

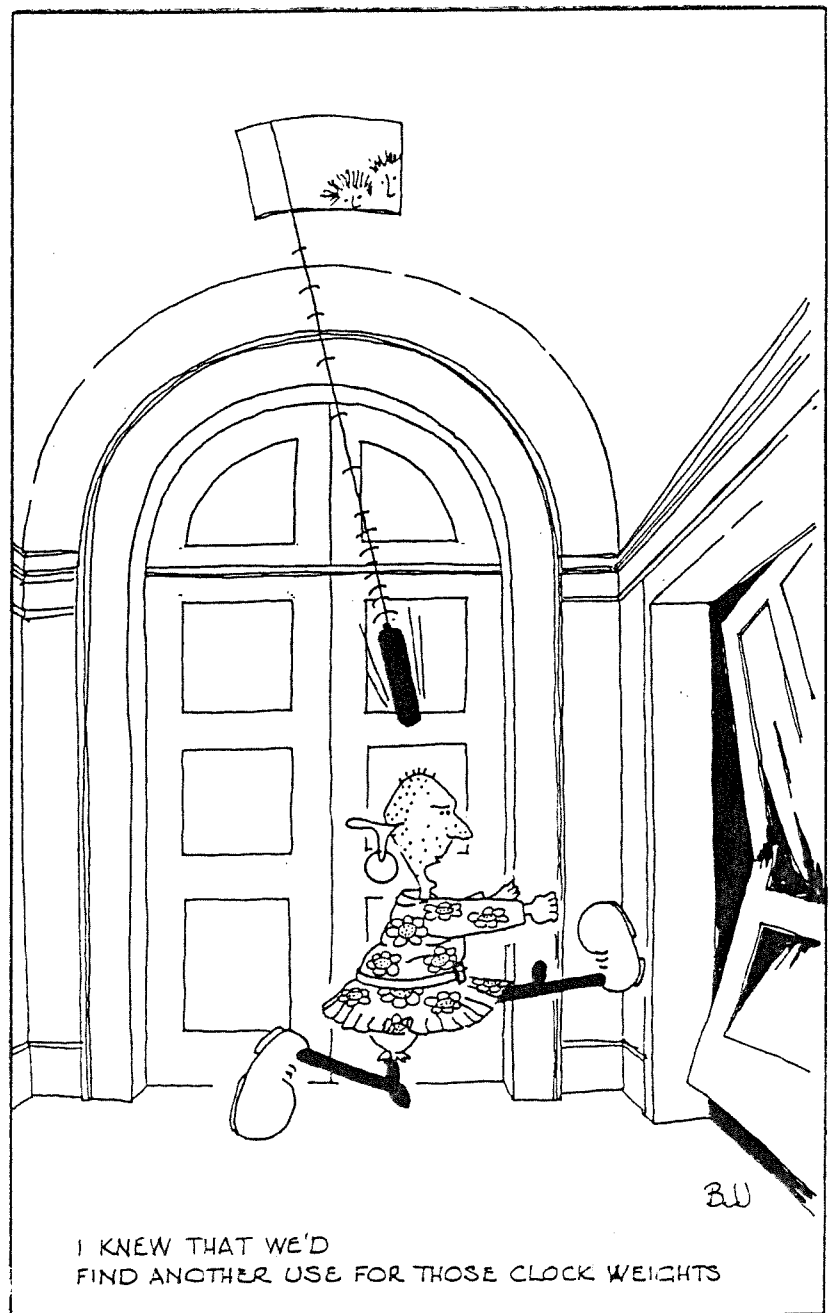
# Towcester Town Crier

No.8 April 1985 Town Hall, Towcester.

**CHAIRMAN OF TOWCESTER PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT FROM JOYCE HERBERT:**  
Coming to the end of my Year of Office, it is now appropriate for me to present a summary of Parish Council activities and events.

The Town Hall - a very busy year under the chairmanship of Yvonne Orchard and latterly Brian Jolly, their hard work has been obvious in the amount of activity generated. All Offices are let and the use of the Main Hall is frequent and varied e.g. Ballet, Aerobics, Indoor Market, Dinners, Dances, Theatre, Pantomime, Concerts, Bazaars, Meetings, Badminton, etc, etc. The Hall is marked out for Badminton and equipment is available for hire from the Clerk. There is still work (costly) to be carried out, such as repair of the clock and the improvements and repair to the Basement.

Concessionary Bus Fares - continue to be subsidised by the Parish Council and are available to Registered Disabled and Retired residents of Towcester. The cost of a Pass is £4 and they permit the holder to travel on journeys of up to 11 miles from Towcester at half fare. They are obtainable from the Clerk at the Town Hall.



Recreation and Leisure - the Committee has again had an extremely busy year. Jackie Hart and Peter Allen as chairman and vice chairman have taken their responsibilities very seriously and, with very little thanks from some members of the public and little help from some Developers, have continued to present to

Council their plans for the adoption of play areas, new play equipment, seats, etc. It does appear that members of the public are not prepared to be vigilant and report culprits guilty of vandalism. Each act of vandalism is paid for by you and means a delay in another improvement.

The Resources and Planning Committee - have spent a frustrating year trying to keep up with all the developments and amendments that are presented to the Council. Trying to balance the preservation of the old with the development of good, new building is very time-consuming. The Shopping Development is now partially opened. The Sponne and Bickerstaffe Almshouses at Moorfield are a delightful addition to the Town. We are trying to upgrade our Cemetery Lodge and to bring into good order our Cemetery Chapel. The Bus Shelter in Vernon Road is something we are ashamed of but we feel it would not be wise to spend ratepayers money on upgrading, replacing or removing it until we know the eventual bus-routing in Towcester.

Parish Council Meetings have been well attended by the public, particularly by Ian Miller, our County Councillor, who has offered his advice and guidance on many occasions, but particularly in relation to the new School to be built off Balmoral Close. He has worked with us and guided us on numerous occasions and to him, personally, we do convey our sincere thanks. Mr Geoff Smith, Chairman of SNDC, has also been a regular attender and very helpful to us in many ways. Usually accompanied by Mrs Smith, they both take a keen interest in all our activities and we again are very grateful. Since allowing a 15 minute open session at the monthly (second Monday) Parish Council Meetings, we feel that members of the public have enjoyed being able to participate.

During my year as Chairman, I have attended the Civic Service, chaired various joint and open meetings, attended Schools and Organisations and, last week, was the guest of the Chairman of SNDC at his Civic Ball, which was a very enjoyable occasion.

The Towcester Parish Council Civic Ball will be held at the Town Hall on Friday, 19th April. The Charity at this time will be the St John's Ambulance Building Fund in Towcester. This will enable us to honour in particular the late Mrs D Pickles, a lifetime SJAB member, she had an outstanding record of service to the community, becoming in fact the first lady Parish Councillor. When Mrs Pickles decided to retire from the Parish Council, she summoned me to her house and told me I should stand for the PC and she would not take 'No' for an answer. From then on Mrs P has always been my proposer. I have her to thank for 23 interesting years. In her memory I hope people will be very generous to this cause.

Many other items of interest have taken place and many more are envisaged. We look forward to seeing more of you at our monthly meetings.

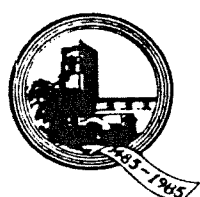
To our Clerk, Dianne Isaacs, thank you, thank you, thank you.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held this year on Thursday, 2nd May. Towcester, along with Bradden, Greens Norton, Silverstone and Whittlebury are invited to elect a councillor to serve this area on Northamptonshire County Council. Please make every effort

to register your vote. A large turnout is particularly important for the successful candidate as he/she carries more weight within the council chamber after receiving a strong mandate. The Polling Stations, which are shown below, are open from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm. If you are physically unable to attend a polling station or if because of the nature of your occupation you will be absent from your home or business on the 2nd May, you may be eligible for a postal or proxy vote. This type of vote can be acquired from the South Northants District Council Office and must be returned to the same office not later than 12.00 noon on 17th April 1985.

**Towcester Polling Stations:**

Registrar's Office, Town Hall, Market Square  
 County Infants School, Islington Road  
 South Northants District Council Offices, Brackley Road



**ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, TOWCESTER: QUINCENTENARY YEAR**  
 Many people in Towcester are probably already aware that 1985 is a year of celebration for the parish church, being 500 years since the present building was completed in 1485. 1985 also promises to be an exciting year for Towcester, with many different types of events organised throughout the year which involve local schools and societies.

All tastes are catered for: there are musical events, an 'Olde Englishe Ball' (18th May), a series of talks with discussion on the Christian faith entitled 'At the Core' in late September and October, a bell-ringing competition (29th June) and even a croquet 'Knock-Out' Competition during the summer!

The local schools are contributing to the celebrations by offering the following events:

11th May	Towcester Music School: 'May Music' in the Town Hall at 10.30 am.
22nd May	C E Junior School: 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo'
12th June	Infant School: A 'Pageant'
5th July	Sponne School: Celebration Service with a Drama in Church.

Following an inaugural performance of Stainer's Crucifixion by Towcester Choral Society on Palm Sunday, a series of six subscription concerts from April to October continues the theme of 'A Celebration Through Music':

20th April	'CIRCA 1485': medieval and early renaissance music played on crumhorns, recorders and viols. Music by Ockeghem, Isaac, Binchois, Orlando di Lasso and Henry VIII.
11th May	Choral Music from the London Camerata Choir, director, John Witchell. Sacred and secular music from the English Tudor period, with some more up-to-date works too.
8th June	'Musical Pepys': a dramatization of the work of Samuel Pepys, with contemporary music played on period instruments - in period costume!
6th July	Peterborough String Orchestra: music by Handel, Bach, Pachelbel and Scarlatti.
7th September	Organ Recital: by Jonathan Holmes.
12th October	'Edwardians': songs and ballads from the Victorian and Edwardian era sung by 'Reflections'.

A subscription scheme will be launched at the end of March (look out for leaflets and posters!) whereby you can pay £10 as a subscription to the whole series of 6 concerts and save £5 on the overall cost of £15. (Concessions: OAP/Unwaged: half-price for individual concerts; Children under 16: 50p on all dates.) Further information about the concerts or the subscription scheme is available from the Vicarage, telephone 50459 or 50255.

Towards the end of the Quincentenary Year there will be a *Son et Lumiere*, focusing on the significance of St Lawrence Church in the life of Towcester from Roman times to the present day. There will be two performances of this drama on 18th and 19th September. If you are interested in getting involved - behind the scenes or in the limelight! - please get in touch with Robert Platts (telephone 53059) or leave your name at the Vicarage.

All the events planned for this year of special celebration will be well publicized, so do keep your eyes open! We hope to see you there!

**PROPOSED WORKHOUSE DEVELOPMENT:** On March 26th the Parish Council met the County Planning Officer, Mr R J Littlecott, and the Assistant County Surveyor, Mr Eveligh from Northamptonshire County Council to discuss the proposed development of the Workhouse in Towcester. This Grade II listed building is one of the few, of those designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, that is left. It is set in a potentially pleasant part of Towcester, but is used at present by the County Council as their Highways Depot.

The plans for the development of the Workhouse itself, its conversion into flats and houses and the erection of a block of new dwellings, reflecting the top storey outline of the Workhouse shows imagination, sympathy and flair. However the Parish Council is very concerned, not only about the proposed continuing presence of the Highways Depot on the land beside the Workhouse but also its extension onto the adjoining green area.

The County Council officers stated that the Government required that the County Surveyor's Department should be financially viable and that moving elsewhere would cost a minimum of £100 000 over and above the £250 000 needed to develop the present site as proposed. The proposals include the removal of the SNDC dustbin lorries from their present position beside Bickerstaffes Road, onto part of the depot land and the use of the strip of land between Plessey and Silverstone Brook as the only access to the depot.

The members of the Parish Council believe that the continuing presence of the depot where it is, is gravely detrimental to the surrounding residential area; that the movement of the gritting lorries and the dozen or so other lorries in and out of the depot via Bickerstaffes Road will create extensive nuisance, particularly as the houses in the Pomfret and Richmond Roads are elderly and close to the highway; that the close proximity of the depot to the new Workhouse development will detract from its value and that, yet again, Towcester suffers because a) the delapidated state of the Workhouse, which has been in the hands of the County Council for some fifty years, means that a rapid decision has to be taken because the Surveyor's Department cannot, now, afford to carry out the necessary repairs and b) the planned development of the industrial site to the west of the

SNDC offices in Brackley Road has not been achieved because of that particular council's reluctance to commit itself when the necessary funding was available.

We are particularly worried because if £250 000 is spent on the present site, the chances of it ever being moved elsewhere are remote and a 'saving' of £100 000 for the sake of a common-sense long term approach to this problem is both short-sighted and will be more expensive in the long run. We expressed these points of view at the meeting and will be writing to the County Council so that they can be made to the County Planning Committee. The plans are available for your inspection at the SNDC offices in Brackley Road and also at the Parish Council Office in the Town Hall. Please go and see them; see what is being proposed for your town; express your views direct to your County Councillor, Ian Miller, or the County Council direct.

**TOWCESTER ROTARACT'S REPORT:** Over the last few months, our efforts to raise money for charity and help the community have been most successful. Last month we had a Bingo night at Moor Fields with prizes, a jumble sale at the A5 Ranger's Hall, which raised £86 for the I C U at Northampton General. Also you may have noticed the daffodils coming up round the 'Towcester' signs on the way in to Towcester, which we planted before Christmas.

As for future events, although August seems a long way off, we are hoping to hold a carnival on Friday, 30th August, starting from the SNDC car park and ending up at the Festival site. Anyone interested in having a float, or walking, should contact S Gamble, telephone 50124, 18 Greenview Drive, Towcester.

**SPONSORED HORSE RIDE** to be held by the Rotary Club of Towcester on 14th April at 10.00 am. Commencing and finishing at Bucknell's Wood, Silverstone. Proceeds in aid of Rotary International Foundation for elimination of polio worldwide. Refreshments will be on sale. Details from the secretary, Tom Knowlton, 16 Park View Road, Towcester. Telephone 52946.

**TOWCESTER 50 PLUS GROUP:** The Group, which was founded in July last year, now meets in the A5 Rangers Hall, Watling Street, Towcester, every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 2.30 pm. It is open to anyone aged 50 to 100 years and all are welcome to come along. It is a self-help organisation and activities to date include visiting speakers, wine making, games afternoons (cards, skittles, table tennis, darts), walks and rambles, weekly swimming sessions at the Tiffield Centre and visits to places of interest, etc. Further information can be obtained from Mr Dudley Baverstock (Towcester 50429) or Mrs Doris Cridland (Towcester 52496). Come along and enjoy yourselves!

**THE OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP,** which is based in Anchor House, Moat Lane, Towcester, was formed with the aim of providing stimulating play and social interchange for handicapped children. As a spin-off from this, there is a room where parents of playgroup children can meet for coffee and discuss problems, share information and seek help. Though the needs of handicapped children were the prime consideration in founding the group, non-handicapped children are also catered for and welcomed. The ratio we aim at, of handicapped to non-handicapped children, is 50/50. We find this keeps the group happy and balanced and is of mutual benefit to all involved. The term "handicap" covers a wide range

of problems, for example, Down's Syndrome, physical illnesses, emotional needs and also behavioural and social problems. The age range is 0 - 5 (maximum 20 children). We open Thursday and Friday mornings, 9.30 to 12.00.

We are partly funded by Social Services grant. For the rest we rely on our hardworking fund-raising committee and the generosity of the businesses and townsfolk of Towcester. To this end we will be holding several fund-raising functions in the coming months which we know you will all support with your usual enthusiasm.

In this youth year, do think of our very young, especially those with special needs. If you have time, equipment (or even money!) which you are will to donate, it would be very gratefully received and usefully employed. Alternatively, if you have, or know of, a child, handicapped or non-handicapped, in need of a playgroup place, we do have some places available and would be glad to hear from you. We have recently welcomed Father John Smith as our chairman and he would be glad to accept any offers or answer any queries on Towcester 52486. Alternatively, I can be contacted either at the playgroup (Thursday and Friday mornings) or on Towcester 51706. Breda Arnold.

**TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT LEISURE AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION:** The association has recently had an encouraging meeting with representatives of South Northants District Council on the subject of providing a Leisure Centre for Towcester and District. This is in addition to the active support expressed by the Sports Council, Northants County Council and the Northamptonshire Education Authority. We look forward to further constructive meetings with SNDC in the near future.

We are endeavouring to open Towcester Swimming Pool during the School Summer Holidays for 2 days per week. Lifeguards are urgently required. Contact John Sidwick on Towcester 52851 if you can help.

Here is our social calendar with dates for your diary:

Discos  
Friday 3rd May, Town Hall, 8.00 - 12.30  
Saturday 8th June, Town Hall, 8.00 - 12.00  
Saturday 19th October, Town Hall, 8.00 - 12.00  
Friday 14th February 1986, Town Hall, 8.00 - 12.30 (Valentines Dance)

Summer Barbecue Saturday 29th June at Towcester Racecourse  
Christmas Dance Saturday 7th December at Towcester Racecourse

We shall also be participating at the Towcester Carnival to be held on 31st August, 1st September.

Make a date. We look forward to seeing you at all these events.  
Jim Lynch, Chairman TDLRA.

**TOWCESTER YOUTH/COMMUNITY CENTRE:** The Annual General Meeting of Towcester Youth/Community Centre will be held on Thursday, 25th April 1985 at 8.00 pm. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend and the meeting will be held at the Community Centre, Islington Road, Towcester. P A Hill, Chairman.

**FOR YOUR DIARY:** The next Towcester Parish Council meetings will be held on 15th April, 13th May and 10th June. Public question time is from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.

The final date for contributions to the next issue of the Town

Crier is 30th May.

The Editorial committee for the Crier welcome any contributions and/or comments. The members are:

Mr Peter Allen, 76 Watling Street, tel: 51477

Mrs Ann Hill, 18 Willow Close, tel: 51010

Mr Brian Jolly, 31 Brackley Road, tel: 51661

Mrs Yvonne Orchard, Brambles, School Road, Astcote, Towcester, tel: Pattishall 830528

### VOLUNTEER CORNER

This column is for the use of organisations in Towcester which need voluntary help. It is also for you to learn about opportunities for volunteering.

Wanted volunteers to help with the running of groups for people under stress. Please ring Towcester 52807 or call in at Anchor House, Moat Lane, Tuesday or Wednesday.

Wanted gardeners to help with gardening group 2 hours a week. Please ring Towcester 52807 or call in at Anchor House, Moat Lane, Tuesday or Wednesday.

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closed all day monday	

Eve

Robert

Alan

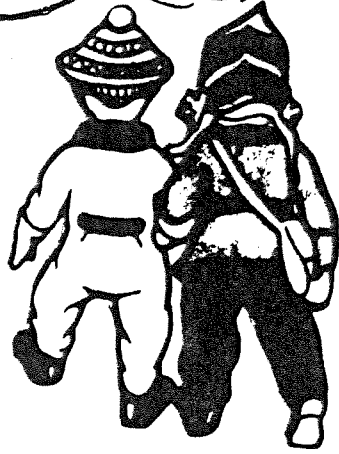
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