



Talk of the Town

Newsletter of Nantwich Town Council

June 2011



Councillor Arthur Moran begins his Mayoral year...

It is a great privilege and honour to be elected Mayor of Nantwich following the elections in May. This is the third time I have taken the Chair following hard fought elections, but first as Mayor.

May I congratulate all re-elected returning Councillors and extend a special welcome to new Councillors. To Steve Hope, Edith Williams, Keith Cafferty, who were not successful at the election, I thank them on behalf of the people of Nantwich for their years of service and hard work. I also send best wishes to Joyce Stockton, our retiring Mayor, who had some difficult times in her year of office. It was an honour to be her Deputy.

This will be a very important year for the Council and for Nantwich. Foremost will be negotiations with Cheshire East Council on transfer of services and facilities to the Town Council. Civic Hall, Market, Gables, public toilets and allotments will all be subject to talks and, hopefully, a satisfactory conclusion that will benefit our town and it's people.

My aim as Mayor will be to help guide the new Council through the year and ensure that we work as a team in the best interests of the town. Together with Margaret, my wife and Consort, I look forward to meeting many of you at various functions during the year.

We hope to raise funds for two charities – Leighton Hospital Prostrate Cancer Support Group and Motor Neurone Disease Association. To that end, an (early), date for your diary – Friday 16th March 2012, our Civic Dance featuring Todd Miller and the Joe Loss Orchestra at Nantwich Civic Hall.

Cllr Arthur Moran, Mayor of Nantwich Town Council.

Your new Town Council...

NORTH AND WEST WARD



MAYOR OF NANTWICH
CLLR ARTHUR MORAN



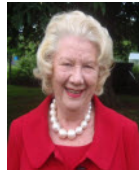
DEPUTY MAYOR
CLLR GRAHAM FENTON



CLLR CHRISTINE
FARRALL



CLLR HAROLD
COOPER



CLLR PENNY
BUTTERILL



CLLR JON HOPKINS



CLLR MIKE FARR

SOUTH WARD



CLLR JOHN LEWIS



CLLR ANDREW MARTIN



CLLR NORMA SIMPSON



CLLR DAVID MARREN



CLLR STUART HUTTON





Annual Report and Accounts for 2010/11...

The Mayor...

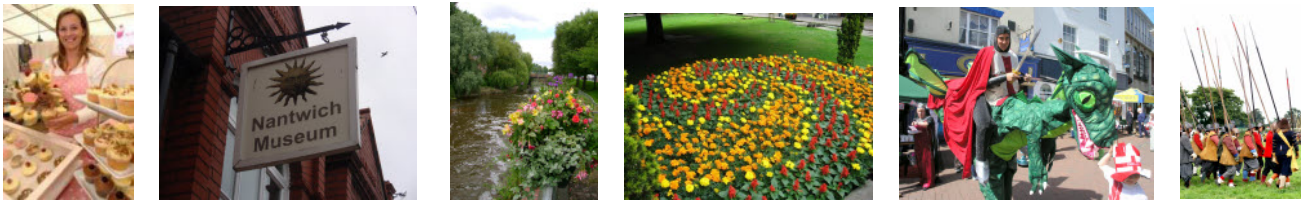
The Council civic year starts in May and on the 10th May 2010, at the Annual meeting, Councillor Joyce Stockton was elected Mayor. She had an exciting year. She visited Reaseheath College on a number of occasions at awards and open days, including an event in June attended by Her Majesty the Queen. Councillor Stockton was invited to several Festivals and community events including the Nantwich Transport Festival, the Nantwich Show, Wulvern Family Fun Day, the Food Festival and the 200th birthday of the Oddfellows Association.



The Mayor also saw several excellent productions by our local amateur dramatic society, the Players, as well as outstanding shows from the Acton Amateur Operatic Society. On the 8th November, she was invited to the Homecoming Parade of the 1st Battalion the Mercian Regiment and of course, attended remembrance services for the fallen in World Wars and more recent conflicts. Councillor Stockton raised £1000 for Help for Heroes and £440 for Stapeley Animal Rescue Centre during her year of office. Sadly, at the end of her Mayoral year in May 2011, Councillor Stockton's dear husband, Eddie, passed away after a short illness. It was a sad loss and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Community Grants...

It has been a significant year for the Town Council and for local organisations and societies. Community (revenue) grants were made in May 2010 to the following groups:- *Nantwich in Bloom* £3800, *Samaritans (South Cheshire)* £400, *Holly Holy Day* £1500, *Nantwich Museum Trust* £9600, *Family Fun Day* £9000, *Nantwich Players* £1500, *Nantwich Words and Music Festival* £1000, *Nantwich First Responders* £1477, *Nantwich & District Band* £1200. Later in the year, smaller grants were made to sponsor a fishing competition for young people organised by the police; to a local Guide and Brownie group to buy camping equipment; for the Food and Drink Festival in Nantwich; towards the purchase of the Hurlston Brooch for the Museum and grants to Greenspaces South Cheshire for planting on the riverside and to the Flower Festival and Nantwich Transport Festival.



The Council organised and paid for a St George's day celebration in April 2010 and contributed to street entertainment in the Square throughout the year. In addition, the Town Council made contributions to Christmas decorations of over £7000 at the end of 2010 and gave £14000 from revenue to Cheshire Police to keep the front desk in Nantwich police station staffed and open for the public.

Capital payments...

The Council also made some payments from capital, to keep Nantwich safe and attractive. In February 2011 it contributed £5000 to enable CCTV controls to be kept in Nantwich police station. Because the CCTV monitoring headquarters has been moved to Macclesfield by Cheshire East Council it was proposed that Nantwich pictures could no longer be viewed from Nantwich police station. The Council stepped in and paid for special equipment so officers could continue to view and control cameras locally.

In November 2010 the Council learned that because the sluice gates at Beam Bridge were to be removed by the Environment Agency, levels of the river Weaver in the town might fall dramatically. The Beam Bridge Sluice gates, which regulated the flow of water, had reached the end of their useful life. They were damaged and corroded and the Agency were considering removing them altogether. The Council made a contribution of £20,000 to enable the gates to be replaced by 'stop logs' which form a barrier to keep water levels up and make the river look more attractive.

Over the year, the Council also spent £40,000 on a new roof and windows for Brookfield Hall. As well as being the Council's headquarters, the hall is a meeting place for a church, Nantwich in Bloom, two slimming clubs, the Allotments Society, Nantwich and District Band, a toddler's group and several other local groups. The CCTV, Stop Logs and refurbishment of Brookfield Hall, were all paid for out of capital, not council tax. The money was raised by a land sale about eight years ago and was maintained for exactly this sort of eventuality.





Capital Grant scheme...

Also in 2010/11, the Council established a capital grant scheme and the following organisations were awarded grants in February 2011:- *Nantwich Citizens Advice Bureau (new computer system), Malbank School (assistance to fitness centre), Nantwich Free Runners (free running park at the Barony), Nantwich Players (drama and community arts venue), Nantwich Tennis Club (purchase of land or flood lights), Nantwich Choral Society (staging for performances in St Mary's Church), Trustees of Church House (lift for disabled people – loan), Nantwich Civic Society (interpretation boards / signs by the river), Barony Park Bowling Club (pavilion).*

These are all offers of grant for capital purposes because government regulations say councils can only use money received from the sale of land to fund capital items. So the awards to the nine local organisations concerned (which amount in total to grants of £54,000 and one offer of loan of £30,000) are all for capital projects.

The Council's accounts are shown below so you can see where the money goes and how it is raised. The precept (i.e., the amount raised from council tax) was £153,000 in 2010/11 and the average council tax bill from the Town Council was just over £28 per year. This compares to a Cheshire East tax of around £1200 per year. The Council has one of the lowest council-tax bills of any town in Cheshire East.

NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2010/2011

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2011

2010/11	£
Operating Income	
Administration - Staff costs	0
Administration - General	100
Brookfield Hall	14,139
Events	857
Council Income (including precept)	<u>196,632</u>
Total Income	<u>211,728</u>
Running Costs	
Staff costs	59,071
Administration - General	14,063
Subscriptions	1,253
Grants	33,877
Contributions	18,167
Brookfield Hall	9,937
Environmental Expenditure	3,571
Civic & Elections Expenditure	2,144
Events	10,328
Special Capital Projects	<u>60,431</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>212,842</u>
General Fund Analysis	
Opening balance	42,575
Plus: Income for year	<u>211,728</u>
	254,302
Less: Expenditure for year	<u>212,842</u>
	41,461
Transfers To / From Reserves	<u>13,888</u>
Closing Balance	<u>27,573</u>

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2011

2010/11	£
Current Assets	
VAT Refunds	1,984
Prepayments and Accrued Income	1,694
Current account - RBS	53,990
Direct Reserve Account RBS	250,377
Yorkshire Bank Time Deposit	250,000
Bank of Scotland Time Deposit	250,000
Lloyds TSB Time Deposit	200,000
Petty Cash	<u>150</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,008,195</u>
Current Liabilities	
Creditors	7,536
Accruals	1,925
Receipts in advance	<u>280</u>
	<u>9,741</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities 998,454	
Represented By	
General Revenue Fund	25,572
Repairs and Renewals Reserve	2,964
Holding Reserve	17,451
Capital Receipts Reserve	850,377
Revenue Reserve	<u>100,000</u>
	<u>998,454</u>
(Subject to audit).	

Helping the Community...

The aim of the Council is to encourage local groups in the town, to foster voluntary activity and help make the town look and feel more attractive. Apart from awarding grants and loans, individual councillors are themselves members of local groups and organisations, such as Nantwich in Bloom, the Museum Trust or the Civic Society. They play an active part in such organisations. Nantwich is very lucky to have many volunteers willing to give up their time to further the community life of the town and town councillors applaud their contributions and their efforts. One example of this was a survey undertaken by the Civic Society to highlight the poor state of repair of the town centre. This was followed by a 'clean-up' or 'spring clean' involving volunteers.

Challenges ahead...

The next big challenge will be whether the Council can justify taking on buildings and services from Cheshire East Council. At the moment, Cheshire East runs the Civic Hall, Market, the Gables, public toilets, children's play areas, green spaces and some allotments. The bigger council is prepared to transfer all or some of these facilities to the Town Council, which will take over their management and maintenance if Councillors decided to accept them.

Since many of these facilities require a subsidy, it will mean an increase in Council tax paid to the Town Council if they are transferred. Many people feel these local services would be best run by the more local Town Council. The Council would welcome your views.

Riddell Graham, Town Clerk.





NANTWICH IN BLOOM GARDENS COMPETITION Entry Form 2011

Name
 Address
 Post Code
 Telephone

PLEASE TICK CATEGORY TO BE ENTERED

Front garden House Frontage

Please send entry to:

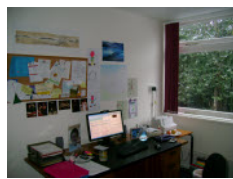
Connie Jones, Nantwich in Bloom, 68 Welsh Row, Nantwich, CW5 5ES.
 Tel: 01270 624320 or email alecjones@btinternet.com

CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 15TH JULY
JUDGING THURSDAY 28TH JULY

Business space to let...

Nantwich Town Council has a room in Brookfield Hall available for a small business or local organisation. Measuring 9 x 12 feet (3 x 4 metres approximately) the room can be leased for 6 months to a year, maybe longer. Rent negotiable on application. Use of the kitchen and other facilities.

Previously occupied by a translator who operated over the internet, and currently being used by an expert nail technician. The space would be perfect for a small organisation or start-up business or someone who needs reasonably priced office space without long term commitment.



**Contact:- Riddell Graham, Town Clerk of
 Nantwich Town Council, at Brookfield Hall,
 Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich, CW5 7AD, or
 telephone 01270 619224.**

Councillors contact details...

Name	Address	Tel No.	Party	Ward	email
Cllr Andrew Martin	48 London Road Stapeley CW5 7JL	627740	Conservative	South	andrew.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Graham Fenton	15 Mercer Way Nantwich CW5 5YD	610757	Conservative	North and West	grahamfenton@02.ie
Cllr Christine Farrall	19 Mount Drive Nantwich CW5 6JF	624335	Conservative	North and West	christine.farrall@dsl.pipex.com
Cllr Arthur Moran	16 Gerard Drive Nantwich CW5 5JR	624071	Independent	North and West	arthur.moran@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr John Lewis	16 Lakeside View Nantwich CW5 7GA	627507	Conservative	South	jplewis@birmingham11.plus.com
Cllr Norma Simpson	24 Cherrington Road Nantwich CW5 7AW	625399	Conservative	South	
Cllr Stuart Hutton	66 Shrewbridge Road Nantwich CW5 5TG	628246	Conservative	South	stuhutton@btinternet.com
Cllr Penny Butterill	21 Birchin Lane Nantwich CW5 6JU	625575	Independent	North and West	penny.butterill@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Jon Hopkins	22 Mercer Way Nantwich CW5 5YD	610361	Conservative	North and West	jon@hopkins1973.freeserve.co.uk
Cllr David Marren	76 Crewe Road Shavington CW2 5DW	569284	Conservative	South	david.marren@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Cllr Harold Cooper	36 Riverside Nantwich CW5 5HT	624790	Conservative	North and West	hmcsports@talktalk.net
Cllr Michael Farr	48 Sheppenhall Grove Aston CW5 8DF	780061	Conservative	North and West	mlfarr@hotmail.com

Nantwich Town Council's web site...



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.

Rooms are available for hire, for community use, (photos on web site) phone the Town Clerk for costs and to book.

Riddell Graham, Town Clerk, Nantwich Town Council, Brookfield Hall, Shrewbridge Road, Nantwich, CW5 7AD.
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