

SEE YOU IN THREE HORSESHOES WALK

Following the disappearance of benches in Three Horseshoes Walk, four new CCTV cameras have been installed. These will form part of the CCTV network covering the Warminster area and which has proved so successful in the last few years. For those who have missed the benches it will be especially good news now that the cameras are installed, moves are underway to replace the ones that vanished.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF SPORTING HISTORY

It might seem like a long time to wait for the summer after next, but organisation for the 2012 Olympics is going full steam ahead. And there's a way you can be involved in this grand international event by applying to be a Games Maker or volunteer. The jobs will be varied and you'll have to be prepared to do anything. You'll also have to be in or near London. So the cousins you've always meant to visit in South Kensington may find themselves unexpectedly popular. Conditions are that you must be 18 or over on 1st January 2012 and available for a minimum of 10 days between 27th July and 12th August 2012, or between 29th August and 9th September 2012 for the Paralympic Games. There's also a Young Games Maker programme, which will be unveiled next year.

For further details go to:
<http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/volunteer/index.php>

REMEMBRANCE DAY & POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion Riders will be holding their AGM at Knook on Saturday 13th November, and will stay over to line the route of the Remembrance Day Parade through the town on Sunday. That, you might be thinking, is a long route to line; but then there is likely to be some 400 of them to do the job. Prior to that, the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment will be unveiling a rather impressive 12 metre poppy at Fovant Badges on 13th October to launch this year's Poppy Appeal. This should be something to see. It'll certainly be a good reminder to give generously to what is, for Warminster people, a particularly special charity.

WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS GIVEN A FACELIFT

Mayor Sue Fraser probably felt a bit like Miss Marple when she was phoned by a member of the public, who thought that flowers at the War Memorial in Portway were being stolen. What the good person mistook for an 'open and shut' case was actually a case of good works. Students from Warminster School had been involved in a four phase plan back in the summer to clear the unused triangle of land behind the War Memorial, landscape the extended grounds, and carry out crowning of the beech tree. The final phase is to create a new entrance to allow the less mobile to access the site more easily. So well done to all the students, as for the caller, they should be congratulated for being so vigilant.



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 Sue Fraser, and the Deputy Mayor - Councillor Pip Ridout, both of whom were elected on 17th May 2010.

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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 boards outside Dewey House and The Assembly Rooms, posted on our website www.warminster.uk.com and advertised in The *Warminster Journal*. Minutes of meetings are also posted on the website

Planning Advisory	18th Oct	7pm	Finance & Assets	10th Jan	7pm
Finance & Assets	8th Nov	7pm	Full Council	17th Jan	7pm
Planning Advisory	15th Nov	7pm	Planning Advisory	24th Jan	7pm
Full Council	22nd Nov	7pm	Communications	31st Jan	7pm
Communications	29th Nov	7pm	Town Development	7th Feb	7pm
Town Development	6th Dec	7pm	Planning Advisory	14th Feb	7pm
Planning Advisory	13th Dec	7pm	Finance & Assets	28th Feb	7pm
CCTV	15th Dec	10.30am			



engage

and make a difference

editor's welcome

Put it down to the fact that another year's end is imminent, but we've become quite reflective. In what way? Well, we thought, if the newsletter is called *engage*, that's what we should be doing: engaging with our readers. So we're on the lookout for your opinion. For instance, how DO you think this year's Warminster Festival went? What sort of events would you like to see in 2012 when the next Festival is scheduled? Should the Town Council be financially committed to it?

But it's not only your views on the Festival we're after, it's your views in general. If there's anything in this issue that you have an opinion on, reach for a pen and start writing! Or send us an email. Don't forget, this is your newsletter – about your town. So drop us a line and we'll print the best letter. Meanwhile, we hope you find this issue not only interesting, but inspiring!



NEW MOVE ON ASSEMBLY ROOMS

An Extraordinary Full Council meeting was held at Warminster Town Council back in August to discuss the future of the Assembly Rooms. As we are all aware, this is a controversial issue – which is only to be expected because what happens to the Assembly Rooms will have a major impact on the community.

It was decided that a full consultation should be implemented in order to ascertain precisely how the people of Warminster wish to proceed. With that in mind, a questionnaire has been mailed out to a randomly selected proportion of Warminster residents, a method that is entirely in keeping with full consultations of this order. By the time you read this edition of *engage*, some 1,500 questionnaires will already have been mailed out.

If you haven't received one, it means that you did not fall within the random selection. However, if you have received a questionnaire, it is of the utmost importance to complete it because it is only through completed questionnaires that we can hope to establish what is the general view of Warminster residents. Accompanying the questionnaire is a guide, which contains factual information regarding the Assembly Rooms. We strongly urge you to read this. With so many rumours around, having actual facts to hand will help you to answer the questions.

The results of the consultation will be made known as soon as all of the completed questionnaires have been returned which is expected to be at the end of October.



Warminster Town Council

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Staff at Dewey House



While consultations take place on the future of the Assembly Rooms (*see front page story*) it is business as usual both at the Assembly Rooms and Dewey House. The Town Council offices in Dewey House are open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm and the public are welcome to call in during those 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*.

Our new website at www.warminster.uk.com continues to be developed and we would be interested in your opinion of it. Does it contain the information you want? Would you like to see other information included? All details of council meetings and activities are listed on it and you can access agendas and minutes of all meetings. There is also a section for Hot News where you will find news items relating to the Town Council and to the town.

MAYOR'S PARLOUR

I have enjoyed a thoroughly rewarding first few months as Mayor, giving me the opportunity to meet a whole variety of people, from fellow Mayors to retired vicars, and opening church and school fêtes has helped me to meet local people, something I always enjoy. I'm proud to say I was in the audience when the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment were presented with medals by the Duke of Wellington for service in Afghanistan. But there's also been a sad side – attending the repatriation of our local hero, Anthony Hotine, at Wootton Bassett and organising the remembrance book at the Chapel of St Lawrence.

I am pleased that Dents will commence building their new factory in Furnax

Furnax Lane this autumn, which means that Waitrose can start construction on Dents' old site with a view to opening their new store in autumn 2011. I must congratulate my fellow Councillors in their negotiations with Wiltshire Council over car parking charges, which led to an extension of free parking until the end of the Municipal year - March 2011; but we will be continuing the fight against further charges being brought in next year. We are holding a public consultation regarding the upgrading of the Assembly Rooms because we want to do the best to preserve this wonderful facility.

Finally, I am looking forward to the many enjoyable activities leading up to Christmas: the Carnival, the Remembrance Parade and the Christmas Street Fayre and Christmas Lights Switch on. I look forward to seeing you all there.



Sue Fraser

Charity 5 Day 'Numb Bum' Ride

Mayor Sue Fraser and the Town Crier welcomed Corporal Andy Reid to Warminster and congratulated him on completing the first leg of the 5-day Numb Bum Ride from Land's End to John O'Groats over the August Bank Holiday.

Corporal Reid sustained severe injuries in Afghanistan and now devotes his time to raising money for injured soldiers and their families.



TOWN CRIERS KICK OFF WARMINSTER FESTIVAL IN STYLE



Town crying is enjoying something of a resurgence nowadays with a number of competitions popping up all over the region. The criers certainly looked the part back in July when they set off down the High Street towards the Park to open the Warminster Festival, the competitors all robed in fine, individually styled uniforms and accompanied by ladies with period long dresses and parasols. There were 23 criers in all, including one from Belgium, and our own Phil Seddon, who led the parade, but was not entitled to take part. The competition started in the morning with competitors having to give a cry about their own home town.

In the afternoon, things took on a local twist as criers improvised on 'Warminster as the UFO capital'. Not all the talk was about flying saucers though; there were also some saucy suggestions about what the letters UFO might stand for! Everyone who took part put in a bravado performance, but of course there can only ever be one winner and he was Willy Van de Putte from Ghent. Second place went to David Fry of South Gloucestershire, while Trevor Heeks of Trowbridge was third.

Let us know what you thought of the event. Write to us with your views or email us on: admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk



Street Pastor Scheme Comes to Warminster

If anything is a streetwise move, this is it. The idea is to have small teams of trained volunteers engaging with people where they are, on the streets and around the pubs of Warminster late at night over the weekend. Street Pastors will be there to care, listen, pray and offer a helping hand if needed. It is hoped that the scheme will be run by people from at least four Warminster churches (Warminster Baptist Church, Christ Church, Foundation Christian Fellowship and the Minster Church), in association with the Ascension Trust, and alongside the Police and the Local Authority.

Some 200 similar schemes operate in the UK already, and locally are successfully running in Bath, Salisbury, Swindon and Trowbridge. The Street Pastor Scheme has the unanimous backing of Councillors and the local police, who see a great deal of value in it. Desperate measures? Not really – for although it might be a novel approach, the scheme has proved elsewhere in the country that it can make a difference on the streets encouraging a safer and more compassionate community.

WHAT'S IN A PUFFIN CROSSING?

It's a reasonable question and the answer can be summed up in one word: safety. Puffin crossings are a relatively new type of crossing that has the green (or red) man in a box next to pedestrians waiting to cross. The argument is that this will encourage pedestrians to look towards the flow of traffic rather than relying on the lighted man across the road. But that's not all. They have a built-in detector system, which 'sees' pedestrians. This means that if you're someone who needs extra time, a mum with a pushchair or an elderly person with a stick, the system will hold the lights to allow you to cross. With the old pelican system, people felt they had to rush. But it works for drivers too, if you bound across the road, traffic will be allowed to flow again and drivers won't have to sit waiting for non-existent pedestrians to cross.



Festival Review

Now that the Warminster Festival is behind us, it's time to take a look at how it went. That's where you come in! This year's programme was one of the most varied, but we need to hear your views about the events – whether there was a sufficient mix to suit all tastes, whether there was too much or, indeed, too little to choose from. Did you think it was well publicised? 7,500 leaflets went through letterboxes. But don't just tell us your views, bring us your ideas! What would you like to see in 2012?

There is another reason why we want to hear from you. The Festival, which has been running successfully every other year for the last 20 years, takes some organising. Dorothea and Charles Sultana de Maria have been Chair and Treasurer for many years, whilst Warminster's librarian Richard Violet has been Secretary. All have done sterling work during the course of the Festival's long life, but they have now decided to stand down. So if you're interested in becoming part of this important event you might like to become a committee member and have a 'hands on' role in its organising. *If so, get in touch!*



CIVIC AWARD PRESENTED

The 2010 Civic Award was presented to John and Sheila Pomeroy by the Mayor at her Civic Reception on 3rd September.

John and Sheila have lived in Warminster for over 35 years. John is Treasurer of Warminster Relief in Need, the Link scheme, the Chapel of St Lawrence and well known as Chairman of Commercial Transport in Preservation. Sheila is a Lay Pastoral Assistant, Sacristan at the Chapel of St Lawrence, Rainbow Leader with the Guide Association and has recently received a long service certificate for 20 years as a volunteer at Warminster Hospital. She is also involved with the Foodbank. Presenting the award, Councillor Fraser said: "The range of activities that John and Sheila are involved in is demonstrated by how well known they are for their selflessness and positive attitude. They work tirelessly for the benefit of Warminster and the wider community and I am delighted to present this award to them both."