



Talk of the Town

Newsletter of Nantwich Town Council

Autumn 2010

Mayor of Nantwich Town Council writes...



Councillor Joyce Stockton

Councillor Joyce Stockton is the second Mayor of Nantwich. Councillor Stockton is accompanied on many of her engagements by her Consort and husband, Mr Eddie Stockton. She outlines below some of the highlights of a busy year....



Mayor visits Reaseheath College.

Since I was installed as Mayor I have attended many engagements, including three visits to Reaseheath College which has undergone a major refurbishment. It now caters for over 10,000 students and has had several new buildings added.



Meeting the Duke of Westminster.

Whilst there, I have had the pleasure of meeting many people. I also had the honour of being introduced to the Duke of Westminster, and seeing the Queen during her visit to the College.



Crowning the Community Princess.

My husband and I had a lovely time at the Family Fun day, where I had the privilege to crown the Nantwich Princess. The weather was very kind to us and thousands flocked into Nantwich. It was a very successful day.



Visiting the Transport Festival.

On July 25th I attended the Transport Festival. It was very interesting to see so many old cars and other vehicles. The weather was fine and there was a very good turnout. My grandchildren were especially fascinated with the fire engine, army trucks and weapons.

On July 28th my Consort and I spent the day at the Nantwich Show, it just gets better and better, I had the pleasure of judging the Town & Country section. The stalls were well laid out and each one different. My thanks to the organisers for inviting us and for making us feel a part of things; once again the weather was kind to us, so all in all we had a good day.



A special Anniversary.

This year is also very special for my husband and I, as on the 29th of July we celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years).. Special thanks to the Nantwich Market Traders for their lovely card and the beautiful bouquet of flowers. We had a lovely day, and a family party in the evening.



Councillors preparing for a litter pick. (Photo courtesy of the Chronicle.)

On Friday the 30th of July several Nantwich Councillors and I went on a litter picking session. If only the people who drop their litter would think about how it spoils our lovely town.

Finally, for lovers of the Joe Loss Orchestra, you will be pleased to hear that "Joe" is back in town on Friday 26th November 2010, for my dance at the Civic Hall. So please put a note in your diary. My charity for this event is "Help for Heroes" which I'm sure you will agree is a very worthy cause. I hope to see you there!

**Councillor Joyce Stockton
Mayor of Nantwich Town Council**

**In aid of the Mayor's Charity
'Help for Heroes'**
For tickets contact 01270 537359
or Nantwich Town Council 01270 619224



**Todd Miller
& the Joe Loss Orchestra
appearing at
Nantwich Civic Hall
Tickets £15**



**Friday 26th November 2010
8pm 'til 12.30am**



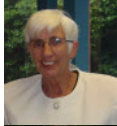
TOWN COUNCILLORS



Mayor
Councillor Joyce Stockton
35 King Place, Nantwich, CW5 5NY
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Barony Ward



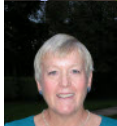
Deputy Mayor
Councillor Arthur Moran
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CW5 5JR.
Tel: 01270 624071
Weaver Ward



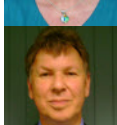
Councillor Edith Williams
32 Wallfields Road,
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Barony Ward



Councillor Keith Cafferty
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Councillor Christine Farrall
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Birchin Ward



Councillor Graham Fenton
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Councillor Steve Hope
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Councillor John Lewis
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Wellington Ward



Councillor Andrew Martin
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Nantwich, CW5 7JL.
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Birchin Ward



Councillor Bill McGinnis
39 Millfields, Nantwich,
CW5 5HR
Tel: 01270 610755
Weaver Ward



Councillor Norma Simpson
24 Cherrington Road,
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Tel: 01270 625399
Wellington Ward



Councillor Nicola Tooke
102 Millstone Lane
Nantwich, CW5 5PE.
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Weaver Ward

There are 12 Town Councillors, all elected. Town Councillors are unpaid.



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THIRTY YEARS ON...

A glance at the Town Council minutes of 30 years ago reveals some issues which echo today.

Roads and Traffic.

Traffic, for example, then as now, was a major concern. At a meeting in **April 1977** the Chairman reported that he had attended, on behalf of the Council, a Public Inquiry into the Nantwich Inner Relief Road.

In **March 1979** the Council indicated general approval and support for pedestrianisation proposals for the town centre. At the next meeting, in April, the Council formally agreed that it was in favour of pedestrianisation and to press for early implementation.



Pedestrianisation supported.

In **September 1978**, the Council welcomed proposals by the County Council to erect traffic lights at the Beam Street / Barony Road junction but were not in favour of the County proposal to close Park View to vehicular traffic.



Beam Street traffic lights.

Some things never change, however, and over thirty years ago, in **August 1978**, it was agreed that "the attention of the Highway Authority be drawn to the problem of bumps in the road near the Station level crossing in Wellington Road."

Museum.

A number of the Minutes illustrate the extensive involvement of the Town Council in establishing the Museum and the assistance the Museum received. Minute 104 of the **27th February 1978**, for example, records that the Council agreed to support the establishment of a local museum in the old library in Pillory Street and to increase the rate of 0.75p in the £ to 1 pence in the pound, to help finance it.



Pillory.

The Town Council was also concerned with less weighty matters. On **24th July 1978**, the Minutes show that the Chairman had received an authentically reproduced Pillory from Brine Leas High School and was contacting the Sealed Knot with a view to staging a re-enactment of use of the Pillory. The estimated cost of installing the Pillory was £45.



Sad to learn that the stocks or pillory located in ancient Pillory Street is a mere 32 years old!

What's in a name?

Extensive debate took place about the name for the new Inner Relief Road.

In **October 1978**, the Town Council were told that a suggestion had been put to the Borough Council that the new road should be named 'Water Lode'. The views of the Town Council were sought by the Borough Council. The Town Council decided that consideration of the matter should be deferred to the next meeting.

In **November**, a Minute records that "After considerable discussion and a vote which proved indecisive, it was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting."

In **December**, the Council resolved that the views of the Historical Society be obtained and the matter considered again.

In **February 1979**, the Minutes say:-

"The following names were considered but when voted on, none achieved a majority - Water Lode; Elm Road, Mill Race Road."

Finally, in **March 1979**, a Minute reads:-

"That the Borough Council be advised that the Council would be pleased to see the new road named Water Lode. Note: the above resolution was by way of an amendment to the proposition 'Castle Ford' and the defeat of a further amendment 'Mill Race'."

In spite of all the discussion about a suitable name, the story was not quite over. Minute 132 of **9th April 1979** is short and to the point. It simply records, rather wistfully:-

"It was reported that the former Water Load sign (wrongly spelt) had reappeared."

Riddell Graham
Clerk to Council

TOWN COUNCIL'S CURRENT CONCERNS...

What are the current concerns of the Town Council? Town Councillors have differing views and a wide range of issues are considered at Council but more recent discussions have involved:-

Devolution of powers.

Cheshire East Council want to give some responsibilities and powers to Parish and Town Councils, partly because they believe that some matters are best dealt with locally and partly because they want to save money. The Town Council are interested in 'taking over' some responsibilities - street entertainment, Christmas lights, Civic Hall, Markets - but only on the right terms.



Town Council might run the Civic in future.



Cheshire East would like to stop providing Xmas lights.

Capital Spending.

For some years, the Town Council have held a capital receipt of around £800,000. Councillors are now thinking about spending this money for the benefit of the town. They are considering suggestions from the public and the establishment of a capital grant scheme. Among several other suggestions are an Arts centre, improvement to the Riverside and purchase of Church's Mansion as a Museum. With limited funds and bearing in mind that capital expenditure usually leads to continuing revenue running costs, Councillors will have hard thinking to do.



Improvements to the Riverside - one suggestion.

Sainsbury's Supermarket.

The Supermarket is expanding its shop floor space enormously, following a planning application granted by Cheshire East Council. A condition in the planning permission limits the amount of retail shopping space in the supermarket to that specified on the recent permission. In other words, without a clear additional permission from Cheshire East Council, it cannot become even bigger.



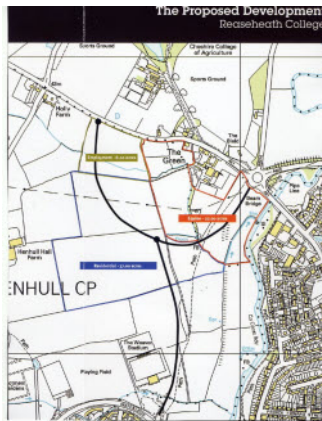
Sainsbury's expanding.

An application was recently made by Sainsbury's to set aside that condition, to permit some minor alterations to the building. The Town Council has no objection to minor alterations but are strongly opposed to changes which might mean even more shopping space at Sainsbury's to the detriment of Nantwich as a vibrant retail centre with varied and independent shops. Town Councillors have made that clear to Cheshire East, the planning authority.

Reaseheath College.

The Town Council were recently addressed by Meredydd Davies, Principal of Reaseheath College, who set out some future plans for the college. An ambitious building plan has stalled due to withdrawal of government funding. To carry on the modernisation and expansion of the College, more funds are needed.

One proposal being pursued is development of land around the College with 550 new homes, 7 acres of employment land and 24 acres for equine management. New roads are planned to mitigate any traffic problems. All this is dependent on planning permission by Cheshire East Council and a suitable developer and there will be extensive consultation at various stages, so the time-scale is several years ahead.



Possible development near Reaseheath College.

Food Festival.



For the love of food
Fri 24 Sep / Sat 25 Sep / Sun 26 Sep

Nantwich Food Festival is a well established event, held in September. In the past it was supported and organised by Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council. Cheshire East Council, however, wish to withdraw financial support and see the Food Festival privately run. A group of Nantwich residents have formed a 'not-for-profit company' to continue the Festival. For this year it will receive money from Cheshire East, but this will soon be phased out. The Town Council are not involved in the organisation or funding of the Festival, but two of the Councillors are. The Town Council feels the Festival brings visitors to the town and helps trade, so it wishes the festival all success. Councillors have recently agreed a £750 contribution to the cost of street entertainment over the three Festival days.

Parking

Parking is a perennial source of concern in the town. Town Councillors are attempting to alleviate parking problems by encouraging the development of additional car parks. Following approaches by Town Councillors, Cheshire East officers have agreed to tidy up the land at Shrewbridge Road, near the Airman's Grave and make it clear that free parking is available there.



Shrewbridge Road car park.

Nantwich Football Club, after discussions, are opening up some of their car parks at a rate well below the cost of town centre parking and encouraging coaches or lorries to park at reasonable fees.

Another approach, however, has not been very successful so far. In spite of intensive efforts by Councillor John Lewis and discussions with Network Rail, the Railway Engineers are refusing to allow use of the land next to the station for parking. Although it is an eyesore and Pay and Display parking there would be useful to both train passengers and shoppers, Network Rail say they need the land for storage in connection with engineering works. Meanwhile, the site is unattractive and under-used and seen by many visitors to the town. The Town Council will not, however, be giving up....

FOR THE LOVE OF THEATRE : IT'S BEEN A BUSY SUMMER FOR NANTWICH PLAYERS... ❤️

Since acquiring additional premises at One Love Lane, Nantwich Players are well on track with ambitious plans to enlarge the theatre and extend its use by local people.

A loan from Nantwich Town Council, together with commitments from members and supporters, enabled the initial purchase. Longer term plans are under way to raise a larger sum for the major Nantwich Theatre Project. This will provide a Community Arts Venue for the town as well as improving seating and facilities in the main building. Three new rooms are already in use as dressing rooms, relieving pressure on the tiny backstage area, and another has been converted to an extra rehearsal space.



Extension to the Theatre.

As part of the fund raising drive eight Players climbed all 15 Welsh peaks over 3000ft during one weekend, raising over £5000 for the Nantwich Theatre Project. Other Players created and performed a variety show *Memory Lane* for three nights in July raising another £1000.

Nantwich Family Fun Day on Barony Park was another showcase for the Players and members raised a further £450 here. In the school holidays more than 30 children spent two weeks in the theatre on holiday courses with Stagecoach, learning to dance, act and sing.



Players at Snowdon summit

If you have just moved to Nantwich or find yourself with some spare time the Players would love to meet you. **There are many activities besides acting and it's a great way to meet new people.** Potential members are encouraged to visit us before committing to membership so why not leave a message on 01270 624556 or have a look at the theatre web site for information www.nantwichplayers.com.

Charlotte Lightbody
Players Press and Publicity Officer

BITS AND BOBS...

The Town Watch Committee of the Council heard that the CCTV control centre, currently in Victoria Shopping Centre, Crewe, is moving to Macclesfield. This should not affect the effective operation of the CCTV, which depends to a large extent on the local knowledge of operators, since the same operators will be staffing the new unit.



CCTV camera control is moving..

The Grants Committee of the Council recently awarded a grant of £400 to the 5th Nantwich Girl Guides and Brownies, to assist them in the purchase of tents and other equipment.



Football Club cut-price parking.

Nantwich Football Club have decided to run a trial period of parking from the end of September. The Dabbers will be charging £1.20 a day, which is considerably less than the town centre car-parks fees, for shoppers, people working in the town centre and coaches. The walk to town is slightly longer, but think of the savings!

The Council recently made a donation of £100 to Cheshire Police to help them run a fishing competition for youngsters in the Nantwich area.

All parish Councils were recently asked to contribute to an "audit of open space". Cheshire East Council, who own many open spaces and green areas in the Borough, sent out maps to the local councils in June, with open spaces marked on them. The Council was asking for local knowledge to make sure their records of locations and uses of open space were correct. Nantwich Town Councillors were pleased to assist in this exercise.

Holly Holy Day will be taking place, as in the past, on Mill Island in Nantwich. It was thought that work to improve drainage on the island might mean the Sealed Knot "battle" would take place elsewhere. However, drainage work is being delayed until Spring next year and the re-enactment of the battle will go ahead, as usual, in January 2011.

LITTER IN NANTWICH...

At the Town Council meeting on 1st July, Councillor John Lewis raised the issue of litter in Nantwich. He commented on the regular complaints he and other councillors receive on the amount of litter dropped around Nantwich. There was no suggestion that the normal clear up provision from Cheshire East's Streetscape Team was inadequate and their efforts, lead by Anthony Murray, were appreciated and praised. However, it was felt that there was a need for residents to take a far more proactive role in their own neighbourhoods.

It was proposed that one step forward would be to establish a volunteer register of litter pickers. As a first step, to set an example, Councillors staged a litter picking event on Mill Island on Friday 30 July. This was given good coverage in the Chronicle on 4th August. The Council will also be writing to all schools, retailers, youth organisations and local sports teams to seek their cooperation and support in this clean up campaign. The long-term aim must be to change this anti-social behaviour and in the short-term to accept personal responsibility for picking up litter.

If you are prepared to help the campaign by organising teams in your neighbourhood or by acting as a volunteer please contact either your local Councillor, or the Town Council on 01270 619224 email address for the Council is nantwichtc@nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk or contact **Cllr John Lewis** on 01270 627507 jplewis@birmingham11.plus.com.



Councillor John Lewis



nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk is the Town Council's web site with details of your Councillors, Council meetings, minutes of meetings, grant application forms, annual report, how to contact us, newsletters, festivals and events, latest news and more.

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