

EDITOR'S WELCOME

Spring always seems to be the season of fresh starts and new ideas. And while we like to think that every edition of *Engage* is special, this one has an especial twist to it. That's partly because the Council Members, who have been representing us for the last six years, are now standing for re-election or moving on to pastures new. So you could say it's the end of an era.

Six years? – you might be thinking. Isn't it normally four? Well, you'd be right. The reason for the additional two years is because of the shake-up in local government. If you remember, 2009 saw all district councils brought under the greater umbrella of Wiltshire Council and this delayed the normal democratic process.

What with May elections around the corner and spring, albeit late on parade, finally arriving with its lengthening days and blossoming landscapes, change is definitely in the air. But then spring has always been the same – a time for throwing open the windows and checking on long forgotten items in the shed. Does the lawn mower need a service, do those blunt secateurs need replacing? And we always seem to get our best ideas in the spring when we clear out the cobwebs or tidy up the garden. Not that we're ever short of ideas in Warminster or that we're prone to keeping them in hibernation for the winter.

As you'll see from this latest edition of *Engage*, quite a bit has been happening in the last few months. While others have been tending their domestic grates for some winter warmth, we've been stoking the fires of local commerce and drawing up plans to give our unemployed youngsters a hand to get that all important start in life.

It's not been an easy winter what with the relentless cold weather and the long dark nights; and we don't need to look at the news to know that we're living through difficult times. But Warminster people are made of sturdy stuff. So as we look to a season of change and fresh challenges, we just know Warminster will be hopping and popping with positive new ideas.

KEEPING TRACK OF BIKE ENTHUSIASTS

Biking has never been as popular as it is now. Not only is it seen as an excellent means of keeping fit, it is also an almost unbeatable way to enjoy the countryside. And of course success in the Olympics and the Tour de France has helped it to gather momentum.

Some of this might explain the call from the Warminster Cycle Group for a Pump track, and from a separate group for the BMX track at Portway to be revived. For those not given to two wheels, a Pump track is not the same as a BMX track because they involve two quite different disciplines, so any idea of having one track to suit both types of cycling is, apparently, a non-starter.

The Town Development Committee was told of two proposed sites: the existing site at Portway for the BMX track, and Warminster Park for a Pump track.

At the committee meeting on 25th March, Members agreed that a number of questions have yet to be answered with regard to development of the two sites. Although it was suggested there could be advantages – a boost to tourism and local business, developing local talent in time for the next Olympics – it is still very much up in the air.



So where do you stand? Should there be both a Pump track and a BMX track? Would you prefer one and not the other? Or are you opposed to any site being developed, whether it be for a Pump track or a BMX track? Let us know what you think. Call us on 01985 214847 or you can email us on admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk

LOST AND FOUND

Nothing is more frustrating than losing something when you're out and about. Except perhaps not knowing exactly where to go in the hope of discovering some kind soul has handed it in. It used to be our local Police Station, but since that closed a while ago, it's not generally well known what, if anything, has filled this role.

Now you can spread the word that Warminster Library operates just such a service. So if you've lost something, or you've found something and want to hand it in, pop along to the library. The library's opening hours are posted on their noticeboard, or check on Wiltshire Council's website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/librarieshome.

MARVELLOUS MEDLEY OF MOVIE MATINÉES

Ever wondered what to do on an afternoon in Warminster? Earlier this year you could have met up with James Bond at the Civic Centre. And no – we haven't finally lost it. We've found a great way of spending a Wednesday afternoon watching cracking, up-to-date movies at the Civic Centre.

Since January, one Wednesday afternoon in every month at 2.00 pm, box office hits have been coming to Warminster. In addition to *Skyfall*, the Civic Centre has also screened *Hope Springs*, *Gambit* and *Tortoise in Love*.

As you can imagine, word has spread and the venue is proving extremely popular – and for just £3.50 it's scarcely surprising. For this unbelievable price, you can see a mainstream movie in a nice setting – and enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits. Our aim is to give residents who are unable or unwilling to venture out in the evenings the opportunity to enjoy current films in a comfortable venue.

With the Civic Centre's great facilities for the disabled, there's plenty of space to accommodate wheelchairs – the Stroke Club came in for *Skyfall*, and we welcome everyone. Carers are given free entry, and even get a cup of tea and a biscuit!

Book in advance or buy at the door. It's the new way to while away a Wednesday afternoon.

Warminster Civic Centre Presents
Movie Matinees

22nd May	Argo	2pm
19th June	The Impossible	2pm
17th July	Quartet	2pm
21st August	Song for Marion	2pm

£3.50 including tea/coffee and biscuits
Tickets available from the Civic Centre

SPRING INTO ACTION WITH THE WARMINSTER CRAFT FAIR

Crammed packed full of fun ideas, neat knick-knacks and scrumptious nibbles, craft fairs have always been popular in Westminister. To follow on from our Christmas craft fair, we have, quite naturally, Warminster's Spring Craft Fair. From 10.00am to 4.00pm on 27th April you can come along to the Civic Centre and browse amongst the many stalls that will be set up on the day by local craftspeople selling a variety of their products.

Browsing is not all you'll be doing, of course, because there's something for everyone and everything to choose from. If you're into jewellery, art, handmade bags, sweets for the little ones (and the not so little ones), gifts for the garden, preserves and pictures, cushions and cards, cupcakes and quilts, fudges and fancy doorstops, it'll be a wonder if you leave without yours arms full.



JOB FAIR REALLY WORKS

It is perhaps a sign of our times that we need to keep addressing certain issues like unemployment. The good news is that, because the previous Job Fair last year proved such a success, organisers have been encouraged to plan another.

Designed very much along similar lines, the Job Fair on 17th April is aimed at young people in Warminster; having said that, the fair is not age-specific, so anyone who is unemployed or needs advice is more than welcome to come along.

Some major players of regional big business will be present – names such as Balfour Beatty, highways maintenance and streetscene contractors for Wiltshire Council, and consultancy engineering and design company Atkins, who are responsible for the technical support for management of the county's highways, including bridge design and transport planning.

From the organisational side, expect to see Somerset Care and the NHS on the day, along with the Police, Wiltshire College, Wiltshire Council and other important local bodies. There will also be ads for local jobs. But it's not just finding a job that's essential, it's whether you can successfully apply.

And this is where the experts will be on hand to help with how best to put a CV together, and teach the kind of interview skills you'll need on the day to impress your prospective employers.

So if you're about to leave school and are wondering what to do, or if you've left school and still can't find a job, or if you've been made redundant and are left high and dry, go along to the Job Fair. We can't say fairer than that!

Job Fair
Warminster Civic Centre
Wednesday 17th April
12.30pm to 6.30pm

Unemployed?
Leaving school next year?
Looking for full-time or part-time work?
Considering an apprenticeship?
Wondering what college course to take?
Need help writing CV and applications?
Come along and see how we can help!

TOWN COUNCIL RETROSPECTIVE

With elections for a new Council fast approaching in May, we thought it might be interesting to reflect on the last six years with a summary of some of the events in the life of the outgoing Council. It will set a seal on the past and open the door to a bright new future.

Like all small towns in recent times, Warminster has had to contend with issues such as financial constraints and the national economic downturn, which have been felt in every corner of the country from Lerwick to Land's End. Over and above that, we have had, as a community, to debate and decide on a number of important matters.

There has been the refurbishment of the Assembly Rooms and their transformation into the new Civic Centre, which is now used as a hub of much activity. Not that there has been a lack of activity in the town itself. Recent years have seen many buildings from the Obelisk through to East Street considerably improved and renovated, but not without an eye to the town's legacy. Warminster is steeped in history and so protecting and maintaining its heritage is taken very seriously.

The town's legacy was also a driving force in the formulation of the Town Plan. This was an opportunity to work towards a consensus of how Warminster should grow, enabling us to plan for our own future and that of future generations, rather than have something imposed from outside. This was a collaborative affair, as so many initiatives have been. Initiatives like the Warminster Parking Partnership, which was conceived as a co-operative project between individual retailers and the Council with the sole purpose of encouraging shoppers to come to the town.

While we're on the subject of Warminster's retailing sector, let's not forget the sterling work carried out by Enterprise Warminster, a group which works towards supporting the business environment in the town, particularly the retail and tourism sectors. Out of Enterprise Warminster, there has additionally developed a number of constructive initiatives to help the young unemployed, including the Job Fair and the Job Club.

Volunteers are the backbone of our community with charitable organisations helping with such ventures as sporting and recreational clubs. Then there have been the various community events celebrating major occasions like the Jubilee, not to mention the Warminster Carnival and Warminster Festival, all impossible without the input of local people.

There are, however, other forms of good neighbourliness, such as Warminster Environmental Team Services (WETS). WETS helped to add value to the street cleaning regime in Warminster, picking up rubbish, making improvements to some of the empty shops in East Street and planting bulbs to give the town that little bit of extra colour.

If Warminster is about people then we have to mention our close ties with the military. These were cemented most recently by a series of parades, which honoured 3rd battalion, the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). Warminster's past, present and future are inextricably tied to our fighting men and women, who make a temporary home in our community, but who remain in our hearts and make us so proud of their service to Queen and country.

The Councillors elected in May, whoever they may be, will have different issues to contend with, different matters to debate, but with the help of the people of Warminster, the town will remain the vibrant and active community it has always been.

EVERYONE NEEDS ENTERPRISE

In today's world, where sluggish economies tend to make life difficult for business, it might seem that this is just the way things are. It's a market economy and, if you're a business, you're on your own, right? Well, not entirely. Enterprise Warminster is one of the bodies whose sole purpose is to try and support the revitalisation of the business environment and help local companies meet the challenges in today's marketplace. It's focused exclusively on local business interests – specifically, the retail and tourist sectors. It's made up of representatives from local businesses and community organisations, and includes members of the Town Council. New members are always welcome.

Through Enterprise Warminster, a number of projects have been activated to help companies drum up business. A main initiative was to co-opt the services of 'Action for Market Towns' (AMT), a nationwide organisation offering advice, information and examples of best practice. This led to 'Hidden Britain', a charity that specialises in rural tourism, staging an event in February for local companies engaged in tourism. Following on its heels on April, retail specialists Metamorphosis offered advice to Warminster's retailers. This had less to do with teaching grandmothers the art of sucking eggs and more to do with helping people become acquainted with new thinking in the ever-changing world of retailing. Talking of tourism, another initiative is to promote Warminster as a 'Walkers Are Welcome Town'.

Walkers are a serious part of our tourism industry. They're welcome not only to share the beauty of our surroundings, but also, to put it bluntly, because they spend money: souvenirs, lunches, morning coffees, afternoon teas. So anyone interested in helping to promote this important development is invited to get in touch with Enterprise Warminster via the Town Council on 01985 214847.

Civic Centre Events, 2013

- 17 April Job Fair – 12.30pm–6.30pm
- 27 April Spring Craft Fair – 10am–4pm
- 22 May Film: 'Argo' – 2pm
- 10 June Film: 'The Impossible' – 2pm
- 17 July Film: 'Quartet' – 2pm
- 21 August Film: 'Song for Marion' – 2pm

VOLUNTEERS AND IDEAS WANTED

FIRST WORLD WAR ANNIVERSARY

Even though it was so long ago, the First World War has had far-reaching effects and almost defines who we are today. Next year, in 2014, we mark the 100th anniversary of the start of this war. Cities, towns and organisations across the country are already making plans to commemorate this historic occasion, many planning events over a four-year period to remember the major incidents of this harrowing time. The Town Council would like to know how the residents of Warminster, a town that is proud of its long association with the military, would like to mark this anniversary so that we can pay a fitting tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

The Dewey Museum is already planning its commemoration with an exhibition on the early days of the Tank Corps.

If you have any ideas you would like to put forward, please contact Heather Abernethie on 01985 214847, townclerk@warminster-tc.gov.uk

HAVE YOU GOT A FESTIVAL IN YOU?

We know there are a lot of people out there who enjoyed the last Warminster Festival. And we suspect there are quite a few who have got ideas about what should be included in the festival next time round. If you've got the festival spirit, you're brimming with ideas and you're just waiting for the chance to spread your wings as a festival organiser, your time has come.

In fact, the time has never been better because the 2014 Festival Committee is about to be formed and, amongst other roles, we're looking for a chair, a secretary and a treasurer. If you want to know more – and we're sure you do – why not come along to a meeting on Tuesday 29th April, 7.00pm in the Cley Room, Civic Centre. There's no commitment and you'll find out how you can contribute to one of Warminster's legendary events that has been going for over twenty years.



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR CARNIVAL



You may have noticed we're at a very interesting time: we're six months from the last carnival and six months to the next one. Looking back to last October is to look back on some good memories. The trouble is the next one needs some help because making those sorts of memories takes the right kind of planning, and volunteers to keep it on track are a bit thin on the ground.

So if you've got some spare time and plenty of ideas, why not become part of one of Warminster's annual extravaganzas. Go on – you know you've got it in you! Give Sandra Major a call on 01985 217050.

Warminster Town Councillors

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 Rob Fryer, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Paul Batchelor, both of whom were elected on 14th May 2012.

Warminster West	Warminster East
 Paul Batchelor (Deputy Mayor) 24 Market Place Warminster BA12 9AN 01985 213221 paulbatchelor@globallnet.co.uk	 Veronica Burden 32 The Tynings Norton Bavant Warminster BA12 7BQ 01985 215129
 Sue Fraser 6 Masefield Road Warminster BA12 8HN 01985 215596 s.fraser2@btconnect.com	 Andrew Davis 13 The Ridgeway Warminster BA12 9NG 01985 217431 andrew.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk
 Rob Fryer (Mayor) 33 Portway Warminster BA12 8QQ 01985 847168 wildswim@talk21.com	 Tony Field Highfield 97 Devenill Road Warminster BA12 9QL 01985 212391 ajfield@blueyonder.co.uk
 George Jolley (Mayor) 5 Old Were Court Warminster BA12 8FG 01985 216242	 Kate Fryer 37 North Row Warminster BA12 9AD katefryer@hotmail.com
 Tony Nicklin Chedanger 147 Bath Road Warminster BA12 7RZ 01985 847293 tony.nicklin@btconnect.com	 Keith Humphries 22 St Georges Close Warminster BA12 9ES 01985 218255 keith.humphries@wiltshire.gov.uk
 Pip Ridout 17 Savernake Close Warminster BA12 8RF 01985 214971 pip.ridout@btinternet.com	 Christopher March 1(b) Church Street Warminster BA12 9PG 01985 217889 chrismarch125@btinternet.com

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The Town Council offices are open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am–4.30pm.
Function rooms at the Civic Centre are available for hire seven days a week. Please contact the staff for further details.



Town Council and Civic Centre staff at the Civic Centre