



December 2012 Edition 15

engage and make a difference



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.

Grid of councillor portraits and contact information for Warminster West and Warminster East.

EDITOR'S WELCOME AND REVIEW OF THE YEAR

With Christmas just around the corner, what better way to celebrate an eventful year than with a photographic montage of memories from the past twelve months. And eventful is the word, what with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics. If the weather wasn't up to much – and it wasn't – these went a long way towards bringing a little sparkle into our lives.

Warminster, always up for a picnic, took to the park in June for a hamper of delights – not all of which were culinary. There was a Fancy Dress competition and a flotilla on the lake, similar to the one on the Thames, just scaled down to Warminster proportions. If the weather wasn't too hot – and it wasn't – it warmed us up for the Carnival Fun Day in June. By July we were limbering up for the Olympics and the chance to see the torch carried through communities close to our own.

In October, we were still waiting for our summer – which never came – but we were too busy to worry about the weather as preparations were hotting up for the Warminster Festival. As usual, Warminster showed exactly what it can do – or more to the point, what its people can do. The new committee came up with fresh ideas and oodles of enthusiasm, setting to work with an energy and verve that promised much. Of course, the proof of any pudding is in the eating and what a pud it turned out to be. While it started slowly, it began to build with an extravaganza of entertainment from local talent, the festival finishing off with a flourish of class acts at The Athenaeum. We look forward to 2014!

Times are hard and haven't been as hard for many a year. But there isn't a town in the country better at coping with adversity than Warminster. Not content to batten down the hatches and wait for the storm clouds to pass, a local initiative saw the formation of Enterprise Warminster, an organisation designed to address the many challenges facing commerce and the unemployed youth of Warminster. And it is this latter group that got the full spotlight in October.

Many people recognise the danger of condemning a new generation to years of unemployment, but it's not so easy to come up with effective suggestions. This didn't deter Enterprise Warminster, which helped to stage a Job Fair in the autumn, attracting local businesses and organisations. Experts were on hand to offer professional advice and positive support, but no one knew how young people would respond. Would they, for example, stay away in droves? As it was, the event was a huge success with 209 attendees and some 170 questionnaires completed. Many of those who attended wondered why this hadn't been done before. An unanswerable question, but one that encouraged the organisers and business partners who supported the event to think about a repeat in 2013. A date of 17th April has already been set, so make a note in your diaries!

When Warminster residents attended the farewell parade of 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellingtons) for their tour of duty in Afghanistan earlier this year, they did so with affection, mindful of the losses the regiment had already sustained and the possibility of further casualties. And so it was fitting that, in November, we could welcome them back – and demonstrate our ties to the army by granting the regiment the freedom of the town.

Now we're getting ready to celebrate another festive season. Talking of which, this year's Christmas Market attracted so much interest amongst retailers that there's now talk of creating two Christmas Markets, one dedicated to food, the other to gifts. That would be good for stallholders, good for the town and good for you!

Next year no doubt will bring its mixed bag of challenges for us to deal with. However, one thing we can be sure of is change. The council elections are scheduled for next year and with retirements on the horizon we can expect new blood. But whatever Warminster residents have to face in 2013, they will do so in their usual manner: with pride, determination and with more than a touch of good humour.

A very merry Christmas to you all and the happiest of New Years!



3 Yorks Parades



Picnic in the Park



The Christmas Market



Civic and Grant Awards



Autumn Job Fair



Civic Centre Events, 2013

- 23 January Film: 'Hope Springs' – 2pm
15 February Valentine's Disco – 8pm
20 February Film: 'Gambit' – 2pm
20 March Film: 'Tortoise in Love' – 2pm
10 April Film: 'Skyfall' – 2pm
17 April Job Fair
27 April Spring Craft Fair – 10am

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The Town Council offices are open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm. Christmas and the New Year Holiday The offices will close at 4.30pm on Friday 21st December and reopen at 9.30am on Wednesday 2nd January.

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