



Talk of the Town

Newsletter of Nantwich Town Council

Winter 2010

Mayor of Nantwich Town Council writes...



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

My year as Mayor will come to an end in May. I cannot believe how quickly the months are passing.

I have attended some wonderful events, including Nantwich Transport Festival, Nantwich Show, School Open days, the Food Festival and the Queen's visit to Reaseheath. I have also met many people working hard for the town and giving up their time to improve it – groups like the Players, Nantwich in Bloom, the Civic Society, Lions Club, Oddfellows, local charities and Museum Trustees, to name but a few.

That is why I am particularly pleased that the Town Council has been able to give grants ranging from £250 to £8000 to various local organisations. Of course, Councillors are very much aware they are dealing with public money and try to use limited funds as carefully as possible.

This year my Mayor's charity was 'Help for Heroes' and I was pleased to be able to donate £1000 to help this very worthwhile cause. Finally, on Sunday 3rd April at 7.30pm at the Civic Hall I am holding a Proms Concert in aid of the RSPCA animal centre at Stapeley and I hope as many people as possible will support this.

Inspector Hassall writes...

just a few points about local policing which I hope people will find of interest:-

- In May 2010, 24 hour response policing came back to Nantwich. Following a re-organisation, all the staff policing Nantwich and rural areas are directly part of our team, co-ordinated from Nantwich. Previously we sometimes had to "borrow" officers from Crewe. Obviously we still will do that in times of urgency or serious incident, but for day-to-day policing we have the flexibility of all staff controlled from the town.
- Christmas passed without serious incident of disorder, with the help of licensees, this was a relatively quiet period. Seven revelers were issued with "48 hour town centre bans" by Nantwich Police and with a clear police presence we were able to ensure any drunken and aggressive behaviour was dealt with swiftly and firmly.
- Rural areas were not neglected and patrols were out in force right across the area over Christmas and New Year.
- Nantwich police station front desk, part funded by the Town Council, will remain open next year 9am to 4pm Monday to Saturday.

Inspector Bob Hassall, Nantwich Police Unit.

New Beam Heath Trust Chairman.

Town Councillor Arthur Moran has recently been elected Chairman of the Beam Heath Trust. Councillor Moran said "I am very proud to be appointed as Chairman of the trust, following in my late father's footsteps, who was Chairman 1997/1999." Town Councillors Bill McGinnis and Councillor Joyce Stockton are also trust members.

If you think you may be entitled to "the Beam Heath payment" contact the secretary Mr J. Percival at Hall, Smith Whittingham & Co., 01270 610300.

Town Council meetings:-

Monday 7th February 2011
 Monday 7th March 2011
 Monday 18th April 2011
 Monday 9th May 2011
 Members of the public are welcome to attend Town Council meetings which start at 7pm.



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

**COUNCILLOR JOYCE STOCKTON
MAYOR OF NANTWICH**

IS HOLDING A

PROM CONCERT

ON SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2011

IN NANTWICH CIVIC HALL

AT 7.30PM

TICKETS COST £7

**AVAILABLE FROM TOURIST
INFORMATION OFFICE 01270
537359 OR NANTWICH TOWN
COUNCIL 01270 619224.**

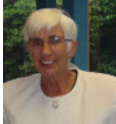
TOWN COUNCILLORS



Mayor
Councillor Joyce Stockton
35 King Place, Nantwich, CW5 5NY
Tel: 01270 624904
Barony Ward



Deputy Mayor
Councillor Arthur Moran
16 Gerard Drive, Nantwich,
CW5 5JR.
Tel: 01270 624071
Weaver Ward



Councillor Edith Williams
32 Wallfields Road,
Nantwich, CW5 5NT.
Tel: 01270 611378.
Barony Ward



Councillor Keith Cafferty
2 Cobbs Lane, Hough,
CW2 5JR.
Tel: 01270 842560
Wellington Ward



Councillor Christine Farrall
19 Mount Drive, Nantwich,
CW5 6JF.
Tel: 01270 624335.
Birchin Ward



Councillor Graham Fenton
15 Mercer Way, Nantwich,
CW5 5YD
Tel: 01270 610757
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
Totmonslo House, Roughcote
Grange, Caverswall, ST11 9GA.
Tel: 01782 397185
Weaver Ward



Councillor Norma Simpson
24 Cherrington Road,
Nantwich, CW5 7AW.
Tel: 01270 625399
Wellington Ward



Councillor Nicola Tooke
49 Millstone Lane
Nantwich, CW5 5PH.
Tel: 01270 620395
Weaver Ward

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



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The challenge facing new Town Councillors...

“Town Council elections on Thursday May 5th are going to be the most important for many years,” says Councillor Steve Hope, Leader of Nantwich First group on the Town Council.

Cheshire East Council is currently responsible for the Civic Hall, ‘the Gables’, public toilets, the Market Hall, children’s play areas, open spaces and other facilities in the town. Cheshire East are ready to pass these over to the Town Council because Cheshire East Councillors believe that if local people want local services, then local councils should pay for them and run them.

Councillor John Lewis, Leader of the Conservative group on the Town Council, says, “The Councillors elected to the Town Council on 5th May will have very important decisions to make. Do residents want to maintain these facilities? And if they do want them, and they cost money to run, are people willing to pay for them?”

Councillor Hope adds, “Unless Cheshire East Council have a change of heart, facilities like the Civic Hall, public toilets, Market Hall, open space and play areas are likely to be sold off or closed in April 2012. So the new Councillors, elected in May, will have some very interesting challenges.”



Town Council may take over ... Civic Hall ... The Gables ... Play areas.

Town Council places up for grabs...

Are you concerned about the future of your town? Do you feel you have the experience or skills to be a local Councillor?

Says Councillor Steve Hope, Leader of ‘Nantwich First’ group on the Town Council, “If you are interested in the way Nantwich is developing and the way local services are run, then, maybe you could consider becoming a Councillor. There are twelve seats on the Town Council and all are up for election soon.”

Added Councillor John Lewis, Leader of the Conservative group on Nantwich Town Council, “Being a local Councillor does take time and effort if you approach it seriously. But there are very real benefits in helping shape the town and in assisting local residents and community groups. Councillors sometimes have differences of opinion but we all try to work together for the good of the town.”

To find out more about becoming a Councillor phone Cheshire East Council on 0300 123 55 00 and ask for the Elections Team.

You should live or work locally and be over 18 years of age. The next elections (they are every 4 years) are on 5th May 2011. The Returning Officer at Cheshire East Council deals with all local council elections and you can collect nomination papers from the Elections Office.

Town Council contribution keeps river on course...

Nantwich Town Council and the Environment Agency have been working together to look at the best way to manage water levels on the River Weaver in the Beam Bridge area of Nantwich. The council have contributed £20,000 to a new project to replace the deteriorating Beam Bridge sluice gates with a new structure that will enable water levels to be managed more effectively in the future. The intended work ensures that local wildlife and vegetation will be able to adapt to changes in water levels over the long term.



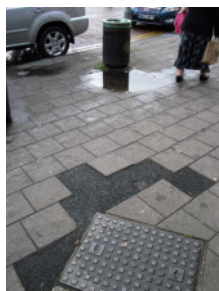
Cllrs Lewis, Hope & Williams visit the site of the gates.

The Environment Agency presented two options to the Council. Option one involved removing the gates and not replacing them, resulting in a drop in river levels of up to 1.5 metres (5 feet) immediately upstream and a gradual drop between the Mill Island and the sluice gates. This would have a significant effect on fish stocks, appearance of the river and its surrounding area. Option two involved installing stop logs - sections of removable concrete "logs" to form an adjustable barrier across the river channel. This option was overwhelmingly preferred and work is due to start in February 2011. The project is likely to cost the Environment Agency about £120,000. ***Town Clerk.***

Civic Society's Town Centre Survey causes alarm.

Nantwich Civic Society recently completed a survey of the condition of the town centre. It looked at the state of things like the paving, roads, street signs, seats, flower boxes and private buildings.

Chairman, Jeff Stubbs, told Talk of the Town, "What we found actually alarmed us. It is not as good as we – and possibly many others – thought. We all love our town, but now its reputation for being a good place to visit, live and work, is under threat, due to the gradual decay of paving, roads and some shop fronts with an unloved air due to lack of regular maintenance of many aspects of our town centre. Residents will probably not need reminding that there are lots of cracks, holes and puddles in the footways, pedestrianised areas and roads around town, but we found old repairs done in cement, tarmac and odd materials. We also photographed peeling paint, muddy street furniture, tatty bins, seats and railings, to name a few. Overall, the results of carefully looking at just this one aspect of our town centre sent waves of concern to all our members. "



Just a few of the disturbing photographs taken by the Civic Society.

Jeff added, "We are beginning to share our findings with others in the town, who all seem similarly keen to get some improvements done."

The Town Council has begun talks with the Society about how they can all take things forward. As well, Cheshire East Council staff have met the Society to begin what promises to be a positive dialogue and action plan. The Civic Society is holding a Spring Clean Up campaign with volunteers to give the centre a "Wash and Brush Up", ready for summer. ***To volunteer or to find out more, call Jeff Stubbs on 625272.***

Councillor Andrew Martin congratulated the Society for the hard work they have put into the audit. He said "As a Councillor for both Cheshire East and the Town Council I will be working with the Civic Society to improve our beautiful town."

Town Council ask for an extra 10p per month...

The Town Council rate is set to rise by £1.25 a year in 2011/12. From April it will be £29.35 for a band D property. But it only forms a small portion of the rate demand - Cheshire East Council charges around £1,200, the Police £150 and the Fire and Rescue Service about £67. Councillors have warned that the Town Council rate will increase significantly in 2012/13 if it takes over services currently funded by Cheshire East Council.

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

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Museum gains another treasure...

Thanks to grants from the Victoria and Albert/Millennium Lottery Awards, the Headley Trust, and donations from individuals and organisations (including the Town Council), Nantwich Museum is now the proud owner of the Hurlston Brooch. The brooch is solid gold and dates from the late 13th/14th century. It was found during a metal detecting rally in Hurlston in August 2009 and was declared 'treasure'. As such, it was sent to the British Museum for identification and valuation. Nantwich Museum, being the nearest accredited museum to the find spot, was given first refusal to purchase it.

The Hurlston brooch is currently on display at the Museum and the current exhibition in the Millennium Gallery is 'Variations': Art by Annabel Thornton which runs until 5th March. The work embraces a range of subjects including dance, dancers, music, wildlife and portraits.



The Hurlston Brooch.



Painting by Annabel Thornton.

Please take a look at the Museum web site www.nantwichmuseum.org.uk or telephone 01270 627104 for events and opening times.

Nantwich Players, our local Theatre...

The Players are having a record season this year thanks to fantastic support from the people of Nantwich and the surrounding areas. With more members than ever before, the Players have been able to present an additional seven full-length productions this season and to extend some shows to nine performances. Pat Hough, President of the Players, puts record support down to "knowing what the people of Nantwich enjoy at the Theatre and doing our best to present it well". Ticket sales are projected to be up by 22% this season, which will help raise funds for the Nantwich Theatre Project, the proposed new purpose-built community and dramatic arts venue for Nantwich and South Cheshire.



An Artist's impression of the proposed Nantwich Players Theatre, courtesy of Martin Greenwood.

The new venue, on the same site of the existing Love Lane Theatre, can only go ahead if sufficient funds can be raised. To date, the Players have raised more than £100,000 from special events and commitments and this year they are applying for major grants to cover the estimated £1.5m building cost.

Anyone wishing to join or support the Players' can do so via their the web site www.nantwichplayers.com, email info@nantwichplayers.com or phone the Theatre on 01270 624556.

Nantwich Litter Group...

Concern about litter has grown considerably since the Town Council set up a group to coordinate the various volunteer activities. At a recent meeting several organisations and individuals met to consider the way forward. Caroline Griffies from Streetscape explained how Cheshire East teams work 7 days a week cleaning in the Square. She offered to co-ordinate volunteers and help by the provision of equipment. Weaver Primary School undertook to let the other primary and secondary schools know about this initiative.

Assistance was offered by Riverside Concern, Nantwich in Bloom and the Civic Society and several individuals who focus on specific areas. The Town Council has written to organisations about litter and is promoting the habit of taking litter home, especially on sports fields and open spaces. Cllr Christine Farrall is leafleting residents in the Barony area about local problems and supermarkets will be contacted regarding litter picking. Mary Dodd volunteered to take on the task of publicity. Cllr John Lewis will continue to chair the group and can be contacted through the Town Council office, or direct on 627507 or via email jplewis@birmingham11.plus.com.

Nantwich in Bloom...

Another busy time for the Nantwich in Bloom group of volunteers. Planning for 2011 started even before we had 2010 results of the various competitions. Preparation of beds and maintenance of planters all need to be done in the quieter times. Continuing success for the Town makes all the effort worthwhile.

Since we became involved in work on the Station it has attracted accolades year on year. In January we gained the Best Kept Gardens award from the Cheshire Best Kept Stations group.



Award for 'Best Kept Garden 2010'

In March we have volunteered to take part in an RHS nationwide Tree Planting event. With the help of local schoolchildren, NiB volunteers and any other Nantwich person (it could be you!) who would like to join us on 27th March, more trees of a kind to attract and sustain wild life will be planted along the Riverside.

***If you would like to help contact:-
Doug Butterill on 625575
dougbutterill@hotmail.co.uk or
Sue Hughes on 652513
suedabbersinbloom@yahoo.co.uk***

