

# in brief

## NEW LOOK, NEW WEBSITE

www.warminster.uk.com

After much planning, we're pleased to announce the launch of the new Town Council website. The newly developed, eye-catching site is easier to navigate and will have much more information on it. These are early days and we intend to add to the content bit by bit; as it is, you'll be able to access the Town Plan and complete a questionnaire on it. There'll also be local news stories to click on, details on how to contact us, dates of meetings, and even editions of *engage* to browse through. Tell us what you think. And if you have any ideas about content – maybe a page on memories of Warminster past? – let us know. [www.warminster.uk.com](http://www.warminster.uk.com)

### Successful Applicants Pick Up Cheques

It's that time of year again when grants are handed out to deserving bodies that have applied for funding. Councillor Tony Nicklin presented cheques to eight recipients, including Tony Jackson of the Athenaeum Trust, who said the money would go towards the refurbishment of kitchens; Angela Adams of Shopmobility, who explained that their grant would help pay for new scooters and ramps; and Mrs Chris Montague for the Warminster and Villages Community Partnership Economy and Tourism Group who said that the money would be used to develop a further the series of leaflets promoting local businesses and shops. Other successful applicants were the Warminster Cricket Club, Cycle Group, and Adventure Sports Club, and the Friends of Warminster Park. Applications are considered in March and July so if you wish to apply for next year, you can pick up a form from Dewey House now.

### TRANSWILTS - Looks To The Future

When petrol prices rocket, what better way to get about than by train. However, if you want to get from Warminster to Chippenham or Swindon by rail you're not likely to have much luck. But hope is at hand. At a meeting in Trowbridge in March, the TransWilts Community Rail Partnership was set up with a view to making the line a regular route. If successful, travellers will be able to get from Salisbury to Swindon, via Warminster, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Trowbridge, Melksham and Chippenham. Other than saving on petrol, time is another factor favouring the line. Estimated travel time by rail from Trowbridge to Swindon is 35 minutes as opposed to over an hour and a half by bus. For more information, and to lend your support, you can go to the TransWilts website at [www.transwilts.org.uk](http://www.transwilts.org.uk)

### Safety First At All Times

Summer stirs the souls of DIY enthusiasts and fills the air with sounds of saws, drills and expletives – well, if an accident is going to happen it's often on the back of some DIY activity. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has issued a list of warnings that offers advice on a variety of topics including proper electrical tool usage, safety of children and pets, handling hazardous substances, and care of smoke alarms. Summer also means barbecues; but, although fun, they too can be dangerous when not set up and operated responsibly. For comprehensive information and advice, contact Melanie Jezzard at: [Melanie.jezzard@wiltshirefire.co.uk](mailto:Melanie.jezzard@wiltshirefire.co.uk)

### Grit Bins

It might be summer, but if we're to get ourselves through next winter there are things we can do right now. One of them is to check the level of grit in your nearest grit bin. If it's low, call us on **01985 214847** and we can arrange to have a refill delivered well in time for whatever next winter throws at us.

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 posted on the notice boards outside Dewey House and The Assembly Rooms. They are also available from Dewey House and are advertised in the Warminster Journal and they can be viewed on our website [www.warminster.uk.com](http://www.warminster.uk.com) along with the Minutes of the meetings.

CCTV	16th June	10.30am	Finance & Assets	6th Sept	7.00pm
Finance & Assets	21st June	7.00pm	Communications	13th Sept	7.00pm
Planning Advisory	5th July	7.00pm	CCTV	15th Sept	10.30am
Town Development	12th July	7.00pm	Full Council	20th Sept	7.00pm
Full Council	19th July	7.00pm	Planning Advisory	27th Sept	7.00pm
Communications	26th July	7.00pm	Town Development	4th Oct	7.00pm
Planning Advisory	2nd August	7.00pm	Planning Advisory	18th Oct	7.00pm
Planning Advisory	23rd August	7.00pm			



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# engage

and make a difference

## editor's welcome

Well, it's here at last. And I don't just mean summer, I mean the Warminster Festival. Held every other year, it truly is a major event in the local calendar. Our thanks to the festival committee and its leading light, Dorothea Sultana De Maria, who has kept the idea afloat since 1990. Who would have thought that after twenty years this important regional 'happening' will still be going strong? Read more about it inside.

With the bustling Mayor's Community Day in February and the fantastic St George's Day Parade on 23rd April, nobody could say Warminster is a quiet little backwater. It would be hard for such events to be organised without the help and support of our tireless volunteers but, fortunately, service to the community isn't going out of fashion in Warminster. Talking of which, in this issue we say a big 'thank you' to Mayor Tony Nicklin for his year of service and give a warm welcome to our new Mayor, Sue Fraser.



## Motorists put under pressure

What's the challenge confronting every town in the land, an issue that arouses strong feelings and something affecting almost all of us? No, it's not vandalism. It's parking. Today when so many people are mobile, parking is a perennial problem. Indeed, it was one of the matters discussed at the Parish Meeting on 12th April.

The facts of the matter are straightforward.

Warminster Town Council used to pay an annual sum of £36,000 for the two-hour free parking that visitors and residents alike enjoyed. But after a review throughout the county, Wiltshire Council increased this demand to £150,000, which represents just under half of the annual precept. This was refused by the Town Council and Wiltshire Council came back with revised offers. These were discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council at the Assembly Rooms on 12th May and then taken to the Area Board meeting at Dewey House on 20th May. Discussions are still taking place so watch this space....

In the meantime, the Town Council has set up a working party to facilitate parking by reviewing double yellow lines: the outcome of this will be reported in later issues of *engage*.



# St. George's Day CELEBRATIONS

The old knight would have been proud. At Warminster's first ever St George's Day Parade, the sun shone from a cloudless blue sky and enthusiastic crowds turned out to see the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment march through the town led by our own town crier, Phil Seddon. He was followed by the Light Cavalry Band and local organisations representing Warminster. As the spectators clapped, cheered and waved their flags, the parade marched by in the presence of John Bush, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, who took the salute.

Among the organisations taking part in the parade were the Police, Scouts, Guides, members of the cadet forces, the Royal British Legion and their motor cycle contingent, the Old Comrades Association, and the Warminster branches of the Regimental and Corps Associations.

Many shops entered into the spirit of the occasion by having imaginatively themed window displays, adding to the gaiety of the town. Townspeople were encouraged to vote on their favourite display and Oxfam won hands down – a fitting tribute to the many hardworking volunteers who have helped to run the shop for 25 years. What with the glorious weather and the festive air, it made for a grand day out – with not a dragon in sight!



## MAYOR'S COMMUNITY DAY

Cllr Tony Nicklin hosted the Mayor's Community Day on 27th February when the Assembly Rooms were packed with an estimated 500 visitors. Representatives of more than 60 local businesses and organisations were in attendance, including the Town Council. The Mayor took the opportunity to conduct his survey on the issues surrounding Dewey House, the Assembly Rooms and the Old Town Hall. Whilst the majority supported the retention of Dewey House for community hiring purposes, a narrow gap separated the 'yeas' from the 'nays' on the question of the Assembly Rooms' refurbishment plans which allow for Council office space – 54 were in favour, 69 against, and 8 were undecided. The future of the Old Town Hall produced similarly narrow results. The question of whether the Council should borrow funds to buy and restore the building was as close as it gets, with 59 for, 58 against, and 13 undecided; 51 were for leaving it in commercial ownership, 42 against, and 37 undecided.

Considerable interest was also shown in the draft Town Plan with lively debate and discussion taking place at the stand with the Mayor and councillors, resulting in useful feedback for the Town Plan committee. The event was a resounding success and proved again that Warminster residents show a robust interest in their town.



## Festival Countdown Begins

Everything is in place for this year's Warminster Festival, a once every two year event that draws in the crowds and gives a festive sparkle to the town. As always, there's something for everybody, with a menu of different happenings throughout the town that will appeal to all tastes and all ages. One of the most enduringly popular

is the Town Crier Competition, which starts the Festival on 3rd July at 10.30am. The criers will gather at the Assembly Rooms before forming a procession and proceeding, via High Street, Market Place and Weymouth Street, to the Park, where competitors from far and wide, including Belgium, will test their oratory skills.

Throughout that Saturday, and for the next seven days, Warminster will be bustling with an assortment of events held at different locations throughout the town. In fact, to keep track of the various activities will be something of a challenge, so a colourful leaflet has been produced, enabling you to see where and when the events are happening. You can pick up the leaflet at the Library and Dewey House and at many shops and outlets in the town – start highlighting those unmissable events!

## MAYOR'S PARLOUR

### FAREWELL & THANKS FROM TONY NICKLIN

Well, my year has drawn to a close and, as enjoyable and challenging as it has been, the time has come to hand over to Sue Fraser. I sincerely wish her well. My Chairman's report, which is in the Council's Annual Report, identifies most of the challenges, some not yet concluded – in particular, our Town Plan and our Assembly Room appraisal. There have been moments of real satisfaction such as meeting other Mayors of Wiltshire, which brought Kim and myself a great deal of pleasure; and meeting many more interesting people from Warminster than I would otherwise have met. Thank you again for all the invitations I received around the town to visit you, and thank you for the support that you have given me and the Mayoress. It is very much appreciated.



### WELCOME TO MAYOR SUE FRASER

It is an honour and privilege to be elected Mayor of our lovely town. I'm looking forward to representing Warminster at the many organisations and events around the town and the county in what should be an interesting year. The Town Plan will be progressing to the final version and we can look forward to a summer packed full of activities, such as the annual carnival and the Warminster Festival.

I am very proud of the many complimentary observations made by visitors. So many of them think Warminster looks even more inviting after the redevelopment of our town centre and believe that it now resembles a real market town. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel there's something I can do to further improve the ambience of our great town.

## CALL FOR A PARISH POLL

On 31st March a parish meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms to discuss the Town Council's proposal to refurbish the Assembly Rooms and create a Community Hub and Civic Centre which would include the Town Council offices moving from Dewey House to this new Civic Centre. This is an important issue revolving around estimated costs and possible implications. The meeting, which was arranged following receipt of a petition on 5th March, was attended by 80 residents of the town and chaired by the then Mayor, Councillor Tony Nicklin.

Speakers called for a parish poll, the first to be held in Warminster, and proposed that the poll put the question "Do you agree with the Town Council's idea of moving to the Assembly Rooms?". The poll took place at the Assembly Rooms on 22nd April with the result that 540 voted no and 48 voted yes. The turnout for the poll was 4.71% of the electorate.



## Warminster Town Council

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### Staff at Dewey House



While discussions continue on the proposal to combine the Town Council Offices and the Assembly Rooms into a more accessible Community Hub and Civic Centre for Warminster, the Town Council offices are open for business at Dewey House in North Row Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4.30pm. Visitors are welcome to call in during those hours, and are also welcome to the council meetings. Details of these are given on the back page, and they are also advertised in the *Warminster Journal* and on the notice boards outside Dewey House and the Assembly Rooms.

The new website is now up and running - [www.warminster.uk.com](http://www.warminster.uk.com) - and will be developed further over the coming months. All details of council meetings and activities can be found on it and there will be a forum for your views and comments.