



NEW WASTE & RECYCLING ARRANGEMENTS

Changes to Wiltshire's waste and recycling collection service, which will improve the county's recycling rate and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, will be going ahead during 2011/12. This important development will help to lower the amount the council has to spend in landfill tax.

During October and November 2011, all households in the east, north and west will have a fortnightly collection of plastic bottles and cardboard, in addition to the existing fortnightly black box collection for paper, cans, glass, foil, clothes and shoes. If you don't have a bin for cardboard and plastic bottles, you will come September! Look out for a leaflet about these new services, or for more information visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

FOODBANK'S RECORD PRAISED BY MP

The Foodbank Centre's new premises in The Regency Arcade were unveiled in March by patron and local MP, Dr Andrew Murrison. In the presence of the Mayor, Sue Fraser, he praised the hard work of all those involved and hailed it as an example of the Prime Minister's 'Big Society'. Since the project began, Foodbank has fed 519 adults and 383 children, and 5417.6kg of food has been collected locally for those in need.

If you'd like to become involved as a trustee, a member of the management team or as a volunteer, please contact Rev. Denis Brett (01985 213000), Rev. Heather Morgan (01722 790343), or Sheila Pomeroy (01985 214910).



FAIRTRADE'S FLIPPING FABULOUS FORTNIGHT

Warminster went Fairtrade mad for two weeks earlier this year. On Shrove Tuesday, with the support of Moreton's café and their champion pancake-flipper, Zara, not to mention a Facebook campaign by the Kingdown Fairtrade Young Supporters Group, 104 pancakes filled with Fairtrade products were sold. Warminster School also played host to a banana producer from St Vincent, who came with a representative from the Fairtrade Foundation to give a talk about how the Fairtrade scheme has helped to improve the lives of his community.

On the penultimate day, Fairtrade had a stall selling Fairtrade goods in the Three Horseshoes Walk and a tombola. Lidl and Morrisons donated some Fairtrade goods as prizes, and a couple of dancing Fairtrade bananas distributed stickers to passers-by! All in all, the fortnight was judged a great success – and you can't say fairer than that.



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.

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forthcoming meetings - Town Council and Committee Meetings are held at Dewey House 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 and agendas are listed below and are also posted on the notice board outside Dewey House and posted on our website: www.warminster.uk.com Meetings are also advertised in the *Warminster Journal*.

Town Development	6th June	7.00pm	Planning Advisory	1st August	7.00pm
Planning Advisory	13th June	7.00pm	Town Development	8th August	7.00pm
CCTV	15th June	10.30am	Planning Advisory	22nd August	7.00pm
Finance & Assets	27th June	7.00pm	Finance & Assets	5th September	7.00pm
Planning Advisory	4th July	7.00pm	Planning Advisory	12th September	7.00pm
Communications	11th July	7.00pm	CCTV	14th September	10.30am
Full Council	18th July	7.00pm	Full Council	19th September	7.00pm



engage

and make a difference

editor's welcome

It's well known that our town is steeped in history and its surroundings are lovely, which is why we get visitors from far and wide each and every year. They're most welcome too – and not just because of their positive effect on the local economy. But for the residents who live and work in the area, it's not always about buildings – no matter how attractive or historic – nor is it always about the countryside around us, beautiful though it is. It's about people.

We can be proud, not just of our town and countryside, but of the way the community in and around Warminster knits together to form a network of friendly support. In other words, a real community! In this edition of *engage*, you can see evidence of the way this network operates – how people always seem to come forward when the need arises. But that doesn't mean we have sufficient volunteers. Volunteers, like visitors, are always welcome!

BREAKTHROUGH FOR WARMINSTER PARKING



Despite the date, the new parking arrangements that were planned for 1st April (although did not come into existence until 18th April) were no joke. This was when Wiltshire Council imposed parking rates right across the county, which meant everyone having to pay 40p for the first hour. For Warminster's retail community, this set alarm bells ringing as it was feared it might deter shoppers from coming into town.

However, at the beginning of March, retailers signed up to an agreement called the Warminster Parking Partnership. This Town Council initiative blunts the impact of these charges by allowing people to get the first hour of parking absolutely free. All they have to do is present half a parking voucher (the other half is left in the car) to the participating outlet to receive 40p off their purchase. The scheme, which is believed to be the first of its kind in the county, has the backing of Wiltshire Council, who has agreed to print the two-part vouchers.

The Town Council has committed £2,000 a month to fund the scheme, which will operate in the heart of Warminster's main shopping areas. This bursary will enable participating traders – a list of whom can be found at the Information Centre and in the Library – to get all or part of the money they have paid out on parking vouchers refunded. Best of all, by the time you read this, the scheme should be up and running, so if you were thinking twice about coming into town, you can think again!

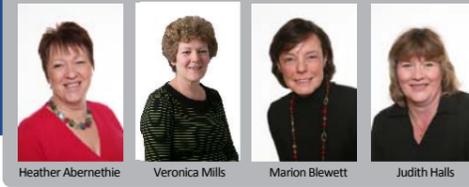




Warminster Town Council

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Staff at Dewey House



Heather Abernethie Veronica Mills Marion Blewett Judith Halls

The Assembly Rooms were handed over to the contractor, Ken Biggs Ltd, on 7th April, and the refurbishment is now under way. We anticipate that the work will take approximately 28 weeks to complete, and the Assembly Rooms will be back in action in its new Civic Centre role in November. Bookings for the Assembly Rooms are being taken at Dewey House in the meantime, so please contact the Town Council if you wish to make a booking following the reopening. We will report on the likely opening date in the next issue of *engage* in October.

The Town Council offices in Dewey House are open Monday to Friday, 9.30am–4.30pm, and Dewey House hall is available for hire. You are welcome to call in during opening hours, and are also welcome to attend the council meetings which are held in the Chamber. Details of forthcoming meetings are given on the back page, listed on the website and advertised on the notice boards outside Dewey House and the Assembly Rooms and in the *Warminster Journal*.

WELCOME TO PIP RIDOUT

I am very proud to have been elected Mayor and look forward to representing you and the town of Warminster in the coming year. As Deputy Mayor for the last twelve months, I have already worked with many of our wonderful voluntary organisations and seen at close hand the marvellous work they do. I know I shall continue to enjoy my association with them and eagerly anticipate getting involved with many new ones. 2012 will be full of exciting projects to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, and many ideas are already being discussed by 'Events 2012'. I'm looking forward to an event-packed year, and will embrace the challenge with energy and enthusiasm. Many thanks to Sue Fraser for the excellent job she has done as Mayor. I hope to fulfil my duties with the same commitment she has shown.

MAYOR'S FAREWELL TO SUE FRASER



PARLOUR

My Mayoral year has been a wonderful and enriching experience, but one thing does stand out: seeing the number of dedicated volunteers, who give up so much of their valuable time to run our numerous charitable organisations. I would like to extend my thanks to all of you for your contributions – and for including me in your many functions and meetings, which I took great delight in attending. There have been challenges in the last year, but also fun moments; and I've enjoyed meeting so many interesting people in Warminster and around the county. A big thank you to our Town Clerk, Heather Abernethie, and to her staff for all the support I've received; and a warm welcome to Pip Ridout, our new Mayor. I wish her well and hope she will have as much enjoyment as I've had.

FLOOD ALERT TESTS WARMINSTER'S DEFENCES



Ever wondered what would happen if Warminster was under threat from serious flooding? Perhaps some of us have considered the prospect, but staff at Dewey House had little choice. They were put through their paces at the end of March when their offices were turned into the nerve centre of the Emergency Planning Team as part of a flood alert exercise. The main players in Exercise Watermark included Town Clerk Heather Abernethie, staff member Veronica Mills, Mayor Sue Fraser and Councillor Veronica Burden. Also holed up in the nerve centre were Nick Reed from the Environment Agency and volunteer Flood Warden Sarah Zastava.

The exercise began with a call from the Environment Agency warning of some 50mm of rain over the course of the next six hours. A number of incidents, which had to be logged and located, were then reported by phone. Once this had been done, volunteer Flood Wardens Kim Nicklin, Steve Howell and Isabel Buckingham were notified and instructed to go into action. All was going well, until the report of a major (fictitious) road traffic accident – caused by the (fictitious) rainstorm – meant (real) fireman Steve Howell had to be taken out of the picture for duties at the scene of the (fictitious) accident. This further challenged organisational skills and collective calm. Designed to test the Community Flood Plan 2011, it was also a way of seeing how the main players lived up to what was, for all its fictional qualities, a high pressure drama. Warminster was the only town in Wiltshire to undergo this exercise and one of only two in the south west. And the overall verdict? We performed very well, but there were some valuable lessons learnt, one being that we need some deputy wardens. So if this little story has whetted your appetite, now's the time to apply!

GO BUSTARDS!!

Remember the bustards that were reintroduced to Salisbury Plain? Well, similar ones will be making an appearance next year in Warminster – not in living, breathing, feathered form, but as unique displays of art. It's all part of an idea, conceived by Lesley Fudge, to encourage local artists to help people create something special for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics in 2012. Her plan so impressed the Finance & Assets Committee that it became a beneficiary of a grant of £2,000. So don't be surprised if you bump into one of Warminster's bustards next year, you certainly won't be able to miss them as five are planned to be placed at the five entrances to the town. Once they've served their purpose, the models will be auctioned off and the money distributed to local charities.

WARMINSTER IN BLOOM

Warminster is entering the Britain in Bloom competition for the first time in 2012. The idea has come from a desire to make Warminster look especially good in the momentous year in which the Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics come to the UK. The campaign focuses not only on producing floral displays, but also on improving the environment in which we live. Warminster people are already planning projects that can be included in our entry and there will be opportunities for everyone to get involved in some way – whether by supporting a campaign to make Warminster greener and cleaner, or joining forces with neighbours to make your street more beautiful. Please look out for notices in the press, and register your interest by leaving a message at Warminster Information Centre or Dewey House, or emailing us at warminsterinbloom@gmail.com.

EVENTFUL YEAR CALLS FOR EVENTS 2012

Next year promises to be a busy one, what with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. And of course Warminster plans to do its bit with suitable flair to mark these events. The trouble is, with everyone so fired up with enthusiasm, there could be a deluge of happenings at the same time – perhaps even in the same place!

To avoid the clash and confusion that could result, an 'Events 2012' Working Group has been formed and charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating the various activities that will be springing up in the not too distant future. Obviously, those who are sitting on the group of 'Events 2012' have ideas of their own which are beginning to be explored and discussed, but the central task of the group is to facilitate all Warminster's 2012 activities.

So if you're in middle of planning the most amazing 'happening', or if you want to become a group member, why not get in touch with 'Events 2012'? They could help you to get your event off the ground – and help you to be part of Warminster's momentous year!

Warminster aid for local bodies

There are so many worthy causes, but sadly the reality is that not all of them will get the funding they need and deserve. Here in Warminster, we do our bit to help some of the organisations that have applied for grants.

Amongst the lucky recipients at this year's awards – and apart from the Go Bustards!! project (see article in this edition of *engage*) – were St John Ambulance, Alzheimer's Support, Carers Support and Group Five.

In addition, there was funding towards the cost of fitting out Foodbank's new premises; wheelchairs for Shopmobility; new kit for Highbury Youth Football Team; and a seat for the War Memorial Garden to commemorate 90 years of the Royal British Legion in Warminster. The WVCP (Warminster & Villages Community Partnership) Health and Social Care Group and the Warminster Athenaeum Trust were also beneficiaries, as were Splitz Support Service, Warminster Cycle Group, Warminster Environmental Team Services, the Warminster Preservation Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

The Council's grant scheme runs on an annual basis, with applications to be made by the end of May each year. Grants are awarded to support initiatives that, in the Council's opinion, are of benefit to the area and/or its inhabitants, and the decisions on the allocation of grants are made by Council Members at a meeting in July. Although the deadline for applications for 2011–2012 has passed, anyone who wishes to be considered for the 2012–2013 scheme can contact the Town Council at Dewey House and request an application form.

New life for Warminster Festival?

In the last issue of *engage*, we ran an article under the heading, 'A Future for Warminster Festival?' – well, just when we thought it was all over, local people have shown that not only does the festival have a future, it has a new lease of life. With the retirement of leading members of the committee, there was no one to take their place and with no one to man the helm, this particular ship was bound for the rocks. But Warminster's community spirit has saved the day.

Into the gap left by Dorothea and Charles Sultana de Maria and Richard Violet has stepped a number of volunteers fired with gusto and passion. In fact, the committee will now be larger to accommodate this wave of enthusiasm, and the air is already buzzing with ideas for new acts and possible themes. All this bodes well for the next festival, so watch this space!