

Towcester Town Crier

No.7 February 1985 Town Hall, Towcester.

THANK YOU to the public-spirited young men - I'm sorry, but we don't know your names - who called the police when they found that the Town Hall doors had been left unlocked one evening.

SOUTH NORTHANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM GEOFF SMITH: Rather than devote this write-up to attacking the Government's policies as Ian Miller did last month and apparently citing them as reasons why the County Council does not seem to have done very much lately (has he got himself out of Focus?), I thought I would tell you some of the positive things that the District Council has done.

Firstly the Council has taken up the new Bye-law attempting to reduce the public nuisance caused by straw and stubble burning. Three farmers have been taken to court and fined up to £1000 for contravening this Bye-law. We have been aware all along that the vast majority of farmers burn in a responsible manner and only a few are irresponsible and it is those we are trying to discourage. Of course it is still not possible to eliminate the nuisance of 'smuts' by legislation although a lot of work is being done on alternative uses for straw which will gradually become cheaper than other fuels or feeds so that hopefully the need to burn will disappear as it has in Canada.

The twenty nine small houses which are progressing well on Burcote Road opposite the Plessey carpark represent the first venture by the District Council into the area of shared ownership housing. The scheme is a joint one between the Council and the Target Housing Association, the Council puts up well over £1/2 million of which it recovers the majority over a period of time, the Association manages the scheme and the occupiers buy one quarter of the house or more and rent the remainder. Government grants are also involved which make the scheme attractive.

By the time you read this the new supermarket will have opened and I wish it well. A very large amount of time has been spent on this project by the District Council and we all hope it comes out right. The Watling Street shopping area is looking a little sad in places with four empty shops and people keep asking me "Why do we need so many Estate Agents?" The answer is that so many people are buying and selling houses of course. Thank goodness planners cannot interfere with a situation like this where market forces must be allowed to control things except in so-called non-conforming uses where certain premises may be offensive to neighbours or the environment or cause considerable traffic problems, none of which I think applies to Estate Agents!

We had a meeting with a representative of the Department of Transport recently to discuss traffic problems on the A43. Amongst many other topics which came up was the age-old question of the absurd arrangement of the traffic lanes at Towcester traffic lights on both sides of the cross-roads. We were told that another look would be taken at it so there is still hope

that the anachronism may even yet be rectified.

I leave you with the happy thought that the Towcester By-pass should be started NEXT YEAR, which somebody told me when I first came here in 1951! The other interesting proposition is that by-passes are to speed traffic, not to help towns! However as I live on Brackley Road I shall welcome either the chicken or the egg! Happy New Year!

'NEW BOY' ON THE PARISH COUNCIL. It was with trepidation I attended my very first Parish Council meeting. I need not have worried for all the Councillors welcomed me in and made me feel at home.

The business of the Council was interesting and partly a carry-over from previous meetings - a continuous process - I just sat and listened. Even at the first meeting - I have been to two more - a special and a Committee - I learned more about the workings of Towcester, than I had before. The things that the Parish Council control, or are interested or involved in is far-reaching, from street lighting to the cemetery; though how you put these two together, you will have to join the Parish Council to find out.

It is 'early days' yet but I believe that I will enjoy being a small part of our Parish Council, and it will be exciting to be involved in working for Towcester again.

Frank Borrell.

VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL: Mrs G Risley has resigned from the Parish Council. If you are interested in working with Towcester's lively, active Parish Council, please apply in writing to the Clerk, Mrs D Isaacs, The Town Hall, Towcester by Monday 11th February 1985. Telephone 50995.

POLICE REPORT FROM PC 435 MITCHELL: It is nice to be able to report that during the season of long dark nights and depressing days, that crime associated with that season has been kept to a reasonable minimum, and I ask that the public vigilance doesn't decrease as the temperature increases.

The most notable problem has been that of damage, more aptly described as vandalism. Most often committed when the perpetrator believes no-one is watching, and frequently directed against public property, it only succeeds in the long run of adding an extra burden on the rate payer. It is in all our interests to do what we can to reduce this activity.

Once again, following a number of requests, a cycle stamping service will be in operation at Towcester Police Station. It will be presided over by members of the Special Constabulary and will be on Sunday, 17th February between 11 am and 12 noon.

In September of last year the youth club, held on several evenings of the week at the Towcester Youth and Community Centre, Islington Road, closed down. While it is apparent that there are a number of clubs and activities for young people in Towcester, it is proposed that a public meeting be held to discover if there is a void to be filled by the closure of the old club, and if so in what form would it or could it take. A meeting under the

guidance of the Northamptonshire Community Youth Service is to be held in the Youth and Community Centre at 7.30 pm Wednesday, 27th February, which I have been invited to chair. We look forward to seeing all adults, and young people who have a comment, constructive criticism or contribution to make to any type of youth provision in Towcester, and just as important, practical help and guidance when the need arises. I would like the meeting to be inundated with fresh ideas.

THE BADMINTON COURT should, by now, have been marked out in the Town Hall and be available for hire. Interested parties please contact Dianne Isaacs, telephone Towcester 50995, for further details.

Badminton on Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 9.30. Contact Mrs Beaver, Towcester 857320.

THE MONDAY MAXIMUM BUS FARE EXPERIMENT restarted on 7th January. Travel after 9 am for 50p. Children and OAPs (just show your pension book) travel for 35p after 9 am. This Maximum Single Fare is available on most, but NOT all, journeys in Northamptonshire.

It IS available on services operated by the following companies in Northamptonshire:

United Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd. - including journeys to Market Harborough, Stamford, Peterborough, Bedford, Bicester and Milton Keynes.

Northampton Borough Transport.

Midland Red (South) services 596 between Northampton and Rugby and services 500/508 between Brackley and Banbury.

Cambus Limited - including journeys to Peterborough.

Buckby's Coaches.

Johnsons Coaches.

Alder Valley.

Wesleys Coaches.

Midland Fox.

South Midland - service 338 (journeys between Northampton and Bicester only).

It is NOT available on services operated by the following:

South Midlands (491, 498/499) and

Midland Red South 491, 498/499.

Geoff Amos Coaches.

Barton Transport.

Nesbit Bros.

Keystone Coaches.

Lewis's Coaches.

STALLS IN MARKET SQUARE: If you wish to have a stall or money raising effort on the Market Square in Towcester, you need:

- 1 to apply to the South Northants District Council, District Council Offices, Brackley Road, Towcester in writing for permission;
- 2 to notify Mr Robinson, the Area Surveyor of Northants County Council, 55 Brackley Road, Towcester;

3 to remind the police that bollards are required early on the morning in question.

Note that items 1 and 2 should be done at least two weeks in advance.

TOWCESTER NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER: Ladies, just moved to Towcester? Like a change from the house and children? Like to join in our informal wide-ranging discussion and social evenings? NHR could be for you! The idea of a Register of names of lively minded women was first put forward in 1960. There are now more than 1200 groups in Britain and new members are always welcome. We meet alternate Wednesdays, in each others' homes, at 8.15 pm. For further details and programme, 'phone Janet on Towcester 52735.

TOWCESTER CHURCHYARD: Four members of the Towcester Branch Northants Trust for Nature Conservation are conducting a survey of our churchyard - visiting it at least once a month over a period of 18 months. So far after a years study we have recorded 26 species of birds and 80+ species of flowers, not including grasses and we have a lichen that has only been recorded in one other churchyard in Northamptonshire. We have 87 trees most of which have Tree Preservation Orders on them.

In 1984 the Parochial Church Council in conjunction with the Parish Council started a long term plan and are only mowing the lower part of the churchyard twice a year eg. end of July and end of September in the hope that wild flowers and grasses will establish themselves.

In September last year our local Cubs planted 500 daffodils beneath the Lime trees bordering Moat Lane. These were kindly donated by the Rotary Club. A large area has also been planted with primroses, violets, ox-eye daisies and bluebells.

The stinging nettles which have given some cause for concern are encouraged as they are the larval foodplant of some of our butterflies, namely the Small Tortoiseshell, the Peacock and the Comma. Two migrant butterflies also feed on nettles - the Red Admiral and the much rarer Painted Lady. These particular butterflies are attracted to Buddleias and it is for this reason that some have been planted in the more formal area of the churchyard. We want to encourage the butterflies to stay.

What are we trying to achieve? A natural habitat for our wildlife and flowers here in the centre of our historic town. You are invited to walk along the mown paths and observe quietly. Please remember it is their home - we are the visitors.

Pauline Bell, Jannette Warden, Margaret Adhemar, Kate Saul.

TOWCESTER YOUTH/COMMUNITY CENTRE: Our Snooker room is now vacant on Monday evenings and Tuesday, Wednesday afternoons. We also have vacancies on our Management Committee for a Secretary and Vice Chairman. If you are interested in the above, please contact Mrs P A Hill, Towcester 51010.

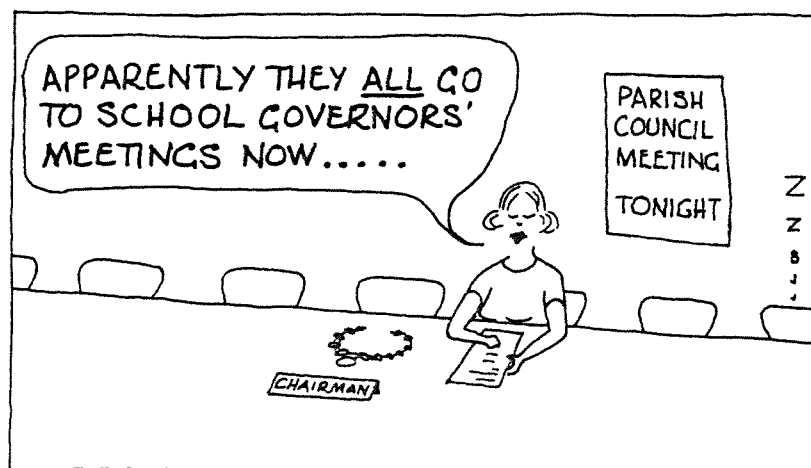
IRISH DANCING LESSONS: Baldrey School of Dancing, every Saturday 2.00 to 3.00 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Brackley Road. New members very welcome. From 4 years upwards.

THE TOWCESTER DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY meets in Towcester once every two months throughout the year. The objects of the Chamber include the promotion of the trading interests of its members and the encouragement of business within the town and the surrounding district. New members are always welcome and any person, firm or company interested in joining the Chamber should contact either the Chairman, John Coward (business telephone Towcester 50420) or the Secretary, Mike Thomson (business telephone Towcester 50266).

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN: The Towcester branch of the Cancer Research Campaign invites local people to help by joining the committee or by becoming a 'friend' of Cancer Research Campaign offering help with fund raising events and of course everyone can help by supporting our events which will be spaced out over the coming months.

Our first event is on Saturday, 30th March when Peter Cosentino, a local ceramics lecturer, will be conducting a 'Sponsored Pot' to see how many pots he can make in one hour. Last year he made 243 so he is hoping to beat that number this year. The event will take place in Middleton Hall, Milton Keynes and everyone is invited to come along and offer their moral and financial support. If you would like to help by sponsoring our potter or by joining the committee or just becoming a friend of the Cancer Research Campaign, please contact Mandy Cosentino on Towcester 52086.

FOR YOUR DIARY: The next Towcester Parish Council meetings will be held on 11th February and 11th March. Public question time is from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.



Community Centre:
March 2 Scout Hall Playschool Jumble Sale - 2.00 to 3.00 pm.

The final date for contributions to the next issue of the Town Crier is 27th March.

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.

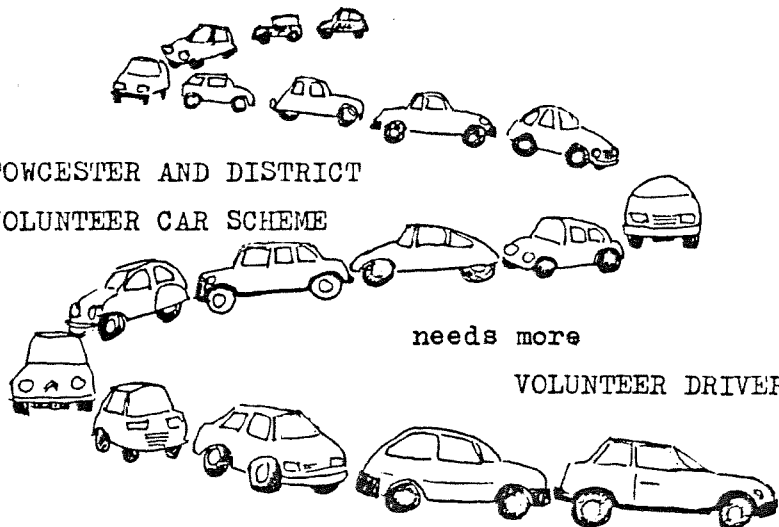
SUMMER SPORTS: Towcester and District Recreation and Leisure Association are trying to organise public swimming and tennis sessions on two days a week during the summer holidays. We've organised the premises at Sponne School, but need qualified lifesavers, and helpers to man the entrance, on a rota basis. If you are interested and can help for all or part of the summer holidays, from 15th July to 30th August, please contact John Sidwick, Towcester 52851 after 6.30 pm. We need to know that we have sufficient help, early enough to book and advertise sessions.

WRVS TOWN HALL, TOWCESTER: Tel: 50021.

Will you have a child to stay with your family? If you would like to be a Holiday Hostess, please contact your local Womens Royal Voluntary Service for details and leaflets.

'MIND' NEARLY NEW SHOP, ANCHOR HOUSE, MOAT LANE, TOWCESTER.

Volunteers needed to work in the shop, full or half days, 10 am to 3.30 pm. Telephone Mrs May - Towcester 51949.



The TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT
VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME

needs more

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

If you think you can help, please contact Mrs Kate Saul, telephone Towcester 51716.

Drivers are needed to help transport patients to medical appointments. Petrol costs are reimbursed at 15 p/mile. Insurance companies do accept voluntary driving schemes. If you would like to help and wish to know more, do ring Towcester 51716.

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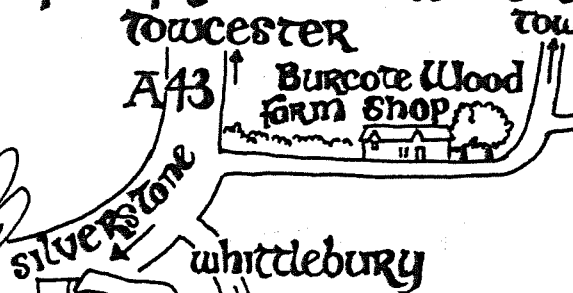
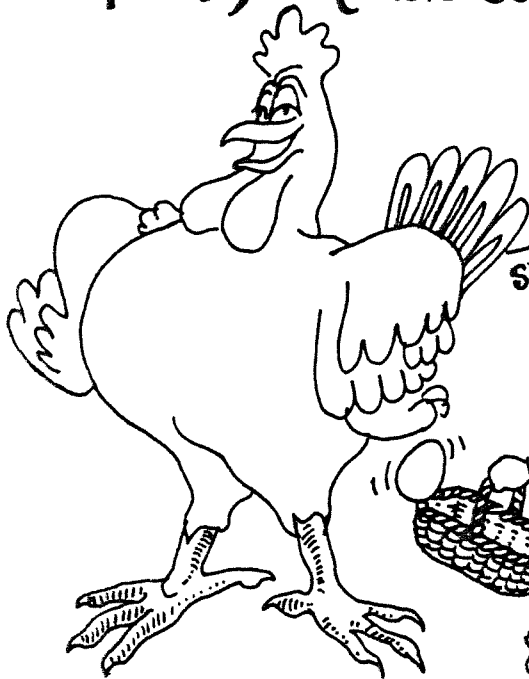
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 FRI 9.00 - 7.00
 sat 9.00 - 5.00
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 closed all day monday



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