



PARKING SCHEME PROVEN POPULAR

The Warminster Parking Partnership Scheme, which allows the first hour of parking to be free on presentation of a 40p voucher at participating retail outlets, is going down well with the travelling public, according to latest reports. And whilst other towns offered some additional free parking time for the days leading up to Christmas, Warminster Town Council extended the one hour free parking to two hours for the whole of December.

BEACON EXTINGUISHED

The idea of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with a traditional beacon has, unfortunately, come to nothing. First, it was the high cost of a beacon; this was followed by the possibility of a church beacon, with a more affordable price tag. Now, it would appear, the cost of insurance is shunting this alternative into a siding. But there'll be much else happening in and around the town to make up for the absence of beacons – and much to enjoy!

VARIETY THE THEME OF FUN-PACKED FESTIVAL



It's a long way to October, but the new crew of the Warminster Festival Committee has been hard at it for months and bubbling with ideas. The festival, which runs from 6th October to 20th October, will cover a sparkling range of inspiring activities from Big Reads to rugby, walks to wind instruments, creative writing to classical music (not to mention country, jazz and folk), art exhibitions to exhibitions of local talent.

Talking of which, perhaps you're a poet and don't know it. Perhaps you do know it! Either way, you can enter the poetry competition and show off your verbal skills, with a chance of winning £100. The competition opened in January but runs until September, and entries will be judged during the festival by the well-known poet Lucy English.

For those of you who like a more puzzling challenge, the festival committee has organised a treasure hunt, the prize being a jewelled bustard. The first clue appeared in the January edition of the Festival newsletter and is also on the website, and there will be further clues each month until October. All clues will need to be solved before the whereabouts of the bustard can be discovered, but please note that it will not be buried so don't start digging up your neighbour's Jubilee prize-winning garden!

For more information on all the events being planned, keep in touch via the website: www.warminsterfestival.co.uk

WARMINSTER IN BLOOM

Entering South West in Bloom is to be put off for another year. Such a competition requires a high degree of organisation and, regrettably, there are insufficient numbers on the committee to cope. This is not to say the town will be barren! Moves are underfoot for an extravaganza of colour with an Olympic theme; a number of local businesses have already shown an interest by sponsoring hanging baskets in addition to the usual display provided by the Town Council. And don't forget the Garden Competition, in which entrants are being encouraged to think Olympics or Jubilee.

If you love your garden, why not let others share in your delight and hard work? You'll find an entry form on our website at www.warminster.uk.com.



Warminster Town Councillors – the Members

Warminster Town Council is made up of 12 Councillors who are known collectively as Members. The town is split into two wards, Warminster East and Warminster West, and six Members represent each ward.

The Council is led by the Mayor, Councillor Pip Ridout, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Rob Fryer, both of whom were elected on 16th May 2011.

Warminster West



Paul Batchelor
4 Bradley Road
Warminster
BA12 9BW
01985 213514
paulbatchelor@globalnet.co.uk



Sue Fraser
6 Masefield Road
Warminster BA12 8HN
01985 215596
s.fraser2@btconnect.com



Rob Fryer (Deputy Mayor)
39 Portway
Warminster BA12 8QQ
01985 847168
wildswim@talk21.com



Tony Nicklin
Chedlanger
147 Bath Road
Warminster BA12 7RZ
01985 847293
tony.nicklin@btconnect.com



Pip Ridout (Mayor)
17 Savernake Close
Warminster BA12 8RF
01985 214971
pip.ridout@btinternet.com



(vacant)

Warminster East



Veronica Burden
32 The Tynings
Norton Bavant
Warminster BA12 7BO
01985 215129
vburden@btinternet.com



Andrew Davis
13 The Ridgeway
Warminster
BA12 9NG
01985 217431
andrew.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk



Tony Field
Highfield
97 Deverill Road
Warminster BA12 9QL
01985 212391
ajfield@blueyonder.co.uk



Keith Humphries
22 St Georges Close
Warminster
BA12 9ES
01985 218255
keith.humphries@wiltshire.gov.uk



Christopher March
1(b) Church Street
Warminster BA12 9PG
01985 217889
chrismarch125@btinternet.com



Kate Fryer
37 North Row
Warminster BA12 9AD
katefryer@hotmail.com

forthcoming meetings:

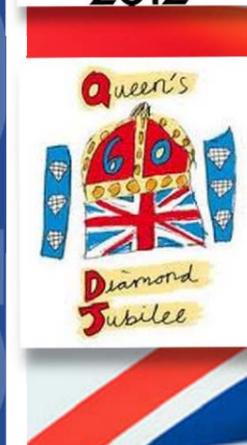
Town Council and Committee meetings are held in the Cley Room at the Civic Centre and are open to the public. You are most welcome to come along either to listen or to say your piece in the public session. Times of meetings are listed below and the agendas are posted on the notice boards outside the Civic Centre and on our website www.warminster.uk.com. Meetings are also advertised in the *Warminster Journal*.

Policy and Communications	6th February	7pm	Planning Advisory	2nd April	7pm
Planning Advisory	20th February	7pm	Policy and Communications	10th April	7pm
Finance and Assets	5th March	7pm	Parish Meeting	16th April	7pm
Planning Advisory	12th March	7pm	Planning Advisory	23rd April	7pm
CCTV	14th March	10.30am	Finance and Assets	30th April	7pm
Full Council	19th March	7pm	Annual Meeting	14th May	7pm
Town Development	26th March	7pm			



engage

and make a difference



editor's welcome

February's not the most attractive of months. We're still in the grip of winter and far from the consoling joys of Christmas and New Year. But we do have spring just around the corner – and we can also look forward to some sparkling celebrations. Don't forget, this is the year of the **Queen's Jubilee** and the **Olympics**.

It might seem that not much is happening, but organisers are busy behind the scenes planning the celebrations. There are lots of challenges to overcome and it may be impossible to do all we set out to do – due to economic restraints or not enough personnel – but we'll still be marking the two events with typical Warminster gusto. You'll find an Events Diary inside and more in our next issue – so lots to look forward to. **Come to think of it, February's not so bad after all!**



CIVIC CENTRE UP & RUNNING

The transformation of the Assembly Rooms into the Civic Centre was finally completed in November 2011, and it was well worth the waiting, for Warminster can now boast a top quality renovation achieved to a very high spec.

Mayor Pip Ridout was able to host her annual mayoral reception at the beginning of December in the main hall of the Centre. Conscious of the straitened times and economic climate, the Mayor decided against a formal dinner and opted for a tea party or, to be more precise, high tea party. High, low, it was some party. The guests, mainly local volunteers, were treated to a glass of Buck's Fizz on arrival, followed by afternoon tea with sandwiches, cakes and scones.

The Mayor's guests were able to enjoy some of the lovely new facilities, but Warminster as a whole will be proud of this new venue, which can offer so much to the community thanks to its inbuilt flexibility. The main hall consists of two rooms, Arn and Copheap, which are divided by partitioning that can easily be moved to create one big space. The old stage area, now the Cley Room, has been set up as a meeting room, but also has partition doors that can be opened up if the whole venue is required for a function needing a stage. All in all, the Civic Centre has been created with Warminster very much in mind: the attractive new rooms have been named after Warminster's hills, so you can now hire Arn, Copheap or Cley, depending on your needs, at realistic rates.



Warminster Town Council

Warminster Town Council – Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB
Tel: 01985 214847 Fax: 01985 214854 Email: admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk
www.warminster.uk.com

Staff at Town Council



Heather Abernethie Veronica Mills Marion Blewett Judith Halls

Following our move to the new Civic Centre the Town Council offices are open as usual from Monday to Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm. You are welcome to call in during opening hours, and are also welcome to attend the Council meetings, most of which are now being held in the Cley Room at the Civic Centre. Details of forthcoming meetings are given on the back page, listed on the website and advertised in the *Warminster Journal*.

MAYOR'S PARLOUR

I'm so pleased that the long-awaited Civic Centre has now officially opened. This is something of a landmark for the town because we now have a wonderful new facility that will serve the needs of Warminster people for years to come. For those who have not yet visited the premises, I strongly recommend you drop by. You'll then be able to appreciate the high quality of the refurbishment and its flexibility. I was delighted to be able to hold my tea party there in December, when I raised just under £1,000 in support of my chosen charities, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Alabaré, through a raffle and from donations. I was also very proud to be able to present the Civic Award to two of Warminster's very deserving volunteers.

Christmas was, as usual, a very busy time with the various functions I attended – overall, I probably ate too many mince pies and too much turkey, but it was all in a good cause. I particularly enjoyed the church services I was invited to – without exception, they're always so lovely around Christmas.

We have a busy time this year as well, with the Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics and the Warminster Festival. And of course this year we'll be bidding farewell to the 3rd Yorks Regiment, who will be parading through the town prior to their round of duty in Afghanistan. I know a lot of Warminster residents will want to line the street to wish them well. Look out for more details on our website and the local press.



Pip Ridout

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ARE A GIFT TO THRIFT



Warminster takes a great deal of pride in its annual Christmas lights, which we like to believe are the best in the county. They bring a sparkle to the festivities and shoppers to the high street; and with school choirs from Princetown and Sambourne, the mood was perfectly complemented when they were officially switched on last November. However, this year the lights also brought joy to accountants.

No one noticed any difference when they were switched on – the 'wow' factor was present in all its quality, variety and colour. But each and every light this year was a plastic LED bulb, which had a number of important cost implications. First, there's the life expectancy of LED bulbs, which is between two and three years; second, there is the dramatic reduction in breakages. The spectacular display is made up of approximately 3000 light bulbs in total; less spectacularly, however, the glass ones used to break. And not just one or two, here and there. According to Alan Richardson, Chair of the Christmas Lights Committee, anything from 500 to 1000 bulbs were expected to break every year.

Another plus is perhaps the most obvious. Lights are a must for Christmas; in fact, they're a part of the festival and top of the bill. But unfortunately, the bill in question is the electricity bill, and we are all too aware of the soaring costs of energy today. However, with the new LED bulbs installed there will be a significant saving. "Our running costs for the lights this last Christmas will be about a third of what we usually pay," said Alan. Add to this the new cables on which the lights were strung, which are considered so safe by Health & Safety experts that they will only have to be inspected every two years, and there's another saving on annual inspections. Accountants everywhere would approve.



2011 Christmas Lights Switch on



CIVIC CENTRE: (cont.): Amidst the quality renovation throughout and the modern features, there are special toilet amenities. A Changing Places toilet has been fitted to a very high standard, allowing carers to change adults with disabilities in a clean, advanced environment that has a number of important facilities, including a shower. Both male and female toilets have baby changing facilities, and there is a separate disabled toilet, making the Centre inclusive for all needs. The reception area also boasts a coffee bar where visitors can purchase refreshments and sit in comfort while waiting.

For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to visit the Civic Centre yet, please feel free to come and have a look around at this fresh new community facility – and why not enjoy a cup of coffee while you're there!

If you want more details about hiring rooms at the Civic Centre, just go to our website at www.warminster.uk.com or you can give the Civic Centre a call on 01985 214847.



CIVIC AWARD RECOGNISES WORK WITH CHILDREN

This important annual event is very much a local affair. Not only does it recognise outstanding work in the community, it is an award that comes from the people of Warminster, with members of the public nominating those they believe are deserving.

It may be regarded as a platitude to say that Warminster is awash with well-meaning souls, but the fact remains that quite a number of people are nominated every year, and for very good reasons. Finding a winner was especially hard this year, so the judges decided to award two people, both of whom have distinguished themselves by their work with young people.

Joan Davies has been a Cub Scout Leader in the Warminster Scout Group for 37 years. During her long tenure, she was able to pass on skills in camping, hiking, crafts and cooking – and not just locally, but throughout the District, County and National scouting movement. Burt Paul was a governor of the Avenue School for 36 years, only retiring from the Board of Governors in 2011, having been its Chair for a number of years. The demanding role of governor, involving management of staff and premises, not to mention Health & Safety matters, never seemed to deter him.

Presenting the award at the Civic Centre during her tea party, Mayor Pip Ridout praised the two recipients. "Without such people, Warminster and many other towns would not function quite so well," she said, adding, "It's so easy to concentrate on the negatives within our society, but this is a real opportunity to focus on the positive and celebrate all that is good within our town."

Music Festival to Hit the Right Note

There's one essential ingredient for jubilees, and that's music. However, as it's the Queen's Jubilee and we're Warminster people, we aim to go one step further – well, more than one step, actually. We like to have the option of listening to different music at different locations.

This is the plan for our Picnic in the Park on 3rd June. It's simply a matter of tapping into the reputation that many Warminster pubs have already established for putting on live music. The hope is that pubs will stage a sufficient cross-section of bands and performers that will appeal to the broadest section of Warminster residents. You can then spend the day sampling different musical genres or, if moving's not your thing – apart from the odd bit of foot-tapping – you can settle in just one venue to enjoy your favourite music.

There is a lot of local talent out there – from rock bands and jazz bands to folk groups and individual performers – and it's hoped this will give them a platform to showcase their musical gifts. **So strike up the band!**



EVENTS DIARY FOR 2012

- March 16:** March-through of 3rd Battalion, the Yorkshire Regiment prior to their tour of Afghanistan.
- April 22:** Mayor's Civic Service at The Minster Church. Includes a celebration of St George's Day.
- May 22:** The Olympic torch passes through Frome, Southwick, Trowbridge and Bradford-on-Avon en route to Bristol.
- June 3:** Picnic in the Park. Music, magic and entertainment for all the family. Not to be missed!
- June 16/17:** Warminster Wobble, the great annual bike ride for two-wheeled enthusiasts.
- June 24:** Carnival Fun Day.
- July 11:** The Olympic torch relay overnight at Salisbury.
- October 6–20:** Warminster Festival. More information on this in our June issue.
- October 27:** Warminster Carnival.