

Town Hall,
Towcester.

February 1984

Many thanks to all the volunteers who delivered the first newsletter in time for Christmas. If you feel able to deliver them to the people in your road so that the burden does not always fall on a few, please let the editor know.

PARISH COUNCIL: Mrs. A. Hill, 18 Willow Close, Towcester. Tel. 51010 has been elected to replace Mr. C. Bacchus. There is now another vacancy, due to the resignation of Mr. B. Loughran, so if you are interested in joining the P.C., please contact Mrs. D. Isaacs, Clerk to the Parish Council, Tel: Tow. 50995 so that she can explain to you how to apply.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH: Monday 12th March 1984, Town Hall, ~~8.00~~^{7.30} p.m. This meeting is held so that members of the public can come along and question the P.C. members about their policies and actions during the past 12 months and also suggest ways in which our service to the community can be improved. Our responsibilities cover street lighting, concessionary fares, recreational facilities, the Town Hall, the cemetery and allotments. Please come and make your views known.

REPORT FROM VICE-CHAIRMAN, SOUTH NORTHANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL, G.V. Smith: S.N.D.C. is the middle of the three tiers of Local Government covering, in the southern part of the county, an area roughly bounded by Cogenhoe, Wicken, Aynho, Boddington and Harpole. Although it is the unpopular one because it collects all your rates, in fact it only spends about 5% of these itself, passing the rest on to the County and Parish Councils. The 65,000 people in this district are represented by 40 elected Councillors of whom Towcester has 3. Once a new Councillor gets used to the fact that he is expected to have views about everything over the whole district, life gets easier.

The responsibilities of the District Council are well defined, as are those of the other tiers, and sometimes seem a strange set of bedfellows. The major ones are Planning and all its facets, Council Housing, covering all angles from land deals, building, letting, maintenance and selling. Another department removes your garbage, keeps an eye on your sewers and moves public footpaths around, if necessary. Environmental Health inspects the meat, red and white, killed in the District, checks on food shops and deals with grants for improving buildings (when there is money available again) There are too many other responsibilities to list here, the odd one that I like is the licensing of tattooing emporia!

Current things of interest to Towcester are the redevelopment of Allen's Yard which is having a long gestation but, hopefully, will appear before long with its supermarket, shops, and would you believe, nearly a hundred car spaces! The ex-cinema site also seems to have its problems but new plans are promised (not for a cinema, one hopes). A second set of plans for the Park St. bomb-site, involving 5 houses has now been passed and I hope that this time they will be built. Plans have just been released showing the (planned) starting date for the A43 by-pass as August 1986, which can't be bad news. Go up to the Brackley Road Offices and look at the plans and see how the fish have grown at the same time!

The public are entitled to attend S.N.D.C. meetings. They are held in a 6 weekly cycle. Details of all their meetings are available from the offices in Brackley Road.

TOWCESTER TOTS: Towcester Tots meet every Thursday during term time from 2p.m. to 4p.m. at Anchor House, Moat Lane. All mums, babies and pre-school children welcome. 40p a session - including refreshments.

TOWCESTER MOTHER AND BABY CLUB: Come along and join us for a cup of tea and a chat, lots of toys for the children to play with. Every Wednesday, 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. at the Community Centre.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FROM IAN MILLER: The County Council has all but completed the purchase of the old school buildings on Richmond Road, for use as a library. The buildings were last used as offices by S.N.D.C., so there is a fair amount of conversion work to be done. The library will cost about the same as the libraries now being built elsewhere in the Country, but will give nearly twice as much spread, so it is good value for money!

The new Towcester Primary School is scheduled to start building in June, with completion in 1985. For many newcomers to Towcester, it is worth perhaps explaining that when the expansion plans were first drawn up, some land was earmarked for this school, but no attempt was made to purchase it. Then the County Council realized that Towcester's school population was rising faster than had been anticipated, and tried to buy the land. They could not agree a price with the landowner, so they had to use a Compulsory Purchase Order.

While all this was going on, virtually everyone associated with primary education in Towcester was telling the County Education Department that the planned school would not be big enough, and to be fair, the County Education Department was trying to tell the Department of Education and Science (D.E.S.), but apparently to no avail. The D.E.S. hold the purse strings, so plans were drawn for a 245 place school. No sooner had the plans been passed, than the D.E.S. announced a change of rules, which meant that the school could have 315 places. So now the plans have to be redrawn, resubmitted, and new bills of quantities raised before work can start, which is why completion will be in December rather than September which would seem more sensible.

I'm afraid the sad saga doesn't show the County Council or the D.E.S. in a very good light. However, since I was elected in 1981, I have been supported by the whole Council in my effort to get the school built quickly.

Most of you who read this probably believe that there should be little party politics on local councils. The composition of Northamptonshire County Council, which is:- Tories and Labour 31 members each, 2 Independents and 4 Liberals, means that quite often there is an awful lot of it, sometimes over issues such as gravel pits and roads, and more understandably over budgets and rates. It seems a shame that all issues cannot be argued on their merits, rather than according to party dogma, but party splits get bad publicity, so there is a tendency to vote in party blocks. At the County Council Meeting last month the debate on the budget and rates took over two hours, much of it on predictable party lines. Unfortunately the arguments are all confused by what Central Government is doing in its efforts to cut local expenditure. The rules change almost every six months, so that it is only prudent to try to use the rules to the County's best advantage.

I voted for a budget which maintains services, and a 15p rate rise. You only have to look at the backlog of maintenance of roads and buildings, and the burden that youth unemployment puts on schools, social services and the police, to begin to understand why. Since 1981 the amount spent by Northamptonshire County Council has risen by less than the rate of inflation, cuts in grants from Central Government have meant that the rate has gone up more than the rate of inflation.

S.N.D.C. REFUSE COLLECTION: It is important that if you have any complaint about the way in which your refuse is collected that you make your complaint to the S.N.D.C. Office, Tel. Tow. 50211 on the day on which your problem occurs. Domestic refuse should not include waste arising from building operations or garden refuse. This waste should be taken to Gayton Tip and not dumped in hedgerows, on public footpaths or "waste" ground in the area. The S.N.D.C. provides a separate collection by individual arrangement for items of bulky refuse e.g. old cookers, refrigerators, furniture etc. This service is provided free of charge and enquiries should be made by contacting the S.N.D.C. Offices.

TOWCESTER YOUNG WIVES: Feel like an evening out? Why not come along to Towcester Young Wives. We meet on the 1st Wednesday at 8.00 p.m. at Ridgway House. Interesting talks and outings all through the year.

WARNING: Do not attempt to pay your rates at the S.N.D.C. offices in Brackley Road between 12.30p.m. & 1.30p.m. The offices are closed during lunch time, as well as Saturdays.

Town & Country Boutique

213 Watling Street West,
Towcester. Tel. 50533

Ladies Fashions Sizes 10 - 20

New Stock arriving daily.

Please come and look round.

Martial Arts Centre

177 Wellingborough Rd.,
Northampton.

Tel. Northampton 33108

For all your martial arts
requirements.
Open daily 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Towcester Book-keeping

Invoicing, V.A.T.

Accounts, Payroll.

Tel Tow. 51661

The Farm Shop

Burcote Wood Farm,
Wood Burcote,
Towcester. Tel. 50208

Fresh Farm Meat,

Brown Eggs, Vegetables.

Pick your own fruit in the
Summer.

Towcester Antiques and

Secondhand Market

Every Friday 8.00am - 3.00pm.

Towcester Town Hall

Enquiries Tel. Tow. 50242

Refreshments.

Towcester Bookshop.

42 Watling Street East
Towcester.
Tel: 50971

New & Secondhand Books.

Ordnance Survey Maps

Music

S.P. Dunkley

Taxis - Private Hire

Plants, Flowers, Wreaths.

Green Lane Nurseries,
Brackley Road,
Towcester.

Tel. 50593

Don't forget to visit the

W.I. Market

Every Friday 9.00 - 12.00am.

Saracen's Head Car Park.

Cakes, Plants, Preserves,
Toys, Knitted goods.

E.S. Cockram

Hay & Straw Merchant

The Homestead,
Eastcote,
Towcester.

Tel: Pattishall 830232

STABLE PRINT

No job too small

15 Carey's Road,
Pury End,
Nr. Towcester.

Paulerspury 647 & 466

B.G.W. Brotherton

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Services.

Carpenters & Joiners

Free Estimates

34 Haresmoor Drive,
Towcester,
Northants.
Tel: 50379

S.T.R.

Photocopying & Duplicating
Service

86A, High Street,
Stony Stratford,
Milton Keynes.

Tel: M.K. 562325

M.K. 563775 after 5.00pm.

TOWCESTER MOTHER'S CLUB: Would you like an informal evening out once a month? Then come along to our friendly club. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 8p.m. at Towcester Health Centre, via the rear entrance. Each meeting we have different speakers on a variety of different topics. We arrange social evenings, summer children's outings and a Christmas party. Admission is 50p including refreshments. PLEASE COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND or contact Christine Nobbs, 15 Wordsworth Close, Towcester. tel: Towcester 51202.

NORTHAMPTON & COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND: The Towcester branch of the association holds a monthly Monday Club at Meadow Court, during the afternoon, when blind people are brought to the club for a cup of tea and a chat. During the summer, outings are arranged for them, with a helper providing a running commentary of where they are being taken. If anyone would like to help, either on Mondays or with the annual Flag Week collection, please contact the secretary Mrs. Phyllis Brockhurst, Tel. Tow. 51315 (evenings).

NOT ONE PARISH COUNCILLOR DOES IT: Aikido that is - Aikido is a self defence Martial Art for young or old, male or female. In fact our club, 'Towcester Aikido Club' has roughly as many female members as male members. If you are interested in learning more, why not come for a free night to Towcester Working Men's Club any Thursday at 7.30pm to watch or participate, or ring Martin on Tow. 51891 or Steve on Tow. 50842.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY: The 7 - 12th May 1984 is Red Cross Week. Is anyone interested in organizing the collection for Towcester this year? The names of enthusiastic collectors can be provided as well as all the details of how it has worked in the past. If you are interested in getting to know people in the area and being involved in a worthwhile cause in the community, please contact the editor. Tel. Tow. 51309. New collectors welcome.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION: The Towcester branch of this association is holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday March 24th at 2.00 p.m. in the A5 Rangers Hall, Watling St. There will be cakes and refreshments and an entrance charge of 5p ALSO on Saturday May 5th 1984 they will be holding a Spring Fayre in the Town Hall from 9.30a.m. to 12.30a.m. Stalls will include fancy goods, white elephant, trust goods, refreshments. All are welcome. Come and browse.

FIRE FIGHTERS URGENTLY REQUIRED: Towcester Fire Service desperately needs fire fighters, male or female aged between 18 & 35 years who live & work in Towcester and who could help to fight fires, particularly during the hours of 8a.m. to 5p.m. Monday to Friday. Fire persons are paid a retaining fee as well as for actually fighting a fire and anyone interested is requested to go down to the Fire Station between 7.30p.m. and 9.30p.m. on a Wednesday evening.

TOWCESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: will be holding its second A.G.M. on Wed. 21st March in the Scout Hall in Baden Powell Crescent at 7.45p.m. If you are interested in joining a lively, friendly group and incidentally learning a bit of history you are welcome to join us. Our second journal is to be published on Sat. April 7th and we will be manning a stall on the Market Square from 9.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. when we will gladly sell you a copy - and also one of the first, if you haven't got one.

PIANO NEEDED: The Town Hall needs a piano, particularly as the Scout/Guide Organizations intend to mount a pantomime at the beginning of April. If you know where the Parish Council could acquire one please let us know. The more facilities available to potential hirers, the greater the revenue.

FOR SALE: a 2KW convector fire. Hardly used. £15.00 o.n.o. please contact Mrs. D. Isaacs, Clerk to the Parish Council, Town Hall. Tel. 50995, Mon. Wed. Fri. 11.00-1.00p.m.

COMMUNICATION: The last date for information for the next journal is April 30th 1984. Please let the editor Y.R. Orchard have it by then. Tel Tow. 51309. Address 105 Highfields. If you have any views, if you would like to advertize, if you would like to help - please let her know.