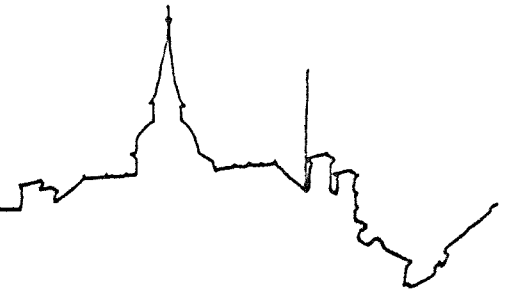


Towcester Town Crier



No.4 July 1984

SOUTH NORTHANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM GEOFF SMITH: By now a number of you will have noticed that work has at long last started on what is known as the Allen's Yard site. A lot of new arrivals to Towcester probably will not know where that is because although it is quite central it has for years been almost hidden by the high wall along Richmond Road on one side and the tall buildings around Lloyd's Bank on the Market Square side. On this site is to be built a new supermarket of 17500 square feet (75% bigger than originally planned) and six new single shops plus refurbished shops in Sponne House. The main pedestrian entrance neatly connecting the new development with Market Square has already been re-opened after being walled up for some years, a second pedestrian entrance will be in Brown's Yard (the narrow lane off Park Street) and the car entrance and about 98 parking spaces will be from Richmond Road and I hope people will use this car park (it will be free and open 24 hours), it should alleviate one of Towcester's long-standing problems. The Planning Dept. of the District Council has had long and complex dealings with the developers and other parties involved in this scheme going back over three years I believe. I was going through some of the documents recently and they already are some inches thick and still growing. I think the Planning Dept. will be rather relieved when things are open for business, which I believe should be around the end of the year!

The Planning Committee which accepts or rejects planning applications consists of 17 elected Councillors helped by the expertise and advice of about 8 professional staff. It meets every three weeks which is twice as often as any other Committee because of its large workload - there can be up to 50 planning applications to decide as well as a host of other matters ranging from Village Frameworks to Street Naming. With this amount of business to get through Councillors have to have done a fair bit of homework before the actual meeting particularly about items in the area for which they sit. Any other Councillor may sit-in at a Committee meeting and speak and vote on matters concerning his area (but no other) which is very sensible as no-one can know all details about a large District. So if you do object strongly about that sky-scraper threatened for next door, object to your Parish Council (who will have seen the plans) your District Councillor (who should have seen them) or go to the Planning Dept. Brackley Road and see the plans for yourself. You may attend the Planning Committee in person of course but only as a silent participant.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FROM IAN MILLER: The County Council have granted planning permission for the new Primary School and expect contractors to move onto the site at the end of Balmoral Close before the end of June. The permission includes additional pedestrian accesses and many more parking spaces than the Department of Education and Science guidelines.

Still on the subject of education, you may have wondered why the

County Councils did not agree to arbitration with the teachers earlier and so avoid all the inconvenience of the teachers' strikes. Its simply because they are not allowed by Central Government to raise more money on the rates and Central Government have said that they won't increase the grants they give to Councils. So, if arbitration results in an award which is bigger than the Council have budgeted, the Council will have to make cuts in services to pay for them.

As well as being County Councillor, I am a Governor of Sponne School. The swimming pool at the School was criticised by many respondents to the survey carried out by the Recreation and Leisure Association. The pool was built largely from funds raised by parents and friends of the School. It was originally intended to be just for the use of the School. Inflation meant that the two local Councils had to help to get it finished, so it became a "dual use" pool on the Sponne School site, with the District Council responsible for its use outside school hours. As a result of the criticism a report has been prepared and copies sent to the two Councils describing possible improvements, some of which should be inexpensive compared with the benefits they will bring. I hope that we can work as hard and be as successful with the Sports Hall as those parents were in raising funds for the pool.

Almost the first work that has had to be done on the new Library has been to protect it from vandalism. Everyone who pays rates or taxes is contributing towards the conversion and, whether they use it or not, they'll pay to repair the damage.

Its good to see that a start is being made on the Allen's Yard shopping development. What is less good is that when the County Council looked for archaeological remains on the site, they didn't find much, while the developers found Roman remains almost straight away, a perfect example of 'Murphy's Law' in action!

There have been a number of letters in the local papers saying that Towcester is dirty and untidy and generally lacking facilities. I travel a lot in my work and have seen many places that are worse, I don't want to live in any of them. I have also seen places that are better and wish that Towcester could be more like them. There is no doubt that things are slowly improving, like mowing the grass round the play equipment on the Recreation Ground. The litter problem might improve as well if we were all prepared to get involved. You might be embarrassed to ask someone to pick up some paper or rubbish they've dropped, but in most cases they'll be more embarrassed!

As for facilities, they are coming. I've mentioned a school, library and shopping. The Parish Council are pressing for the "linear walk", which will be a sort of small park, a bypass starts in 1986 and, with luck and hard work there may well be a Sports Hall. Towcester has changed a lot in the five years I've lived here, I'm sure it will change even more in the next five.

TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT RECREATION AND LEISURE ASSOCIATION: Since receiving its mandate from the public meeting in Towcester Town Hall on April 30th, the Association has been active on a number of fronts. The swimming pool sub-committee has met on several occasions and is working towards three aims:

- 1 increase in the availability of the Sponne pool to the general public

- 2 improvement of the amenities and facilities at the pool
- 3 provision of swimming tuition at the pool

A number of sub-committees has been set up to provide a Leisure Centre for Towcester and District. A document is being drafted to present a formal case for support to local and national authorities and this document will also be used to provide justification when application is made to other bodies for financial support.

Local fund-raising activities are well under way. The Association is organising a sponsored marathon, a Country and Western evening and the baking of a giant cake. Details of this latter event will follow shortly! Your first opportunity to support the Association's drive for your local Leisure Centre, however, is at a Summer Barbecue to be held at the Towcester Racecourse Pavillion on Saturday July 14th. Best steak and salad will be served followed by strawberries and cream. There will also be a licenced bar and dancing to the Freebird Roadshow popular disco. Tickets, which cost £5.50 each (£10 double), are available from Richard Cook at Burcote Farm Shop (Tow. 50208) and Trevor Johnson at 52 Jenkinson Road (Tow. 51156). This promises to be an entertaining evening as well as being excellent value for money. Be sure to support this event!

TOWCESTER SWIMMING CLUB: Members are reminded that the Swimming Club will be closing for the school holiday on 12th July and reopening on Tuesday 4th September. Enrolments will also take place at the Sponne School on 4th September.

Unfortunately there is a waiting list for non-swimmers and we are unable to take more children without a few more helpers. If you hold a bronze medallion life-saving award and can spare an hour a week (Tuesday or Thursday) why not come and help our local children to learn to swim?

We would also like to hear from anyone interested in training for the bronze life-saving award.

Please contact the Swimming Club Secretary, Jane Miller, telephone Towcester 52274.

HAVE AN EVENING TO REMEMBER Come to the 'Community Centre Party Night' Saturday September 22nd 8 - 11.45 pm. Bar: Food: Entertainment. Prizes. Tickets: £1.50 (includes food)
Tickets from: A Hill, 18 Willow Close or P MacWaters, 16 Beech Close.

BUS SERVICE TO WHITTLEBURY: From the 16th APRIL 1984 Service Bus No. 338A is making certain journeys via Whittlebury.

Timetable:

0900 Oxford to Northampton journey to operate as previously to Silverstone, White Horse (1019) then Whittlebury 10.25, Towcester, Vernon Road 1034 and 5 minutes later throughout arriving Northampton 1103.

1415 Northampton to Oxford to operate as previously to Towcester, Vernon Road (1453) then Whittlebury 1502, Silverstone (White Horse) 1508 and 2 minutes later throughout arriving Oxford 1633.

WHY NOT BOOK THE TOWN HALL FOR YOUR NEXT FUNCTION? The rates are very competitive and you can book up to a year in advance. Multiple bookings are accepted but we allow you to hold only four dates at any one time (We must give everybody a chance to enjoy the better times). Bookings are considered on a 'first come first served' basis so enquire now to be sure of the date(s) you want but remember we do reserve the right to refuse any booking.

PARISH COUNCIL: The next Towcester Town Crier will appear in October. The last date for contributions is 27th September. The publication is now being organised by a small committee comprising Peter Allen, Ann Hill, Brian Jolly and Yvonne Orchard, who will be delighted to receive your contributions. Remember that Mrs Dianne Isaacs is in the Parish Council office in the Town Hall every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. Telephone 50995.

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LIST OF GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN TOWCESTER: This list, which has been compiled by Towcester Evening Women's Institute, should prove valuable to all of us. It will not, however, continue to be of much use if it is allowed to become out of date. The library is holding a list both of the times and places of meetings and of secretaries and people to contact. If you do have a change in your organization or if the accompanying list is inaccurate, please let the library know.

Organization Name	Premises	Time and Frequency of Meetings
Age Concern	Community Centre	Mondays 2 - 4 pm. Open house
Aikido	Working Mens' Club	Tues & Thurs 7.30 pm.
Angling Club	Working Mens' Club	Last Thurs in month 7.30 pm
Aerobics	Conservative Club	Thursday 7.30 pm
Aquarius Club (Housebound)	Community Centre	Thursday 2 - 4 pm
Army Cadets	A5 Rangers Hall	Monday evenings
Archaeological Society	Sponne School	Irregular meetings - inquire
Badminton	Sponne School	Monday & Thursday evenings
Baptist Church	Watling Street East	Sundays 11 am & 6 pm
Ballroom Dancing	A5 Rangers Hall	Thursday 2 - 4 pm
Ballet	Town Hall	Tuesday 3.30 - 7 pm
Bell Ringing	St Lawrence Church	Wednesday 7.30 pm
Brownies	Junior School	Mon 6-7 pm (First Pack); Wed 6-7 pm (Second Pack)
Capricorn Club (Social Services)	Health Centre	Weekly 8 - 10 pm - inquire
Catholic Church	Meeting Lane	Sun 10.30 am; Sat 6.30 pm
Childrens' Church	St Lawrence Church	Sunday 9.30 am
Choral Society	Junior School	Tuesday 7.30 pm
Conservative Association	Conservative Club	Monthly 8 pm - inquire
Cricket Club	Towcestrians Club	Fri, Sat & Sun evenings - telephone 50141
Crossroads (Care Attendance Scheme)	Visits to home	Contact Social Services
Cubs	Scout Hut	Tues 6.30-8 pm (2nd Pack); Thurs 6.30-8 pm (1st Pack)
Cycling Club	A5 Rangers Hall	Friday 7.30 - 10.30 pm
Darby and Joan Club	Community Centre	Friday 2 - 4 pm
Evergreen (Senior Citizens)	Members houses	Contact the library
Football Supporters Club	Islington Road	Friday evenings (fortnightly)
Film Society	Community Centre	Alternate Thursdays 7.45 pm, September to March
Gateway Youth Club (for Handicapped)	Anchor House	Thursday 7 - 9 pm
Gospel Fellowship	Anchor House	Sunday am & pm
Guide Dogs for the Blind		Contact the library
Girl Guides	Junior School	Mon 7.15 pm (1st Guides); Wed 7.15 pm (2nd Guides)
Hockey Club	Towcestrians Club	Fri, Sat & Sun evenings - telephone 50141
Ladies Circle	Pickwick Restaurant	Fortnightly Tuesdays 8 pm
Liberal Association	Members' houses	Contact the library
Labour Party	Saracen's Head Hotel	Last Thursday each month 8 pm
Lions Club	Brave Old Oak	1st & 3rd Wednesday 8 pm
Local History Society	Scout Hall	3rd Wednesday each month 7.45 pm
MENCAP	Anchor House	Inquire at Anchor House
MIND	Anchor House	Inquire at Anchor House
Majorettes	A5 Rangers Hall	Thursday 6.15 - 7.15 pm
Mothers' Club	Health Centre	Second Tuesday in month 8 pm
Mother and Baby Club	Community Centre	Wednesday 2 - 4 pm
Music School	Junior School	Saturday 9.30 am
National Housewives Register	Members' homes	Fortnightly Wednesdays 8.15 pm - inquire at library
Opportunity Playgroup (handicapped)	Anchor House	Friday 9.30 am - 12 pm
Oddfellows	Methodist Church	Fourth Monday in the month
Parents Association Swimming Club	Sponne School	Tuesday & Thursday evenings
Playgroups	Baptist Church	Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs am; Mon & Tues pm
	Community Centre	Mon to Fri 9.15 - 11.45 am; Tues 1.30 - 3.30 pm
	Scout Hut	
Rainbow Club	Baptist Church	Fri 7 pm (9-13 years); Sat 8 pm (13+ years)
Rotary	Pickwick Restaurant	Thursday evenings
Rotoract		Contact library
Round Table	Pickwick Restaurant	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
RAOB (Buffs)	Conservative Club	Monday evenings
Rugby Club	Towcestrians Club	Fri, Sat & Sun evenings - telephone 50141

St Lawrence Church		Sunday 8, 9.30 & 11.15 am, 6 pm
St Lawrence Church Youth Club	Anchor House	Friday 7 - 10 pm
Slim Time	Anchor House	Tuesday 7 - 9 pm
Studio Band	Band Hall Branson Lane	Sun 11.45 am; Wed & Fri 7.30 pm
St John's Ambulance	Community Centre	Tuesday 7 pm
Tennis	Towcestrians Club	Tel 50141 - Fri, Sat & Sun evenings
Towcester Tots	Anchor House	Thursday 2 - 4 pm
Towcester Sports & Leisure Assoc.	Town Hall	Contact Clerk to Parish Council
Venture Scouts	Scout Hut	Friday 6.30 - 8 pm
Women's Institute (Afternoon)	Conservative Club	First Thursday in month 2.30 pm
Women's Institute (Evening)	Community Centre	First Thursday in month 8 pm
WI Market	Saracen's Head Car Park	Friday 9 am - 12 pm
Women's Guild	The Vicarage	Last Wednesday in month 8 pm
WRVS	Town Hall	
Young Wives	Ridgeway House	First Wednesday in month 8 pm
Youth Club	Community Centre	Mon, Wed & Fri 7 - 9.30 pm
Young Farmers	Towcestrians Club	Monday evenings
Swimming - Public Opening Times	Sponne School	Sun 8.30 - 11.30 am; Wed & Fri 6 - 9 pm; Sat 9 - 12 noon, 2 - 5 pm

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