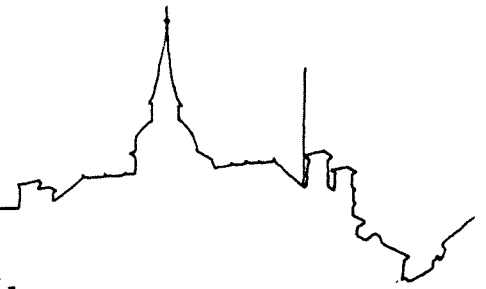


Towcester Town Crier



No.21 September 1987 Town Hall, Towcester.

MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL 1987/8 Every new council year produces new challenges and situations for the Mayor and Town Council to deal with. As Towcester increases in size so does the effort required for the day-to-day running and the necessity for increased personal commitment. I am fortunate in having a very hard working team behind me for my term of office and know that I can rely on them to efficiently carry out the tasks allocated to them.

For the first time ever the Town Council has given it's support to a Mayor's Charity Appeal. This exists in many towns but is totally new to Towcester. I am therefore asking people of Towcester to help me make this venture a success.

A Mayor's Charity Appeal is not simple an appeal for money, more a method of encouraging and collating the efforts of individuals and organisations with a view to avoiding duplication of effort, giving recognition to the various donors and assistance in providing practical help or facilities.

This year I have chosen two charities to benefit from the Appeal. One local - The Chantry House Appeal; and one of more general benefit - The CAT Scan Appeal.

THE CHANTRY HOUSE APPEAL was launched to raise money for the necessary repair and refurbishment of the Chantry House, Market Square, Towcester which was bequeathed to the Church on the death of the previous owner. When completed later this year it will house the Church Office with room available for use by all the people of Towcester for social events, etc.. A relatively small number of people have raised over half the £10 000 originally needed to complete the work. However, the increased cost of making the foundations safe has added a further £9000 to the total. The need to raise the extra money becomes more urgent as the completion date gets nearer.

THE CAT SCAN APPEAL was launched in November 1986 in Northampton with a target of £600 000 to be raised to purchase one whole body scanner for the Northampton General Hospital. The equipment is used for the early detection of cancer, head injuries and many other conditions. At present patients from Northamptonshire have to travel to Oxford. Over half of the required has been raised so far.

If you have already contributed to either or both appeals, thank you very much. If you have not yet done so, I would be grateful if you would consider organising some fund-raising event or simply sending a donation to the Town Clerk, indicating which appeal you intend to benefit. Your assistance in making a success of this first Mayor's Charity Appeal is greatly appreciated and will serve as a springboard for future initiatives by my successors.

It is envisaged that there will be a presentation ceremony before

my term of office expires in May 1988 for all those who have participated, therefore it will be necessary for the Town Clerk to keep a record of all events organised and donations received. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance. I am available on Towcester 51082 after 8 pm or correspondence can be forwarded to the Town Hall.

Jacqueline Hart, Town Mayor

BLAIN: A member of the twinning group writes:
With the knowledge that water was pouring mysteriously through the bedroom ceiling I left home at 5.30 one morning, slightly dreading the long journey ahead. "St. Lawrence has a lot to answer for", I thought - and yet he died in the year 258 AD.

For some time unofficial communications have been crossing the Channel between Blain (near Nantes at the mouth of the Loire River) and Towcester.

Finally we had gathered together an interested group who were prepared to make a foray into the (almost) unknown. Interested in what? Well - "twinning" in theory. In practice it turned out to be an excellent occasion for collecting packets of soup, bolsters, teapots, biscuits, orangina, and the inevitable wine, together with innumerable gifts from our host families.

The Municipality and the Tourist Office in Blain seemed to think that Towcester would be an excellent town to twin with. We share Roman origins, and both celebrate the same Patron Saint whose Name Day falls on 10 August. (That's where St. Lawrence comes into it). Easton Neston House is the nearest we can get to provide an equivalent château, and we have to go to Stoke Bruerne for our nearest canal, but we do share the distinction of having a shoe factory.

The Festival Weekend to which we were invited combined the flavours of the Rotary Festival, the Church's St. Lawrence Week Activities and something akin to the Notting Hill Carnival. Bands and Folk Groups were imported from Belgium and Bavaria and a procession of floats and walking groups wound their way through the traffic-freed town beneath a mass of bunting and the amplified din of a local radio station set up especially for the event.

At various junctures throughout each day we were treated to a "Vin d'Honneur", where amidst much jollity and considerable embarrassment at not being able to speak one another's language, we attempted to further the Anglo-Franco Concordat. The wine helped a good deal to loosen the tongues, improve the gesticulations and cause a warm glow of friendship to envelop us.

When, on the final evening, we watched the fireworks display (with the pleasant ruins of the château floodlit in the background) it was hard to imagine that 48 hours previously most of us had never before met our hosts, or any of the kind people who hurtled us round the town of which they were proud to be the inhabitants.

There is no doubt that they are keen. My sneaking fear is that we will not be able to live up to their expectations. However, if we continue to forge links on an unofficial basis, personal

friendships will increase and much may come of it.

As a non-council member I would like to say that Towcester should be proud of its Mayor. The French were certainly impressed by both her and the chain of office. And, before anybody queries it, not one penny of the trip was paid for by the rates!

METHODIST NEWS Soon our renovations will be complete. Our vestibule will be more adequate and welcoming. Either side of this, new vestry and toilets and over all a new room. The chapel has a new communion rail. Much else is being done, including repair and reinforcement of windows, further heating, new carpeting, redecoration, refurbishing of pulpit and pews.

While the work has been in progress, our Sunday morning services have been at Moor Field, by kind courtesy of the Sponne and Bickerstaffe trustees. We cannot, as this goes to press, announce the re-opening date. It could be towards the end of September and will be prominently announced on our board.

PARISH CHURCH NEWS Very many thanks to all those individuals, groups and organisations who helped in their different ways towards the running of the Flower Festival. Over a thousand people came to appreciate the church decorations, and we also enjoyed one of the finest weekends this summer.

By the time this appears, the Vicarage will be re-inhabited and the Chantry House Renovation nearing completion. The Mayor has kindly taken the latter as one of her charitable causes for the year, and the need is as great as ever. Extra foundation work has dramatically increased the overall bill.

Until it moves back to the Chantry, the Parish Office remains at 20 Park Street (tel: 50536) and we try to ensure that somebody will be there every morning from 9.30 - 12 noon. The Vicarage at present has no telephone.

People may like to make a note of the **ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL** to be held on **Friday/Saturday/Sunday 18/19/20 September** either in the Chantry House or in Church. It promises to be an interesting occasion with many local folk exhibiting their talents.

In conjunction with this, **The Watling Singers** have kindly agreed to give a concert in Church on **Saturday 19 September** at 8 pm. There will be a light programme of madrigals, folk songs and organ pieces. Do come.

TOWCESTER COMBINED DIVISION OF THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE is hoping to run another **FIRST AID COURSE** for the public. The course which is open to anyone over the age of 16, will start on **THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER** and will last for 8 weeks plus and exam, finishing on 19 November. The cost which includes the registration and exam fees, handbook and a triangular bandage will be £15.00. Each session will last from 7.30 to 10.00 pm and refreshments will be available. If you would like to register or find out more about the course, please ring Janet Taylor on Towcester 50510 or Jim Curtis on Blisworth 858341. We will only be able to run the course if we have a minimum of 12 people so early registration will be appreciated.

Anyone who might be interested in joining the St John Ambulance

Brigade will be very welcome to come and see us at our Headquarters in Islington Road any Tuesday evening. The cadets, for 11 to 16 year olds, meet between 7.00 and 8.00 pm and the adults from 8.00 to 9.30 pm.

Our new Headquarters is also available for hire and for details please contact Mrs Doreen Williams on Towcester 51414.

TOWCESTRIANS TENNIS CLUB have had a successful season so far with good match results, various well-supported tournaments and successful fund-raising social events.

The most outstanding team has been the juniors, who are unbeaten in the Milton Keynes Junior league. The team, consisting of A Benham, V Kyte, J Thorpe, C Wittle, M Cook and R Owen have beaten Wolverton 6-2, Newport Pagnell 8-0, Stony Stratford B 8-0 and Buckingham 5-3. The standard and depth of Juniors in the club is very encouraging, thanks to the support given by Mrs A Benham and various club players who have turned out Sunday mornings for junior coaching.

The Ladies A team have fought well to be 5th in the Northampton Division 1 getting promising results against the bigger Northampton clubs and have done extremely well to reach the final of the Milton Keynes knock-out competition which is to take place on September 6th.

Many club tournaments have taken place this summer, with the following results:

Ladies open doubles: Barbara Parsons, Gill Johnston
Mixed closed doubles: Johnathon Elder, Gill Johnston
Junior closed doubles: James Thorpe, Craig Wittle

Several tournaments have yet to be played and club nights will continue into early October, when it is hoped that the floodlights for the new court will then be in operation for the winter evenings.

The tennis club barbeque held in June to raise money for the new hard court was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended.

Gill Johnston, Press Secretary, Towcestrians Tennis Club

1ST TOWCESTER GUIDE COMPANY are looking for another assistant Guider, preferably someone with guiding knowledge and experience. However we always welcome newcomers to the movement, so if anyone feels they can give some time to the Guides we shall be very pleased to see you. Please do get in touch - Towcester District Commissioner, Towcester 52601

1ST TOWCESTER SCOUT GROUP: BAR-B-QUE Date: Saturday 3 October - 7.30 pm 'til late. Venue: Towcester Racecourse Pavillion. Cost: £4-50.

STEAK BBQ/BAR/DISCO Tickets available from leaders and committee members or telephone Richard Bell - 51079 or Denise Norton - 51015.

ADULT HELP. The Group continues to search for adult help. Although we have adequate section leaders for the Cubs and Scouts

we need additional help to offer a wider scope of scouting to the boys. Absolutely no qualifications are needed, just a sense of humour and a willingness to work with youngsters. We only ask 1 - 2 hours of your time each week and even this is flexible if you cannot make a firm commitment. The Thursday Cubs, in particular, are in urgent need of help in order to continue offering a good level of Scouting; so if you can spare a couple of hours please contact us - we need your help!

Meetings at Towcester Scout Hall, Baden-Powell Crescent, Towcester.

Can you help with

Scouts (11-15 years of age)	- Mondays	7.30 - 9.00
or Cubs (8-11 years of age)	- Thursdays	6.30 - 8.00
or Cubs (8-11 years of age)	- Tuesdays	6.30 - 8.00

Please telephone Richard Bell, 51079; Jim Keary, 51297; Paul Dunkley, 50593.

NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR SCHOOL FETE In the school grounds on Saturday, 26 September at 2 pm. All the usual stalls plus fancy dress, morris men and 'Puffing Eddie'.

MINI-BUS SCHEME Anyone interested in joining a mini-bus scheme taking children to and from schools in Northampton, please contact Mrs T Blake, telephone 53448.

THIS IS A DESPERATE PLEA FOR HELP Did you know that there are a great many people in Towcester and the surrounding villages who have no transport of their own and cannot use public transport either due to ill health or lack of an adequate bus service? They have great difficulty in getting to medical appointments at Towcester Health Centre and the surrounding hospitals.

At present there are only 10 volunteer drivers in Towcester to cope with the ever increasing demand for transport. They willingly offer to help in what little spare time they have. Some work part-time and some are mums with young children who fit in the occasional lift within school hours.

CAN YOU HELP? Do you have a car? Can you drive? Can you spare an hour a week/fortnight/month to take someone to a medical appointment at Towcester Health Centre? OR perhaps you could combine your weekly shopping trip to Northampton with someone who has a hospital appointment, or with someone who would like to visit a sick relative.

WOULD YOU BE OUT OF POCKET? NO. Volunteer drivers are reimbursed for their petrol at the rate of 20p per mile. **WHAT ABOUT INSURANCE?** Most insurance companies accept volunteer driving schemes.

If you think you could help with volunteer driving, please contact Kate Saul, Towcester 51716 - Organiser of the Towcester & District Volunteer Car Scheme. Every offer of help will be very much appreciated.

TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT UNDER-FIVE LIAISON GROUP A meeting was held on the 2nd June 1987, under the chairmanship of Mrs Angela Shaw, head of Towcester Infants School.

The aim of the group is to promote the interests of the under-fives in the district. A secretary will be appointed for each meeting to prepare minutes and act upon ideas until the next meeting, when a new person will take over, thus eliminating the need for a committee at present.

The following strategies for achieving the aims of the group were discussed and agreed upon:

- a The publication of a directory of addresses and information and a group comprising representatives from the Social Services, Health, Playgroups, Mothers/toddlers, Child-minders, Nursery and Parents was formed to prepare one.
- b A drop-in centre with possibilities for funding and venues to be investigated before the next meeting. It was also hoped that a Mothers and Toddlers afternoon might be arranged at the church to welcome new residents to the area.
- c The formation of a Mothers and Toddlers group. Mrs Shaw will investigate possible venues and a meeting will be arranged at Towcester Infants School to discuss its formation with those interested. A letter will be sent to parents through schools, health centres and existing Mothers and Toddlers groups.
- d Termly meetings to be held with guest and group member speakers. The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 22 September at 8 pm at Nicholas Hawksmoor School. Mrs Angela Jones, school nurse and Mrs Ann Cole, health visitor, will open the meeting with a short talk, followed by question time. Further suggestions to speakers were child psychologists, playgroup organisers, social worker for the hard of hearing, the handicapped child in the community, speech therapist and the NSPCC.
- e It is hoped to display information on the group's activities in the Health Centre, Gateway, Town Crier and other public places.
- f It is intended to promote a prompt response to the needs of parents and children in the area by creating a forum for discussion and it is hoped that each meeting will bring to light new areas of interest that can be followed up.

MIND IN TOWCESTER National Association for Mental Health. One person in 9 suffer mental illness at some time in their lives. One child in every hundred is born with a mental handicap. Add to this the families and friends who have been touched by illness and handicap. Thousands of people trying to cope with prejudice, discrimination and grossly inadequate services. MIND exists to combat the prejudice, to fight discrimination and to improve the services. People struggling to cope with mental illness and handicap need advice and hard facts about services, treatment, welfare, benefits and about housing. Legal problems too; many people contact MIND because they have been refused a job, because they have had a mental illness. The local associations movement is 170 strong and between them these groups provide housing for more than 1500 ex-patients, 200 social clubs and 70 day centres and many other projects including playgroups for mentally handicapped children and support for those who look after those that have grown old and confused.

In short, MIND helps thousands of mentally ill and handicapped people to live a normal life in the community where they can receive support and friends and feel the benefit of putting

something back into society. MIND works for change: To make people aware of the problems and to change the law of the land to ensure the mentally ill and handicapped get a fair deal.

Where in Towcester does MIND meet? Anchor House, Moat Lane. This is not only a meeting place, a social club, a dining club and a self-help centre but the offices of administration for sheltered homes, medical services advice. At Anchor House in Towcester we welcome anyone, it may be that people feel isolated, lonely, have problems that they want to talk over with someone, or just want to volunteer some of their time in helping at Anchor House. So why not pop in for a cup of tea and a chat, or phone Kim, Anne or Shirley on Towcester 52807.

Attached to Anchor House is the 'Nearly New' shop, which sells good quality used clothes, for all styles and ages. Do come along and peruse. You'll be surprised at the stock we carry.

Glen Dudman, Chairman

TOWCESTER MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP Bored on a Wednesday afternoon? Then come down to the Community Centre between 1.30 and 3.30 during term time for company, plenty of space and toys for all pre-school children and babies, plus a drink and a biscuit. There is no waiting list or register, you come as you please - 50p each week. If you would like to come but do not want to go on your own, please ring one of the numbers below. We will be pleased to arrange for someone to meet you and take you down.

We are also looking for mums to come on our committee to help run the group and open and close the sessions. We are not a very busy committee at present and being a member does not take up a lot of time, so if you have some new ideas or can help us at all we would be pleased to hear from you.

For further information, please ring one of the numbers below or come to one of our sessions. They start again on 2 September, when we will be pleased to meet you. Ann, Towcester 50436; Eileen or Francis.

Mrs A Sugrue, Secretary

NATIONAL WOMENS REGISTER Although part of a national organisation, our local group is autonomous, offering women of all kinds, fun, friendship and lively discussion on a wide range of subjects. We meet informally in our own homes in small groups to talk, think for ourselves, form our own individual opinions and be respected for our points of view. For more information please ring either Sue Dick, Towcester 52473 or Linda Langley, Towcester 51646.

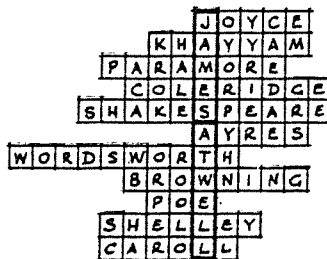
THE WINNER OF THE GRAND SUMMER LIMERICK COMPETITION is E. Houghton of 2 Norton Crescent, Towcester, who receives the £5 prize with our congratulations. The winning limerick is:

A lassie passed by here from Bicester,
A Towcester lad ran out and kissed her,
 Again came his fair lass
 But (what with the by-pass)
He looked, and he looked, and he missed her.

SOLUTION TO HARD PUZZLE

The poets were:

- 1 James JOYCE: Bid adieu to maidenhood.
- 2 Omar KHAYYAM: The rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (2nd edition).
- 3 Edward PARAMORE Jn.: The ballad of Yukon Jake.
- 4 Samuel Taylor COLERIDGE: The rime of the ancient mariner.
- 5 William SHAKESPEARE: sonnet.
- 6 Pam AYRES: The spot welder's dream.
- 7 William WORDSWORTH: Daffodils.
- 8 Robert BROWNING: A woman's last word.
- 9 Edgar Allan POE: To Helen.
- 10 Percy Bysshe SHELLEY: Ode to the west wind.
- 11 Lewis CAROLL: Alice's adventures in wonderland.



FOR YOUR DIARY: The next Towcester Town Council meetings will be on the 14th September and 12th October. Public question time will be from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.

The final date for contributions to the November issue of the Towcester Crier will be 24th October. The Editorial committee welcome all contributions and/or comments. The members are:

Mr Peter Allen, tel: 51477 Mr Brian Jolly, tel: 51661
Mrs Joyce Herbert, tel: 51315 Mr Tom Minns, tel: 50861

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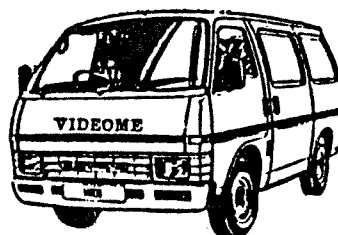
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