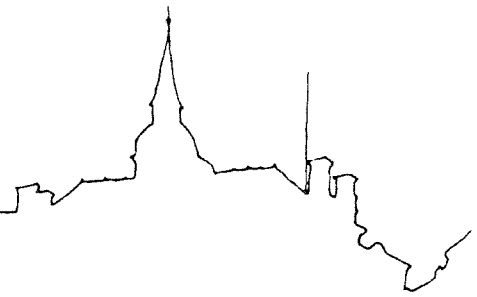


Towcester Town Crier

No.24

April 1988

Town Hall, Towcester.



COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS.

I hope the Budget had good news for you. The bad news is that what Central Government may have just given you is about to be taken away - by local government. The County Council rate is set to go up by 15% to 229p in the £. Last year the rate was kept low by the Tories taking money from balances and reserves. Now we have to pay for that policy. Which is why rates have gone up by three times inflation.

The rate level was agreed by all three parties. The difference between party proposals on spending levels was only £1/2 Million out of a budget of £272 Million. The reason all three parties agreed is that with such low balances there is no room for manoeuvre.

Thanks to the strait-jacket of grant clawback imposed by Central Government there isn't a great deal of choice over how much we can spend. And our costs rise with each new task Central Government gives us: GCSE, the new Education Bill, moving people from NHS to Council responsibility, new trading standards legislation... So a lot of the debate was over Central Government interference, which we can't do much about. To the average councillor, of any party, that is very frustrating.

I will be glad when the By-pass is finished, rather than just usable. Once the

landscaping and planting have matured we'll have more effective sound screening than the bare earth mounds.

The Department of Transport has asked the County Council to assess Towcester's need for an A5 by-pass later in the year. Don't hold your breath though, it'll be quite a while before the DoT even decides whether they are going to do anything. While on the subject of the A5, I understand that the Department of Transport now regards it as an M1 relief road. Which fact everyone in Towcester has known for years!

That leads me to the new temporary bus stop on the A5 near the fire station. It appeared without prior warning to any of the residents of that end of Watling Street. I'm now told it is intended to make a proper bay for the bus stop. Parking is already quite a problem. I've complained in the past when council's don't warn people about planning proposals, now I'll have to add bus companies to my list.

Finally, I started the year as a Liberal, I am about to become a "Social and Liberal Democrat". While I'm for the merger, I'll be happier when we just call ourselves "The Democrats". I won't have to type as much!

IAN MILLER. County Councillor.

TOWCESTER - BLAIN FRIENDSHIP.

A party of 24 school children would like to visit Towcester from 1-8 May. As our schools already have long standing exchange commitments with both France and Germany it would be necessary to accommodate the children as a private arrangement with families in and around Towcester. If you could host a 13/14 year old please contact Towcester 51082 as soon as possible.

TOWCESTER SWIMMING CLUB . . . Can you help?

The Swimming Club takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during term time at The Sponne School swimming pool. The voluntary helpers have taught scores of children from Towcester and District to swim in recent years.

Now there are more than 30 children on our waiting list. We should like to be able to take on all these children but cannot do so without more voluntary help. Perhaps you could spare an hour or so to teach young children to swim?

If you are able to offer any help please contact the Club Secretary - Sue Dick on Towcester 52473.

Northamptonshire Police



May I start by congratulating members of the Towcester Tower Youth club for their fine efforts with regard to their recent sponsored famine.

Over the 24 hrs most of the participants managed a trip to Silverstone Woods, stayed awake all night at the Chantry House (well they seemed to be awake all night) and survived a workout at the Sponne School gym.

'Well done' to Julie Collins the organiser and her band of weary helpers.

On to crime prevention now and you may be aware of the current Home Office

campaign designed to encourage us to be more prevention minded.

One of the easiest crimes to commit remains 'Theft from Motor Vehicles', so please put all valuables away in the boot and remember to secure your vehicle even when you are just nipping in the shop.

We currently have three found cycles at Towcester Police Station and would like to trace the owners. 1. Boys 'Skyway' cycle. 2. 'Redline' Racing bike (Gents). 3. Gents bike with the name Peter Ernest Malin Thercon.

If you think you can help, please visit Towcester Police station or contact us on Daventry 300300.

Finally, continuing with bikes - a cycle stamping session will be held at Towcester Police Station on Saturday 9th April 1988 starting at 9 am. So 'come on down' and don't forget your postcode.

Many Thanks
P.C. Mark Ward

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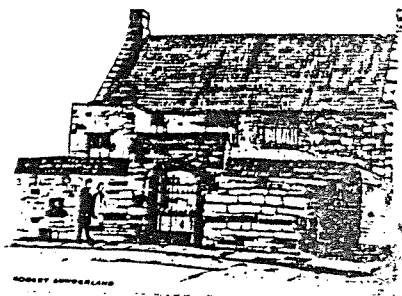
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C.A.T.SCAN

TOWCESTER MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL

RACE NIGHT

FRIDAY, 15th APRIL, 1988 at 7.30 pm
THE OLD TOWN HALL,
MARKET SQ., TOWCESTER

ADMISSION: £ 1.00
Food Available, Licensed Bar



WILTSHIRE
SCAN APPEAL

...s will be your last chance to support the current Mayor's Charity Appeal - my term of
...ce finishes on the 9th May as will the first Towcester Mayor's Charity Appeal. I hope
...t the success of this first initiative will form the firm foundation for my successors.
...re has been an encouraging support for both the C.A.T.Scan and Chantry House Appeals for
...ch I am most grateful. Members of the Towcester and District Round Table have volunteered
...r help in running the above Race Night on my behalf but it needs your support to be a
...cess - PLEASE HELP THE MAYOR AND THE VICAR TO CLEAR THE LAST HURDLE !! Tickets are
...lable at the Chantry House or from myself or you may pay at the door on the night.
...ok forward to seeing you there.

JACQUELINE HART - TOWN MAYOR



TOWCESTER THEATRE GROUP

By the time you read this, the Towcester Theatre Group will have completed its second season, and almost 1,000 people have passed through the Town Hall doors to see our productions over the past six months! The support shown by the people of Towcester for the productions of our 1987/88 season has been tremendous, and on behalf of the group, I would like to extend our thanks for that support.

Our first attempt at portraying the often complex characters created by Alan Ayckbourn, with our production of "Absent Friends", was very well received, and indeed, to quote one of the press reviews, we felt that we had "come

of age" as a drama group. For Christmas, we undertook the challenging task of producing "A Christmas Carol", adapted from the original work by Dickens. The complexity of the production meant that unfortunately we were unable to stage it in time for Christmas. However, the late January weather obliged with heavy snow to create a 'Christmassy' atmosphere, which fortunately did not prevent the audience from coming! Indeed, both the Saturday nights of these plays were all but sold out!

To complete our second season, we are producing three one-act plays; two comedies, one each by Alan Ayckbourn and Tom Stoppard, and a serious drama by Timothy Jackson, examining one family's experiences arising from the 1982 Falklands Campaign.

Our successes of the past year have been matched by a growth in our membership, and new members are always welcomed. I am especially pleased to see a steady increase in the number of young people expressing interest in our activities (our youngest member is 13!), and it is still the hope of our President, Robert Platts, and myself to see a Youth Theatre Group established in Towcester.

During the summer months, starting in April, we shall be holding a social meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, usually in the Fermor Room of the Saracen's Head in Towcester, and prospective members are always welcome to drop in, or alternatively, to telephone me for information (T.53141).

Meanwhile, we shall be back in September with a third season of plays to entertain you, so watch out for our posters and Town Hall banners. As long as you keep coming to see us, we will continue to grow in experience and ability, and provide another side to Towcester's gradually evolving social scene.

PAUL LOGAN.

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(I can also offer a fitting service on your own new or old carpet. Estimates are gladly given.)

TOWCESTRIANS CRICKET CLUB.

Believe it or not the 1988 Cricket season is but weeks away and its time to get out the 'whites', clean the boots, hunt the sunhat (or is it souwester!) and lubricate the willow!

The Towcestrians Club always welcomes new recruits and will commence outdoor practice during the last two weeks in April (weather permitting). Net sessions are held TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS commencing at 6.30 p.m. on the all weather wicket.

So any players interested in joining or wishing to find out more about the club, either come along to NETS or consult one of the following for further information.

Kevin Hawkins. 0327 52116
Ray Griffin. 0327 52178
Terry Richards. 0327 52426

The club is also actively seeking the services of a groundsman who will be solely responsible for wicket preparation. This is a salaried position which will be negotiable.

Any person interested should apply in writing to:

Mr A.J.Wiffill,
3 Kings Street,
Maidford,
Northants.

BRIDGE PLAYERS.

Why not join your local Bridge Club. We meet every TUESDAY at 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start at the Conservative Club, Watling Street. A friendly welcome awaits you. For further details telephone 53403.

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LETTERS

Towcester,

Dear Sirs,

Thursday, 4 February (dust-bin day) was a very windy day. I had occasion to walk about in Towcester and was amazed at the instances of thoughtlessness by householders. A house in Byron Close had put out a plastic dust-bin and five open-topped paper sacks full of rubbish. A couple of the sacks had blown over and the contents, empty tins, paper etc were being blown about by the wind.

That is a specific instance, but there were many other similar cases. The rubbish left lying around in the streets is often attributed to slack work by the dustmen but some at least is caused by carelessness on the part of householders. I've often seen loose newspapers left out for collection!

This evening, driving home, I've seen dust-bins already out for tomorrow's collection and again open-topped sacks of rubbish, this time at the other end of town.

The Town is scruffy enough with discarded drink-cans, take away food containers, cigarette packets etc without householders contributing to the mess.

May I remind everyone that dust-bins and sacks of rubbish should be closed, bundles of paper tied; children and the younger generation advised that discarding rubbish in the streets, in addition to breaking the law, puts their parents in a poor light.

Yours sincerely,

N.E.Ballard.

TOWCESTER MARKET

EVERY FRIDAY.

The Lower Racecourse.

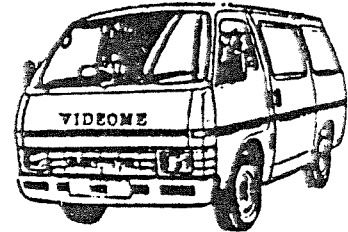
Bargains for all the family needs

Food, clothing, shoes, hardware, household,

greetings cards, etc, etc.

Come and see for yourself this Friday.

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in the back of a van?



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- All classes are supervised by TRAINED LEADERS using specially designed equipment.
- Programme develops to provide continuing challenge.
- Class numbers LIMITED — BOOK NOW to reserve a space.
- Classes start at walking times
- Also GYMBOBS (5-7yrs)
- Contact Lindsey Lake-Grange (0327) 53790 for more information.

" BE WARNED "

The Police are "stepping up" issuing parking tickets for parking on the footpaths in Park Street. Remember footpaths are for pedestrians **NOT FOR VEHICLES** and mothers pushing prams and the disabled have to walk on the road if you park illegally on the footpath. **BE WARNED** the rolls and cakes you just "nipped across" the road to buy could cost you a £12.00 parking fine.

SHORT MAT BOWLS.

As promised in the last issue of the Town Crier, I have arranged an afternoon in Towcester Town Hall for anyone interested in trying their hand at short mat bowls. If you have never tried it before then come and have a go. For those who already know what it's all about - bring your friends along and with enough enthusiasm it could become a regular event.

This first session is free and open to everyone of all ages. If you have a problem negotiating the Town Hall steps you will be able to come in through the side entrance on the left hand side (facing the Vicarage).

The date to remember is Sunday 17th April 3-5 pm.

Any queries please contact Jacqueline Hart Tow.51082.

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TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT ARTS SOCIETY.

Since our first article in the Town Crier several new members have joined us - are there any more artists out there looking for a pleasant evening with friends who share a hobby?

Two important dates - please support us Towcesterites - we need all the help we can get.

Sat. April 23rd - 2pm - 4pm
A5 Rangers Hall.

Grand Jumble sale, bric-a-brac, and 'Good as New' to raise funds - refreshments will be available.

May 25th/29th-30th - Spring Bank holiday. - We have been very lucky to be asked to hold an exhibition and sale of our

paintings in the lovely church at Tiffield. Come along and see our work I'm sure you will be impressed. There will be pictures to suit every taste.

I would like to thank the following local businesses for their sponsorship, their generosity will help us buy display stands for our work.

Ron Green Antiques. Millstan Quality Meats. R & M Nicholas Antiques. C & H Rush. Towcester Carpets. Toggs Dry Cleaning. Videome.

Meetings 7.30 - 9.30 every Thursday St John Ambulance Hall. Islington Rd Towcester.

Any further information Marion Blake
Towcester 52294.

TOWCESTRIANS TENNIS CLUB

Many of us have been enjoying tennis right through the winter at weekends and evenings as we now have a FLOODLIT court available. Our Winter League results have been good with the Ladies A maintaining their position in Division 1 and the Mixed A winning the Division 2 with an undefeated record. But the jewel in our crown at the moment is our junior side which is having amazing success against all the other teams in the Milton Keynes League, many of whom have far more juniors to choose from. They have won or drawn all their matches and seem to be going from strength to strength - well done to Anna Marie Benham, James Thorpe, Craig Whittle and Mark Cook. Many thanks also to Anna Benham for all the hard work in coaching the junior team and organising their games.

The new season is just about to begin so don't just think about tennis in Wimbledon week - come and join us now - especially MEN - MEN - MEN we need YOU. We are a thriving club with lots of social and competitive tennis at all levels but we have a desperate shortage of male players.

Where else could you be outnumbered 5 to 1 by females in short skirts????

We need male team players but even if you haven't played much come along on a Tuesday or Thursday to club night and have a go - we cater for all standards and you will be most welcome. There are informal American Tournaments held monthly on Sundays for social members where partners are picked out of a hat and tennis is enjoyed in a very relaxed atmosphere. Coaching is also now available if you would like to improve your game.

Any new members are welcome to come along and play for £1 a night until they decide to join and fees are still incredibly low at £28 per year during May. For this you can use the courts throughout the year when there aren't matches on.

So think positive and join up - first club night 5th April

Jackie Swift Tel 51908. Secretary: Anna Benham 51948.

Treasurer: Joan Freeborough 50297.

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TOWCESTER TOWN DIARY

Organisers and organisations please remember that a diary is now available for your use in Towcester Library. Please enter your programme or individual events into it and use it to check that your plans will not clash with similar functions in the town when fixing future dates. This will only work if it is used, so try to keep it up to date for your organisation and help us to help you!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

The last date for copy for the next Towcester Town Crier is Friday 10th June.

Please submit copy to any member of the editorial team that is

Peter Allen,
76 Watling Street,
Towcester. T. 51477.

Yvonne Orchard,
Brambles,
School Road,
Ascote,
Towcester. T. Pattishall 830 528.

Diane Isaacs,
Town Hall,
Towcester. T. 50995.

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