

**Warminster Town Council**

October 2012 Edition 14



# engage

and make a difference

## EDITOR'S WELCOME

A special welcome to an early autumn edition of Engage. Why special? Because it comes to you from our new home! It's still the same Engage and still your newsletter. We've just found a more appropriate slot in the popular Warminster Journal. And as befits our new home we're in a state of pleasurable anticipation.

Mind you, some of this is due to the fact that we're also looking forward to the Warminster Festival, which, at time of writing, is just about to get going. This new look extravaganza promises to be a fun-packed fortnight for everyone. You can read more about it in this edition of Engage.

So if the weather this year has not been up to expectations, now's your chance to see off our soggy summer in style. There's sufficient razzmatazz not only to lighten the mood, but to light up the dark evenings ahead!

## MAYOR'S PARLOUR

They say that time flies when you're busy – and it's definitely true in my case. I've been especially active these last few months attending a number of local events where I've met a variety of different people, all of whom have given me fresh insight into how our wonderful Warminster community functions.

I'm certainly finding the role of Mayor an enriching experience, and am enjoying the opportunity to meet so many residents. I'll be holding my second Mayor's surgery on Tuesday, 16th October at the Civic Centre from 1.00pm to 2.00pm, so if you have any concerns I urge you to come along. That's what I'm here for! But, of course, I'm not the only point of contact. Remember, all the Councillors are there for you if there are matters you'd like to discuss – just pick up the phone or drop them a line.

Two of my own concerns this mayoral year will be my two charities – the Warminster branch of the Royal British Legion and the research section of the Alzheimer's Society. Amongst my other duties, I shall be working to raise funds for them throughout my tenure. In the meantime, thank you for support and I look forward to meeting many more of you during my term of office.



## WARMINSTER YOUTH TO GET POSITIVE HELP

We are all aware of the current economic situation and how it affects families throughout Warminster. But it would be fair to say that the ones who have been particularly hard hit have been our young people. Commentators in the media are talking about the danger of condemning a generation to almost permanent unemployment, and it's not difficult to see how these scare stories arise. Jobs are difficult to get and without a record of employment in any shape or form, hopes of securing meaningful occupation are somewhat dimmed.

Enterprise Warminster is an organisation recently formed to address the issues of unemployment and the effects that the downturn is having on the local economy; more specifically, it is tasked with the challenge of forging some plan that will boost activity in the business sector and employment in general. As an organisation, it is comprised of six major sub-groups, which focus on Retail, Planning, Business Innovation, Marketing, Tourism and Youth.

The Youth sub-group has been looking at the possibility of creating life-changing opportunities for the 16–25-year-olds, the catchment group most affected by the recession, and it has now come up with a positive initiative. On 9th October, Enterprise Warminster will open a Job Fair at the Civic Centre, which will run from 12.00 noon until 8 o'clock at night. But if attendees are expecting to find simply an array of boards with lists of jobs pinned to them, they're in for a pleasant surprise.

The day has been planned to take account of a host of other considerations relating to the great British job hunt. It will include seminars on CV writing (a skill in itself), applying for a job (again, something that needs a particular approach) and interviewing techniques (invaluable when an applicant has been fortunate enough to secure an interview).

All this takes time to plan and money to stage. But the good news is that funding has been secured to put together an agenda of expert advice and structured information that will equip young people with what they need in today's competitive job market.

The event is also offering ten work placements with local businesses for a duration of six weeks each. However, those who aren't chosen needn't feel downhearted. They can rest assured that time spent at this day event will be time well spent indeed.

# WARMINSTER FIZZES WITH FESTIVAL SPIRIT



Over the last few issues of Engage, we've brought you news of developments relating to the Warminster Festival. Now that it is opening this weekend, let's bring you up to date with a reminder of what's in store over the Festival fortnight.

With the retirement in 2010 of Dorothea Sultana de Maria, Chairwoman, and Secretary Richard Violet, new blood was needed for the Festival Committee. The response bowled everyone over. Up to the mark stepped a band of residents fizzing with new ideas and bursting with all the energy, dedication and commitment one could decently ask for. Since then, they have been beavering away to put some of those ideas into action, while we've been regularly reporting about the variety of activities in store for 2012 and the committee's progress in putting it all together.

The result is a simply spectacular programme of events that runs from Saturday 6th October to Saturday 20th October and appeals to all ages and all tastes. But it's also a programme with a specific theme: Hidden Treasures, Jill Flanders, the Chair of the Warminster Festival Committee, describes it as a showcase for talented local people, many of whom seem to remain in the background and not be noticed. Well, now they are being encouraged to 'come on down' and strut their stuff.

There are opportunities for budding writers to give their work a public airing and for musicians to exercise their talents in a formalised workshop prior to rehearsal and an evening performance. There are also young local choirs, who will be given a taste of that 'showbiz' buzz when they sing before a real live audience. But that's not the end of it. There are other musical genres that will be on show from baroque to rock, blues to country, folk to classical. Talking of classics, if you're into musical nostalgia, there's a chance to let some of the most lovely music from some of the most memorable shows wait over you when the Athenaeum singers reprise songs from West Side Story, The Sound of Music and Oklahoma.

There are public readings and poetry readings; exhibitions and competitions; skilled performance art routines and...well, quite simply, art. For those with calories to burn, there's an organised walk and a walking treasure hunt; for those who want a bit of additional action, there are football sessions, kayak sessions and indoor bowling sessions.

Programmes and tickets are available from the Civic Centre, Warminster Library, Warminster Information Centre and the Athenaeum. Programmes can also be found in a host of other public venues, to help you plan how many events you can fit into a fortnight. You can also go to the Warminster Festival's own dedicated website at [www.warminsterfestival.co.uk](http://www.warminsterfestival.co.uk) for further details and updates.

## STEPHANIE COLE TO WITHDRAW – FOR THE MOMENT

One of the highlights of this year's Warminster Festival was to have been the appearance of Stephanie Cole. The hugely popular actress and star of so many dramatic offerings has now been forced to pull out because she has to go to hospital. We wish her well, good luck and look forward to seeing her again – as we shall very soon because the event has now been rescheduled for Saturday, 24th November. Make a note in the diary!

## CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

A good thing too, many people will say. And it's true that, although the overwhelming majority of people love Christmas when it comes, the idea of its approach has a mixed effect on us, including night sweats and mild panic. So we apologise for bringing it to your attention when we are barely into autumn, but the fact is Christmas has a habit of creeping up on us and we'd like to flag up an important event for your diary.

This year we're reinstating the Christmas Market, but we're moving it to the Civic Centre as an indoor market because of the difficulties in getting the road closed in the Market Place. At least we won't have to worry about the weather! There will be Father Christmas, carol singing, a varied assortment of seasonal merchandise to buy, and a general 'Christmassy' atmosphere all round. What also makes it such an important part of the Christmas calendar is that it's a showcase for local businesses, including arts and crafts outlets, food producers and other retailers. So if you're looking for creative stocking fillers or culinary treats, why not come to the Civic Centre on November 24 and 25. There'll be heaps to choose from and the atmosphere will certainly get you into the Christmas spirit as we approach the countdown to the big day.

And if it's sparkle you're after, don't forget the Christmas lights. There's nothing quite like Warminster's seasonal display to add that little touch of magic. This year, because the 'switch on' coincides with the battalion homecoming (see article in Engage), there will be no road closure, as it was decided that two road closures in one day would be one road closure too many. This is not to say that the lights will be any less spectacular. Come along and see for yourself!

## Warminster Community Radio



In the six months since WCR started broadcasting full time, Director Barry Mole says: 'The feedback the presenters get from the people in the street is amazing and is a clear indication that the station has a large listenership – not just in Warminster and the surrounding area, but also worldwide via the internet.' Listeners regularly email the station from Canada, America and all over Europe, and it even boasts listeners in Jamaica. Station manager Andrew Robinson points out that although 'it is gratifying to know that we have a wider listenership... our focus is very local'.

The station offers a wide range of musical genres and includes regular local news updates, as well as national news every weekday on the half hour provided by the British Forces Broadcasting Service. WCR has the honour of being the only Community station in the UK to be granted permission to use this service because of its close ties with the military. Assistant Director Hazel Loveday feels 'that the full-time infrastructure of the service is working well, we have a comprehensive training programme and a range of shows to offer something to suit every taste. We will progress to more outside broadcasts in the community soon.' Stay tuned to 105.5fm for more local information.



## LOCAL MP TO TALK ABOUT HIS LITERARY INFLUENCES

They say that one of the best ways of finding out about a person is to look at their bookshelves. So the fact that Andrew Murrison, MP for South West Wiltshire, is to be publicly interviewed about the books that have shaped his life will hold particular fascination for Warminster residents.

The event, which is part of the Warminster Festival, will take place on Friday, October 12, with Colonel Peter Merriman MBE, Commander of Warminster Garrison, taking the interviewer's chair. As part of the discussions, attention will also be paid to Andrew's own literary contribution, Tommy This an' Tommy That, published by Biteback with a foreword by David Cameron.

Written as a salutary reminder of what Britain owes its armed forces, the choice of interviewer is most apt; but the author is also well qualified. Andrew Murrison was a senior military doctor with hard experience of modern warfare, which he gained from his time in Iraq. He is additionally a frontline politician, who rubs shoulders with the 'movers and shakers' in British politics. As MP for the region, he is in his element in Warminster, recognising, as he does, the town's close connections with a succession of regiments and its association with Britain's military history.

Like all of us, his personal viewpoint has been moulded by the literary works he has read over the course of his life, reading matter that has, no doubt, shaped his view of civvy street and military life and the link between the two – a link that is so vividly and positively demonstrated in our own town.

It will be an unmissable occasion and one that is highly recommended for soldiers and civilians alike. Tickets are £5, available from the Civic Centre. A particular welcome will be given to members of the Armed Forces, to whom the Committee have granted free entry.

## OTHER WORLDS TO COME TO WARMINSTER



We sometimes think of the men and women in our armed forces as being just that – men and women skilled in soldiery and nothing else. But a project started in 2010 by the John Creasey Museum at Salisbury Library and Galleries proves there's more to our brave soldiers than meets the eye.

Using the work of celebrated war artist Paul Nash as an inspiration, four active servicemen have been working with professional artists, including Jeffrey Walker, to explore ideas, perfect their talents and learn how to combine their natural gifts with artistic techniques and skills. For the serving soldiers, this artistic expression is also seen as a possible means of resolving what they have witnessed in the field and to give expression to their innermost feelings about what they have experienced.

The project has developed into an exhibition called Other Worlds, in which work completed by both soldiers and artists is displayed. Other Worlds is touring Wiltshire venues, including Tidworth and Wootton Bassett, and will be at the Civic Centre in Warminster from 5th October. This exhibition is a must for a town like Warminster, which shares so much of its history with the military personnel who continue to be a part of our community. If you get the opportunity, we highly recommend you go along and take a look. We promise you an illuminating experience.

## PARKING SCHEME STILL A WINNER



Parking, as we all know, is a perennial problem for motorists as well as being something of a thorny subject all round. Understandably so when one considers the rising costs motorists have to contend with and the additional costs of parking when they reach their destination. But parking doesn't just impact on the motorist, it can also affect the local economy. People think quite strategically when it comes to shopping trips in the car, and if there are too many negatives it may deter them from travelling to certain towns. All this can have a potentially detrimental effect on Warminster's important retail sector.

The Warminster Parking Partnership scheme is a constructive move to encourage motorists to come to the town and to shop at our independent retailers, 20 of whom have joined the scheme. It originally allowed for the cost of the first hour of parking (40p) to be refunded once a voucher, issued at the parking meter, had been used in participating retail outlets. Since July this allowance has been increased to refund the first two hours' parking charges of £1.10 or £1.20, depending on the car park. The indications are that an increasing number of shoppers are now paying for two hours rather than just one, which is great news for our retailers.

## WARMINSTER HOSTS IMPORTANT HOMECOMING

On 30 November there is an opportunity to welcome back 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment from frontline service. With help from the Town Council, the army is in the process of organising a post-deployment parade which will follow similar lines to the pre-deployment parade held in March, and will involve a march through the town followed by a service at the Minster Church. In recognition of the 'outstanding achievements and distinguished service' of 3rd Yorks, and wishing to recognise and confirm the ties between the town and the battalion, Councillors have voted to grant Freedom of Entry into the Town of Warminster to 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). This gives the battalion the 'right, privilege, honour and distinction to march through the streets of the town with colours flying, bayonets fixed and bands playing' on all ceremonial occasions, which will give an extra dimension to the parade on 30 November. We feel sure that the town will once again show the support that was so welcomed by the troops before they left for Afghanistan.

## EVENTS DIARY

- 6 October: 'Launch at the Lakeside' – opening of Warminster Festival, 10am–4pm
- 6–20 October: Warminster Festival
- 9 October: Job Fair, Civic Centre, 12noon–8pm
- 27 October: Warminster Carnival
- 11 November: Remembrance Day Parade, 3pm
- 24–25 November: Christmas Market, Civic Centre, 10am–4pm
- 30 November: Post-deployment Parade 3 Yorks, 10am

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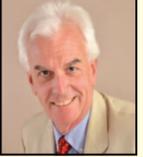
The Town Council offices are open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am–4.30pm.

Function rooms at the Civic Centre are available for hire seven days a week. Please contact the staff for further details.

## 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



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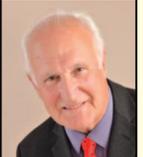
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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Town Council and Committee meetings are held at the Civic Centre and are open to the public. You are most welcome to come along either to listen or to say your piece in the public session. Times of meetings are listed below and the agendas are posted on the notice boards outside the Civic Centre and Dewey House and on our website [www.warminster.uk.com](http://www.warminster.uk.com). Meetings are also advertised in the Warminster Journal.

Planning Advisory	1st October	7pm
Town Development	8th October	7pm
Planning Advisory	22nd October	7pm
Finance and Assets	5th November	7pm
Planning Advisory	12th November	7pm
Full Council	19th November	7pm
Town Development	28th November	7pm
Planning Advisory	3rd December	7pm



Town Council and Civic Centre staff at the Civic Centre