

TALK OF THE TOWN

The newsletter of the Nantwich Town Council

Autumn 2008

Chairman praises “Excellence and diversity of organisations in the town.”



Councillor Keith Cafferty
Chairman
Nantwich Town Council

As Chairman of the Town Council, I am often invited to functions and events in the town. Together with my wife Barbara, I am always pleased to attend these and we take great pride in representing the town on these occasions.

We are constantly amazed at the excellence and diversity provided by schools and organisations, both voluntary and borough sponsored, a few of which I mention below:-

At Reaseheath College, which I visited in June, a record number of students received certificates. This college now caters for some 10,000 students, in a wide category of subjects, from basic foundation to higher national diplomas and was awarded Beacon status – the highest accolade in its field for further education. The college is undergoing a major restructuring and improvement programme, most of which will be completed in autumn 2008.

We recently attended the open day of the University of the Third Age (U3A) and found they offered over 70 part time day courses from embroidery to Scottish dancing for the more mature in our community. Literally hundreds of people turned up to sign up on various courses. All the tutors and leaders give their services free and only a nominal membership fee of £10 is made to join for a year. On display were artwork, photography and crafts completed by the members in the current year.

We were lucky enough to be guests of the Nantwich Players at their recent play “Once a Catholic”. I say “lucky” because such is the demand for tickets that often the performances are all sold out within a couple of days. Invariably the acting by both young and older members is of the highest standard.

It was great to have a fine day for the Nantwich and South Cheshire Show on the 30th July. Although it was slightly damp underfoot, the organisers had gone to a lot of trouble and expense to lay a temporary road along all major routes on the showground. Attendances were excellent and, along with the usual livestock competitions and demonstrations, the organisers had booked sufficient attractions to satisfy all age groups. The show needs an awful lot of arranging and much effort. The Town Council would like to congratulate the organising committee for their work on behalf of the community and look forward to the 2009 show.

This is just a ‘snapshot’ of four of the many events held in or near Nantwich over the last few months. Barbara and I attended other enjoyable occasions, both formal and informal, and will take pleasure in other visits before the end of my Chairman’s year in May 2009.

NANTWICH MUSEUM

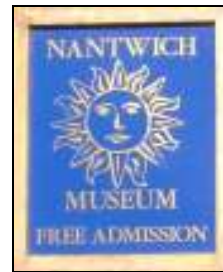
Thank you Susan!

The Curator of Nantwich Museum, Mrs Susan Pritchard retires in October, after 27 years in the post. I am sure you will join with the Town Council in wishing Susan a long and happy retirement.

During her term as Curator she has overseen and been responsible for tremendous changes at the Museum and has always endeavoured to make the museum a vital part of the community. The recent extension, which she helped obtain, enables Susan and her staff (plus volunteers) to arrange workshops / art exhibitions etc., for the benefit of students of all ages and the general public.

A new curator will be appointed shortly, and we feel sure her successor will carry on the good work done by Susan.

Keith Cafferty, Chairman of the Town Council.



FIRST RESPONDERS UPDATE

The battle to save our First Responders has moved on considerably and a number of activities have taken place which we hope will contribute to securing our objective.

On 10th July, with the aid of MP Edward Timpson, our petition containing some 10,000 signatures was presented to No. 10 Downing Street. The following day was marked in Nantwich by the biggest protest march for generations. Local folk turned out in force to show their anger at the proposed downgrading of the First Responders. On 16th July, we presented our case to members of Cheshire County Council Scrutiny Committee and in the following weeks we met with the senior management of NWAS.

Cheshire County Council decided to investigate the NWAS changes and appointed a panel to take evidence and compile a full report. In the last few weeks the panel has questioned NWAS, Cheshire First Responders and Members of Audlem, Alsager, Congleton and Northwich town and parish councils. The aim is to publish the report by the end of September.

We believe our case is strong and we are hopeful that our Responders will be free to continue dealing with emergencies under “blue light” conditions and administering the range of drugs for which they have been trained. **Cllr. Bill McGinnis.**

TOWN COUNCILLORS

	Councillor Paul Abbott 6 Gerard Drive, Nantwich, CW5 5JR. Tel: 01270 623627 Weaver Ward.
	Chairman - Councillor Keith Cafferty 2 Cobbs Lane, Hough, CW2 5JN. Tel: 01270 842560 Wellington Ward.
	Councillor Christine Farrall 19 Mount Drive, Nantwich, CW5 6JF. Tel: 01270 624335 Birchin Ward.
	Councillor Keith Healey 54 The Broadway, Nantwich, CW5 6JH. Tel: 01270 626018 Birchin Ward.
	Councillor Steve Hope 60 Brereton Drive, Nantwich, CW5 6HR. Tel: 01270 611618 Barony Ward.
	Councillor John Lewis 16 Lakeside View, Nantwich, CW5 7GA. Tel: 01270 627507 Wellington Ward.
	Councillor Andrew Martin 48 London Road, Stapeley, Nantwich, CW5 7JL. Tel: 01270 627740 Birchin Ward.
	Councillor Bill McGinnis 39 Millfields, Nantwich, CW5 5HR. Tel: 01270 610755 Weaver Ward
	Councillor Arthur Moran 16 Gerard Drive, Nantwich, CW5 5JR. Tel: 01270 624071 Weaver Ward.
	Councillor Norma Simpson 24 Cherrington Road, Nantwich, CW5 7AW. Tel: 01270 625399 Wellington Ward.
	Councillor Joyce Stockton 35 King Place, Nantwich, CW5 5NY. Tel: 01270 624904 Barony Ward.
	Councillor Edith Williams 32 Wallfields Road, Nantwich, CW5 5NT. Tel: 01270 611378 Barony Ward.
	Contact the Town Clerk: Mr Riddell Graham Brookfield Hall, Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich, CW5 7AB. Tel: 01270 619224 Fax: 01270 619225 Email: nantwichtc@nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk Visit our web site: www.nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Rooms for Hire – Brookfield Hall is available for hire for community use. **Look on our website** nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk for details or phone the Town Clerk on 01270 619224 for further information.

GALA EVENING PROMISES TO BE A GLITTERING SUCCESS!

The Chairman of Nantwich Town Council, Councillor Keith Cafferty, is hosting a Black Tie/Evening Dress Gala Evening at Nantwich Civic Hall on **Friday 28th November 2008**, in aid of the Geoff Thomas Foundation.

Geoff is a local sporting hero – ex Crewe Alexandra & England footballer – who, after being diagnosed with leukaemia in 2003, has spent the past 18 months fund-raising for leukaemia charities, and has now taken the decision to set-up his own Foundation, the Geoff Thomas Foundation, committed to the development and delivery of new treatments for patients with cancer and leukaemia across the country.

The evening will include a cocktail reception kindly provided by the Residence (formerly Peppers restaurant) with canapés and a demonstration of 'bar gymnastics' by Residence Staff. There will be cabaret by X-Academy and music and dancing by the VCO Big Band and Blozone. Also Fun Casino tables (have a flutter, it's all for charity). Geoff Thomas will give an introduction to the foundation and there will be a charity auction and raffle. The event will be covered by Cheshire Life magazine.

If you would like to attend what is certain to be a night to remember, please contact the Town Clerk on 01270 619224 or email nantwichtc@nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk for tickets at a very reasonable price £20 per person.



The VCO Big Band will be making the evening go with a swing



NANTWICH IN BLOOM

Nantwich is once again a winner! Whilst, at the time of going to press, no official results of the various competitions we are involved with have been announced, the results of a lot of hard work by many groups and individuals are plain to see throughout the town.

St Anne's Church has joined the floral spectacle, with Elm House, Nantwich in Bloom and Borough Council planting complemented by the Railway Hotel to make this part of Nantwich look so inviting. The Cocoa Yard has been transformed thanks to co-operation between Lamont Commercial, Borough Council direct works, Nantwich in Bloom and of course the tenants. The Wickstead, the Crown and the Malbank have all made a great impression on the Nantwich scene. The Crescent garage and the Clinic in Princes Court, in the north of the town, have also helped to ensure that it's not just the centre of town that looks good. And speaking of the town centre, it looks great, with the new planters in front of the church and up Church Walk, setting the scene for the dramatic bed in the square depicting "The Great Fire" (based on a design by local artist Kate MacKennon with plants donated by Stapeley Water Gardens.) This bed has now been entered in the Royal Horticultural Society's best flower bed competition. If we win we'll have to plant it again at Tatton flower show next year. No rest for the wicked! Pepper Street, as ever, looks delightful, with the businesses, Borough Council and Nantwich in Bloom working together.

Some people say "Your work is over for this year." We are just about to start! Once we have finished dead heading, weeding and general maintenance, it will be time to plant the hundreds of polyanthus we've ordered, along with a similar number of hyacinths. The station beds will be planted up with herbaceous plants and daffodils. We've over a thousand cowslips to plant on the riverside, plus lady's smock and wild flowers and blue bells. It's also sowing time for acorns, silver birch and alder trees. **Then** we'll plan for 2009.

We are always happy to welcome volunteers to help with the work. Please contact Doug Butterill on 01270 625575 or Connie Jones on 01270 624320.



ROUND AND ABOUT

Lakeside Stroll

Work will begin shortly on extending the path around the lake; during the ground work this area of the lake may be inaccessible to the general public. We hope this does not cause too much inconvenience but equally, we are sure that to have a new dry footpath will be much appreciated by all who walk around the lake. The footpath is being constructed by contractors employed by the Town Council, funded by a grant from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN). WREN is a charity set up by the government and funded from part of the fees paid for use of landfill sites. James Thompson, the Borough Council Riverside Officer, has given valuable assistance in getting the grant and helping arrange the work.



A path would help people enjoy the Lake.

Station Improvements

It just shows what you can do when you try! Town Councillor John Lewis, together with Nantwich in Bloom volunteers and financial assistance from 'Nantwich Now', managed to improve the town's station and platforms. In fact, it's been entered for the Best Kept Cheshire Station Competition and is in the finals!

Co-operation has also come from the owner of the newly refurbished Indian restaurant next to the station, NatraJ. The next task is to keep up the pressure to create much needed car parking on land next to the station – we're working on it!



Floral Improvements at the Station.

Regimental March

A suggestion put forward by Inspector Bob Hassall of the Nantwich Neighbourhood Policing Unit is to invite a local regiment to parade through Nantwich either before going to or on returning from, active service. Town Councillors felt this was a good idea and have asked the Clerk to pursue the proposal. It is intended to provide an opportunity to show appreciation of the risks the armed forces take on our behalf.



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

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email nantwichtc@nantwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

CIVIC SOCIETY ELECT NEW CHAIRMAN

Recently elected Chairman of the Civic Society Jeff Stubbs, "Simply loves Nantwich." After retiring from Calderdale, West Yorkshire, as an Assistant Chief Planning Officer, Jeff planned to leave behind all things to do with planning, buildings, conservation and the environment. Then he moved to Nantwich 3 years ago with his wife Jackie and was so impressed with the buildings in the town and its lively community spirit, he could not help but get involved again.

"Nantwich has seen many changes over recent years, yet it still retains its unique historic town centre. I was conscious that some recent developments had not respected its exceptional character. Too many new buildings do not have, what I call, 'a Nantwich signature' – they could be anywhere."

Needing to find out more and to do something, he decided to join the Civic Society, a non-political, voluntary group. He became an active member and last spring was pleasantly surprised and honoured, to be elected Chairman.

Says Jeff, "The Civic Society wants our town to thrive, so we welcome changes, but only as long as they are good quality and make Nantwich an even better place. All of our members love Nantwich and we are lucky to have expertise in listed buildings, archaeology, conservation and architecture. At our monthly meetings in the Museum, we comment to Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, on planning applications and discuss matters affecting the town."

The Civic Society welcomes new members and Jeff concludes, "Please ring me on 01270 625272 if you are interested in the society or becoming a member."



Jeff Stubbs New Chairman, Civic Society.

INSPECTOR HASSALL REPORTS...

In my last article I made reference to our plans for dealing with anti-social behaviour over the summer months and the request for the assistance of parents in helping to reduce child related incidents. So, firstly, a big thank you to those parents (and children) who helped to reduce the extent of this behaviour over this time and make Nantwich a more pleasant place for its residents. I would ask that this continued vigilance extends beyond Halloween and Bonfire night.

During the summer our seizure of alcohol from the under age was significantly down on the same period last year with the continued assistance of the local off-licenses. In addition I would like to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Wulvern Housing in removing a number of their tenants due to anti social behaviour.

Having said that, I am aware that we had and still have had a number of incidents around the town which have a marked impact on those concerned and we will try to deal with those issues when they come to our attention

In the last issue of 'Talk of the Town' I made reference to our detection of violent crime being the best within the force. A major factor in this is our ability to monitor the town CCTV system in tandem with the town centre radio link. This works very effectively in real time reporting of incidents or suspicious persons in the town. There are people who look at a map and think that targeting a rural town like Nantwich will be easy pickings. They soon find out that this is not the case and this sometimes entails a lengthy stay at the police station until we ascertain who they are and gather evidence of who is involved in committing crime.

HOLLY HOLY DAY

After a recent scare when it seemed likely that the celebration of this event would be consigned to the history books due to a shortage of committee members, we are pleased that this historic re-enactment will be taking place on 24th January 2009 as usual.

Shaun Cafferty, Senior Partner of Martin & Co., Letting Agents, has taken over as Chairman / Co-ordinator and, along with a newly formed committee, has already put in place an action plan which aims to guarantee the future of the event. The committee are hoping to recruit corporate, individual and commercial sponsorship, to raise sufficient revenue to underpin the event for at least five years.

The 2009 re-enactment will, in addition to the mock battle, celebrate the "lifting of the siege of Nantwich" with a firework display. This will take place shortly after the 'battle', extending Holly Holy Day into the early evening. The Town Council wish Shaun and his crew every success. Shaun is also pleased to announce that our new MP, Edward Timpson, has agreed to be a patron of the Holly Holy Day Society.

If you would like to help maintain this annual commemoration of part of the town's history, phone Shaun on 01270 611333 or the Town Council Clerk on 01270 619224.



FAMILY FUN DAY 2008

Apart from a heavy shower whilst we were setting up, we were once again blessed with fine weather for our fourth annual Fun Day held on 12th July. The morning was quite cool with a chilly wind, but the afternoon was warm and sunny.

Once again, thousands of you turned up to enjoy the day, a major attraction being the "Totem Pole" ride on the fairground which was 140 feet high and presented a magnificent view of the town and its surrounds (for those brave enough to keep their eyes open). For the younger members of the community the Donkey rides, mini roundabouts, steam train and go karts, seemed to be very popular.

Obviously events such as these don't just happen! We are grateful that we have a dedicated committee who attend regular meetings and offer their ideas and services, which culminate in the "Fun Day".

If anyone would like to join our small band of helpers and organisers, please contact our Secretary Mrs Lynne Mulrooney on 01270 446279 or email her on nanty-riah@tiscali.co.uk
(Note: Family Fun Day is organised by a voluntary group, not the Town Council.)

The volunteers are a friendly bunch and you can do as much or as little as your time allows, so please think about giving a hand. We will shortly be starting to plan the 2009 event, so you will be able to participate from day one!

Councillor Keith Cafferty



Community Princess & attendants



Allsorts Dog agility team

BEAM HEATH TRUST

"You lucky people" ... says Chairman, Derek Poppleton, of the Beam Heath Trust... "Nantwich seems to be unique because many residents are entitled to receive the benefits of 'The Beam Heath Estate'. Over the last few years the distribution has been £35 per household. The money comes from rents from land held by the Trust and interest on investments."

Origins of the Estate – The earliest record of Beam Heath is in Hugh Malbank's Charter of about 1130, endowing Combermere Abbey with a fourth part of Nantwich including 'common pastureland in the wood of Creche in Beam Heath'. By 1803 an Act of Parliament legally invested lands in 21 Trustees for the benefit of the Town. Trustees (who are unpaid) are assisted by a Clerk, a Treasurer and a Distributor whose job it is to deliver the 2000 payments made each year.

Who is entitled to the Beam Heath Benefit? To receive the benefit you must live within the boundary of Nantwich Town as it was in 1823. You must have lived there for at least seven years or be able to show that you were born in that area. This town boundary is most important and it does sometimes happen that one household qualifies and the next door neighbour does not. Most of the properties on the new Kingsley Fields estate are within the boundary – but not all of them. To register a claim, a householder must attend a 'Claims Meeting' usually held in June and produce evidence of seven years residence or proof of birth within the area. Once a household is registered the dividend will be paid every year.

Lands and properties - The Estate now has some 1,000 acres of rentable land plus some woodland. The area of land now owned varies from the original Heath. Land exchanges have resulted in the Trust owning land in Whitehouse Lane, Crewe Road, Newcastle Road, London Road, Stapeley and behind the swimming baths. In 1994 Sainsbury's were allowed to build on Beam Heath land in Middlewich Road, which resulted in the Trust acquiring some 200 acres of land at Poole Hall Farm and a significant financial consideration. Each year the Trustees make an inspection of lands to see that everything is in order.

Millennium Wood - At the turn of the century the Trustees decided to invest some surplus income into a Millennium project to benefit the people of Nantwich and in particular the school children in the area. Half an acre of land off Middlewich Road, has been set aside and planted as a new Millennium Wood. Over 500 trees were planted and enclosed by traditional hedgerows and fencing. Wild flower seeds were scattered among the saplings. A car park area has been created and picnic tables are to be provided. A formal opening will take place in Spring 2009.

Contact the Beam Heath Trust by phoning Mr John Percival, Clerk to the Beam Heath Estate on 01270 610300.
(The Beam Heath Trust is not connected to the Town Council.)