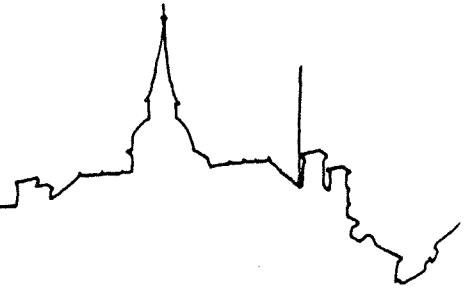


Towcester Town Crier



No.23 February 1988 Town Hall, Towcester.

TOWCESTER - BLAIN 'RETURN VISIT' As many of you will know the people of Blain, France have been enthusiastically pursuing the possibility of a social link with Towcester for the past two years. Blain is a country town just north-west of Nantes with a similar population and history to ourselves (ie. Roman origins, nearby canal system and shoemaking industry, patron saint also St. Lawrence).

A party of 25 Towcestrians had a very interesting and successful visit to Blain last August and representatives from Blain will pay a reciprocal visit to our town on 25/26/27th March this year. We will obviously need to provide accommodation for our visitors and arrange for them to see our town and perhaps visit nearby places of interest. They are particularly interested in forming links with clubs and associations in the area with a view to establishing long term social links. The Towcestrians Rugby team had a mini-tour to Blain last December - very successful, they won 19 - 0!!

If you would be willing to provide accommodation, be involved in welcoming or entertaining our guests, or are involved in any club or association who are interested in broadening your social horizons, please contact Jacqueline Hart, Towcester 51082 after 6 pm or attend the informal meeting at the Chantry House on Sunday, 14th February at 4 pm. There will be approximately 20 in the visiting party.

Those of us who visited Blain last August for their Fête de St. Laurent had such an excellent weekend that we intend to repeat the experience this year. Those who were not available at such short notice and missed the opportunity but would like to be included should let me know as soon as possible. I have yet to have the date confirmed but it will be the weekend immediately before or after 10th August (being St. Lawrence day). The more we have in the party the cheaper the cost will be!

Last but not least, although our schools have long established exchange links with both Germany and France, I have been asked about the possibility of a group of Blain schoolchildren visiting Towcester this year. The party would consist of approximately 20 children aged between 12 and 15 years. Before precise details can be worked out we need to know whether it is possible for families in Towcester to accommodate the party. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible as the French school has to give three months notice of any intended trip. Jacqueline Hart, Towcester 51082 after 6 pm.

MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL. The current Mayor's Appeal highlighting the Northampton CAT Scan Appeal and our own Chantry House Appeal has only three months to run because my term of office will be completed on 9th May.

The CAT Scan Appeal has reached its initial target allowing the purchase of the equipment and the monies raised now will provide the finance for running and maintaining the equipment. In the event of a surplus, the excess will go towards establishing a fund for equipment to be used in the northern part of the area, possibly Kettering.

The Chantry House Appeal is now within £1500 of achieving the revised total of £86 000. I was very pleased and honoured to be invited to attend the official opening by HRH The Princess Alice. The service of re-dedication was a very moving occasion; the memory will remain with me for some time and my thanks go to all those instrumental in arranging this significant day in Towcester's history. Everyone concerned with the appeal is now eager to see this last hurdle cleared as soon as possible. Their achievement so far has been magnificent. The shortfall, between grants available and the final total, being raised mainly by the Church through donations and many original and successful fund raising events. A lot of hard work has been done by a relatively small number of people to ensure the restoration and refurbishment of this building for the benefit of all the people of Towcester. Call in for coffee any Saturday morning 10 - 12 noon and view the finished result for yourselves.

I am now urging everyone in Towcester, residents, clubs and businesses, to help in the final effort. Donations for both appeals can be forwarded to myself or the Town Hall office and I urge everyone to support fund raising events and continue to organise them. My thanks to all those who donated to the Towcester Studio Band's Christmas street collection. Fifty percent of the total raised was donated to the Mayor's Appeal (£308.40) and to hear them once more playing Christmas carols in the streets definitely added to the Festive Spirit.

'Reflections' will be providing the entertainment at an evening of 'Love and Romance' - favourite songs from the last 50 years - to be held in the Town Hall at 7.45 pm on Friday, 12th February. There will also be a raffle and refreshments - all profits go to the Mayor's Appeal. Tickets are available from the Chantry House, Alice Maycock, St. Lawrence Church and myself (Towcester 51082): Adults £2; Students/Senior Citizens £1.50. 'Reflections' have regularly provided entertainment at fund raising events in Towcester in the past few years and this promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

Jacqueline Hart, Mayor.

CHANTRY HOUSE COFFEE SHOP - SATURDAYS 10 am - 12 noon. Why not drop in for a coffee and a home-made cake while out shopping on Saturday morning and treat yourself to a break. It helps Chantry upkeep as well. Chantry is open every Saturday.

THANK YOU, residents of the 'Birds Estate', for raising £32 in the house-to-house collection for 'ActionAid' in November. This is one of Britain's largest third-world charities and this money is being used to prime pumps, providing irrigation and filling grain stores, allowing some of the world's poorest people to invest in their own future. Many thanks, Marie Lambert.

TOWCESTER & DISTRICT ARTS SOCIETY. If you enjoy painting and drawing why not come along and join us. We meet every Thursday evening 7.30 - 9.30 pm at the St. John Ambulance Hall, Islington Road, Towcester.

Our members use a variety of mediums - oils, watercolours, acrylics, etc. and if you get stuck, someone will always be willing to help with useful advice and encouragement. We often have a still life set up or a model for life drawing if you want to have a try. Otherwise members 'do their own thing'.

There is no membership fee, just a £1 charge per meeting and 10p for tea or coffee. Why not come and see us and enjoy a pleasant evening in the company of friends who share a hobby. Marian Blake, Secretary - telephone Towcester 52294.

TOWCESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY. We now meet monthly in the Chantry House. Guests are always welcome; cost 60p to include coffee.

Proposed programme:

Wednesday, 17th February, 7.45 pm
Joint meeting with the Archaeological Society
Mr A Hammon: The Raunds Project

Wednesday, 16th March, 7.45 pm
AGM followed by talk on 'Oral Local History'
Could you contribute to this?

Our programme for 1988/89 will then be available.
Mrs V Baker, Hon. Secretary, Towcester 53955.

TOWCESTER NEEDS SOME EXTRA SPECIAL PEOPLE Do you like being involved with people? Are you looking for the kind of voluntary work that actually brings you into contact with basic human problems?

The police in the county have a tremendous job to do and are often stretched to the limit in doing it. Today more than ever they need everyone's help. Why not give them yours in the most practical way of all ... by joining them as a Special Constable? It would be hard to find any form of community service which gives you so much interest, excitement ... and variety! Special Constables provide the police reserve, trained to undertake regular officers' routine, policing duties and to free regulars at times of emergency.

Are you eligible?

Applicants must be British or Commonwealth citizens, whose stay in the UK is not subject to restrictions, or citizens of the Irish Republic. Should be physically fit and aged between eighteen and a half and fifty. Men should be not less than 168 cm (5ft 6ins) and women 162 cm (5ft 4ins) in height.

If you think you could serve your community in this way and would like more information or an application form, please contact Sgt. Colin Batchelor at Towcester Police Station, telephone 99-300300.

THE UNDER-FIVES LIAISON GROUP. A meeting was held on the 19th January at Towcester Infants' School, chaired by Mrs Angela Shaw. John Lloyd, of the Social Services, outlined the role of the Social Worker. A need was expressed for another Mothers and Toddlers group in Towcester ... are there any mothers interested in starting one? The Social Services have set up a Toy Library Drop-in Centre ... see posters around the town. The next meeting will be held at the Nicholas Hawksmoor School, on the 19th April, led by Mrs Val Harrison.

TOWCESTER MUSIC CENTRE. Mr Roy Brooks, on behalf of Towcester Music Centre, would like to say many thanks to all the people who gave so generously to the singers from the Music School, who performed Christmas Music in the Sponne House shopping precinct on the 5th December. A total of £175.00 was sent to the Sir Malcolm Sargent Fund for Children as a result of their generosity. Also thank you to the children for singing and to Hedley Dick who brought along his McCarthy fairground organ to add to the festive spirit. Many thanks to all those who took part and helped to organize the performance of 'Messiah From Scratch' which was held at Sponne School on 5th December. An event which was enjoyed by both singers and audience. It is hoped that it will be possible to repeat this experience in Towcester in future years.

TOWCESTER DROP IN CENTRE was opened recently for Childminders and is now open to anyone with a baby/toddler/child under 5 years. So come along all you Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Foster parents, Guardians, etc. with your under 5 age child. This is a social meeting place for you and the children. We use the Community Room at the rear of Mill House, Church Lane, Towcester on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00 am. Refreshments are available and there are plenty of toys for the children to play with. We shall shortly be opening Towcester's first **TOY LIBRARY** at the same venue where toys can be borrowed free of charge to take home for a week or two.
Enquiries to Mrs Phyllis Brockhurst, Towcester 51318.

THE NEXT CHILDMINDERS GROUP meeting is on Monday, 1 February at Mill House, Church Lane, Towcester starting at 8.00 pm and there will be a talk on **FIRST AID** suitable for anyone with a young child at home. All Childminders in and around Towcester are welcome. The March meeting will be held on 14 March, for venue please ring Phyllis Brockhurst on Towcester 51318.



Childminders
Share the Care

POLICE: If you need to telephone Towcester Police Station, please note that the telephone number is now:
DAVENTRY (99) 300 300
(but don't ask us why!)

TOWCESTER DROP-IN CENTRE. There is a Toy Library for Under 5's (toys available on loan free of charge) every Tuesday from 9.30 - 11.00 am at the Community Room (rear of Mill House), Church Lane, Towcester.

SHORT MAT BOWLS. Last November Comsport gave a demonstration of this game in the Town Hall. As a result of the interest shown on that night and subsequent enquiries from the public, Towcester Town Council decided to purchase the necessary equipment; we are now awaiting delivery and as soon as this arrives a free session will be arranged for anyone of any age to come along to the Town Hall to see what it is all about. Details will be advertised in the town but anyone already having an interest should contact the Town Clerk during office hours or Mrs Hart (Towcester 51082 after 6 pm). It is hoped that regular sessions will evolve from the initial interest.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR EVERYONE DURING HALF-TERM: Roller Disco, Pattishall Parish Hall, Thursday, 25th February. Sessions: 10.30 am - 12.00 noon; 12.00 - 1.30 pm; 1.30 - 3.00 pm; 3.00 - 4.30 pm; 4.30 - 6.00 pm. £1.25 per session including hire of the skates. Light refreshments available. Tickets available from Monday, 15th February. Ring 830583 or buy on the door.

NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY. There is a vacancy on the Town Council due to the resignation of a Town Councillor. If you are interested in the Town and becoming a Town Councillor for Towcester, please contact Mrs D Isaacs, Town Hall, Towcester, Northants (telephone Towcester 50995).

HELP!! Brian Jolly, a founder member of the Town Crier team, has contributed invaluable time and effort in producing our successful Town Crier - Thank you, Brian, for all your hard work. Unfortunately Brian is unable to continue with this work and we urgently need volunteers who can type and have the use of word processing facilities or a desk top publisher. If we are unable to instigate help then your Crier is in danger of 'folding up'. So if you feel you can help in any way with the production of the Crier, PLEASE contact or write to Dianne Isaacs, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Towcester (telephone 50995).

FOR YOUR DIARY: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN. The Annual Meeting of the Town is on Monday, 7th March 1988 at 7.30 pm at the TOWN HALL, Towcester. Please come along and 'air your views'. The next Towcester Town Council meetings will be on the 8th February and 14th March. Public question time will be from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.

Enquiries - please contact Mrs Dianne Isaacs, Town Clerk, Town Council Office, Towcester telephone 50995.

The final date for contributions to the April 1988 issue of the Towcester Crier will be 21th March. The Editorial committee welcome all contributions and/or comments. The members are:
Mr Peter Allen, tel: 51477
Mrs Joyce Herbert, tel: 51315

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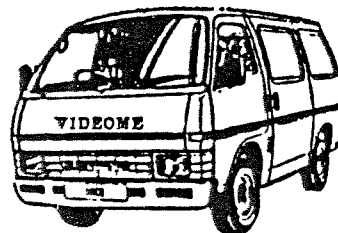
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
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