excludes young people of school age. As a result, *Inspire of Warminster* has got younger residents in its sights and hopes the string of live bands will inspire them to take up a musical instrument. Of course, all this musical stimulation might revive your own thwarted ambitions and give you a taste for trying out something more than air guitar.

Well, fret not. On the day, there will be music workshops where the young and the not so young can try out a few instruments under the expert eye of local music tutors. Whatever the age, there's music to suit everyone. At midday, just to ease you into the mood, there's Stamp, an acoustic rock band; in the afternoon, we have Forgery, a popular Warminster band doing some old rock favourites; and to finish off there's Area 53, a local school band who could be going places – hopefully not on the day they're due to play in the park.

But don't think it's exclusively rock. There's the Warminster Philharmonic wind quartet and dancers from Kingdown School, who will be performing between the musical acts and showing us that it's not only rock bands who can grab the attention.

WARMINSTER – AMERICAN STYLE

During the eighteenth century, ships carried passengers from England across the Atlantic in search of the new land, a new life and new opportunities. Not wishing to cut ties totally with the mother country, they used the names of their former homes and applied them to their new surroundings: Boston, London, Richmond, Dover, Warminster.

Warminster Pennsylvania (PA) in Bucks county was founded by people from our town in a bygone era – about three hundred years ago to be precise – and it's a connection many of them have not forgotten.

After exchanging emails with the rotary club in Warminster PA, Nick Pitcher, a local businessman, visited the township and discovered there was real interest in developing cultural links between the two centres. In fact, he was presented with a sealed proclamation which suggests just that. While steering away from a formal twinning association, he did propose that a register of volunteers be drawn up to show visitors from Warminster PA around our local beauty spots and cultural attractions.

The Mayor, Paul Batchelor, was one who said he would be happy to be part of such a group. This 'name link' naturally means there are strong ties between our two centres. It's certainly strong enough to entice regular visitors from that part of the States who are curious about their English counterpart. Not that plain curiosity is the sole reason for their presence in Warminster UK. Some are wanting to explore their family history; others want to compare the landscape, the buildings and get a feel of the place, which, back home, they call...Warminster.

Of course, Warminster PA is on an American scale. That means everything is bigger, more wide open and of course newer. And while our fields in this part of the country can be seen as quite large, they are dwarfed by fields in the US. But this is what's attractive to our America cousins. Apparently, they like the fact that here everything is on a smaller scale and more compact – our town being one example.

The landscape in Warminster PA is a lot flatter, and buildings and people are not so concentrated. They have a population of some 32,000; we have a population of approximately 25,000. However, their residents are spread over a wider area. Similarities? We have a railway station, so do they. They have a golf club, so do we. There's a rotary club both sides of the pond and agriculture is a common, although not exclusive, activity in both communities. 'There is,' says an old American history book of the time, 'no better land in the county than the plains of Warminster', which must have encouraged the new arrivals to settle down. But then we too have had our good fortune with a thriving trade in corn and cloth in the eighteenth century that enabled the great family houses to be built and which now are used to....attract tourists from America.

The Mayor and other council members are enthusiastically supporting this informal twinning. Other than the pleasure of establishing friendly links with another Warminster, there are potential benefits to the local economy. It has also been suggested that schools could get involved. 'This will be twinning for the 21st century,' said the Mayor.



'Now that the world has effectively shrunk with the increasing use of the internet, we need to have a modern perception of the notion of twinning. This can include better integration of communities which will result in very little cost and in many cases no cost at all.' He additionally proposed that a list of organisations in Warminster PA be held in the Library and at the Civic Centre so residents could have points of contact.

WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATIONS: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Next year will see the hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War. Ending in 1918, it was supposed to be the war to end all wars. Sadly, this has been forgotten. What will not be forgotten is the sacrifice made by a generation who went off to fight.

The Imperial War Museum is spearheading the commemorations on a national level, but throughout the country there are plans to organise local initiatives to commemorate all those who took part.

A local working group comprised of Councillors Steve Dancey, Keith Humphries and Sue Fraser has now been formed, and they need to hear what you think Warminster should be doing to mark the commemoration period.

Some of the ideas that have already been suggested are theatrical tributes such as Oh, What a Lovely War!; researching the names on the town's war memorial and rededicating the war memorial at the start of the commemorations. But now it's over to you.

Many families in Warminster were affected in one way or another by this historic war, and all of us are reminded of it each November on Armistice Day.

So if you have any ideas, or you would like to nominate a group or project that would stand as a fitting tribute, please contact us on 01985 214847.



WARMINSTER FESTIVAL FISHES FOR IDEAS

2014 might seem a long way away, but it's surprising how time flies. There's also the fact that some events take a great deal of planning and a lot of preparation. One such event is the Warminster Festival – which, next year, will really reflect the interests of Warminster. Let us explain how we can be so sure.

The festival is about Warminster and for Warminster people, which is why we thought it would be a good idea to have the town tell us what it would like to see. Think about what you enjoyed in the past and what you would like to see more of – or less of! You may have strong views, you may be passionate about something, you may be part of a group with a shared interest you'd like to share with others – whatever your thoughts, we want to hear from you. Come to our Open Event between 10.00am and 2.00pm on Saturday, August 3rd in the foyer of the Warminster Civic Centre and tell us. Remember, it's your festival, your call!

Events for 2013

- August 3 – Open morning for Festival 2014, Civic Centre, 10am–2pm
- August 4 – 'Inspire of Warminster' live music in the park, 12 noon–6pm
- August 21 – Film: 'Song for Marion', Civic Centre, 2pm
- September 8 – Carnival Fun Day in the park, 12 noon–5pm
- September 18 – Film: 'Arbitrage', Civic Centre, 2pm
- October 16 – Film: 'Hyde Park on Hudson', Civic Centre, 2pm
- October 26 – Warminster Carnival, 6pm
- November 20 – Film: 'Robot and Frank', Civic Centre, 2pm
- November 30 – Christmas Market, Civic Centre, 10am–5pm
- November 30 – Christmas Lights Switch-on and Lantern Parade, 4pm
- December 14 – Christmas Food Market, Civic Centre, 10am–5pm
- December 18 – Film: 'The Band Wagon', Civic Centre, 2pm

WARMINSTER TOWN COUNCILLORS

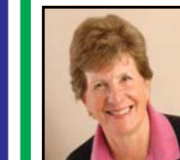
Warminster Town Council is made up of 13 Councillors who are known collectively as Members. The town is split into four wards, Warminster East, Warminster West, Broadway and Copheap. The Council is led by the Mayor, Councillor Paul Batchelor, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Andrew Davis.



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The Town Council offices are open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am–4.30pm.

Function rooms at the Civic Centre are available for hire seven days a week. Please contact the staff for further details.