

# Towcester Town Crier

No. 3

May 1984

REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL:- The Parish Council's year ends on Monday May 12th with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Mrs.G.Risley retires after her year as chairman and we welcome Mr.S.Watson, 33, Nightingale Drive, Towcester, Tel.Tow.52040 to the Council. The new, distinctive heading to the Crier has been designed by Councillor B.Jolly - many thanks.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish, public concern was expressed about the considerable amount of litter found throughout the town, as well as the excess of dog excrement to be found, particularly where children play. Please remember that the dropping of litter is an offence carrying a maximum fine of £100. Prosecutions can only be brought if you, the public, help by reporting anyone committing this offence: The P.C. helps by providing litter bins more will be sited as soon as possible, so please use them. A dog owner can be prosecuted under the local bye-laws if he allows his dog to foul the footpath. We would like to appeal to all dog owners in the town to take extra steps to deter their dog from fouling both the footpaths and the areas where children are known to play. Stray dogs are the responsibility of the police. If a stray dog is found and taken to the police station the police will give a receipt to the dog's finder and pass the dog to dog kennels. Dogs not claimed within 7 days may be claimed by the finder, or the R.S.P.C.A. may in some cases find a home for it, or failing this, the dog will be destroyed. When an owner claims a dog they have to pay £1.70 per day to the kennels for the dog's upkeep.

The Council has introduced a fortnightly mowing programme on all the public open spaces; the play area on the recreation ground is being given a long overdue 'face lift' with the play equipment being repainted and the surrounding rough ground being levelled and where necessary reseeded. Efforts, here, will be worthless if other parts of the ground are misused by car drivers parking and turning on the grass. Particular areas for concern are near the shop and the area adjoining the Community Centre car park. This latter area has been thoughtlessly used as an unofficial car park for spectators at sporting events. On occasions cars have also been driven up to the Infant's School side entrance in wet weather - ideal for creating ruts and dangerous to children entering and leaving school.

We have to report that after only 6 weeks all 6 willow trees planted on the flood plain near Abbey Homesteads, have been destroyed by vandals. When culprits are reported to the Parish Council, appropriate action is taken. Unfortunately they are not always seen and in some cases the incident is not considered worthy of reporting. It is a pity that the mindless actions of a few have to be paid for by all of us through our rates. New play equipment will be erected on the amenity area of Linnet Close, and Willis Dawson are donating a seat and play equipment on their open space.

Our ongoing programmes relating to the Town Hall and street lighting are progressing satisfactorily; the County Council has published its plans for the new library in Richmond Road. They can be seen in the Parish Council Room or at the S.N.D.C. offices, as indeed can other plans.

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TOWCESTER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE: J. Roberson, Secretary.

For the first 6 months after the opening of the M1 in 1961, the level of trade in Towcester dropped to such a disastrously low level that the local traders decided they had to do something. Meeting in the Towcester Cafe, (where the Indian Restaurant is about to be opened), they formed the Towcester Chamber of Trade, with the following agreed objectives, a) to look after the interests of its members, b) to encourage visitors into the town in the interest of trade, c) to increase car parking facilities, d) to try to get a tidier town, and, e) to aim for well maintained and interesting shops. It is apparent from the above that we still face many of the same problems. The Chamber was instrumental in acquiring the Richmond Road car park for general use, but a tidier town has only been achieved erratically. Within 12 months of the initial crisis car traffic was returning to the town and now, though not up to pre 1961 density, its volume is again high.

Some years ago the Chamber held a competition for the best display of summer flowers outside premises and it is intended that this will be revived this year. A trophy will be given to the winner. For the past 2 years the Chamber has bought equipment for the Towcester Playscheme which has operated during the summer holidays and when proposals to close Watling Street in the town centre during December 1982 became known, it fought successfully to have this closure altered so that the pre-Christmas trade would not be damaged.

Since its inception, the Chamber has widened its membership and is now known as the Towcester and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce. Its 60 members, mostly individual traders, comprise members of both the older, more established community as well as newcomers to the town. It is hoped that the A.G.M. in May will reflect this trend.

TOWCESTER & DISTRICT RECREATION & LEISURE ASSOCIATION Presented the findings of its feasibility study on 30th April. The large audience present heard that from 7,000 questionnaires delivered to 26 parishes in Towcester area 2,000 (28%) were returned. 42% coming from Towcester itself, and 90% indicated support for leisure activities. Swimming, roller skating, badminton, squash, snooker and tennis were the most popular activities. 56% of the activities listed could be encompassed in a conventional leisure centre.

After investigating swimming facilities in Towcester, to meet both the expressed dissatisfaction with the present conditions and the obvious need, the working party concluded that, while there would be no financial support from recognised bodies for a new pool in the near future, current facilities could be improved. Many people requested a picnic area, adventure playground or scenic walk and the Chairman of the Parish Council indicated that such provision could be made on the flood plain area of Silverstone Brook.

The results of the survey showed that a large building would be necessary to meet demand and the Association anticipated that funding for such an undertaking would be available from national and local councils, with a lesser contribution being made by the local community. Various sites in Towcester are being investigated.

Lively discussion followed the presentation of the report and the Association were empowered to work towards the provision of a Leisure Centre for Towcester and District. Anybody interested should contact Mr. T. Johnson, 12 Jenkinson Road, Towcester. Tel. Tow. 51156

T. JOHN AMBULANCE: meets each week at the Community Centre, Islington Rd. on Tuesday nights. Cadets from 7pm - 8 pm. Adults from 8pm - 9 pm. A varied programme of practical first aid and guest speakers. Enquiries Tel. Tow. 51902.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS: Have you ever wanted to be an heroic fighter or a cunning enchantress or maybe a mighty wizard? Here's your change! Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy role-playing wargame where brave adventurers battle monsters and thwart danger to gain treasure and increased power. Interested? So please contact Dennis or Trudi Tel. Tow. 52593.

A letter from TOWCESTER & DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION Some time ago, Towcester & District Angling Association were kindly given, by Lord Hesketh, Barstows Lake and surrounding area, just north of Towcester. Unfortunately at the moment, the Lake is heavily overgrown and silted. The machinery needed to carry out the work is very expensive. Attempts by the Club Committee to obtain grants from various bodies have all met without success - these bodies include Parish, District and County Councils.

In spite of the lack of success, the club has managed to fund a scheme off its own back. This scheme is not as comprehensive as the original plan in that only part of the lake can now be cleared. The committee feels it is unfortunate that Local Councils have not been able to help. If they had, a more ambitious scheme would mean that the whole community would have benefitted from a small country park for, although the fishing rights would have been for members only, the surrounding woodlands could have been used for walks, birdwatching etc. by the general public. As it is the T.D.A.A. together with Sponne School, which has been fund raising and clearing the banks and putting in a lot of hard work will be the only people to benefit. This seems to be a great pity because Towcester is sadly lacking in amenities of this sort. Tony Hirst, Secretary. Towcester & District Angling Assoc.

TOWCESTER CHORAL SOCIETY: this society is short of Alto, Tenor and Bass singers. The members meet every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in the Junior School Hall in Islington Road. If anyone is interested in joining in the singing will they please contact Mrs. A. Maycock, Secretary. Tel. Tow. 50088.

TOWCESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE: Did you know there was a Community Centre? Do you know where it is? If you are interested in any aspect of helping to run the centre why not join the management committee. At our recent A.G.M., Mrs. Joyce Herbert retired after many years of service, the last few as Chairman. Joyce has been associated with the centre from the days when it was just a dream, through the fund raising to the building and up to the present day. We cannot express our thanks enough for the tremendous amount of work she has put in. Remember, unlike other organizations the centre is for you, the community. If you are interested in helping please contact Mrs. A. Hill, 18 Willow Close, Tel. Tow. 51010.

OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP: The Opportunity Playgroup is a special playgroup for handicapped children and their brothers and sisters. We welcome babies and pre-school children with all types of disability, both mental and physical. In friendly, well supervised sessions the youngsters are able to mix and play while parents can enjoy a relaxing cup of coffee and chat or go off and do some shopping. We meet on Friday mornings between 9.30 and 12.00 at Anchor House, Moat Lane, Towcester. The attendance fee of 60p per session includes mid-morning refreshments. Come along and have a chat with us if you would like to know more. Come and see PUNCH & JUDY at our special SPRING FAYRE on Saturday 19th May at Anchor House. We also have a Fancy Dress Competition for children aged between 3 and 8 years. There will be lots of stalls, side shows and refreshments. We start at 2.00 p.m. and admission is by lucky programme which costs 20p. All proceeds will go to the playgroup.

TOWCESTER'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTES are holding a coffee morning on Friday May 25th in Towcester Town Hall from 9.30 - 11.30 am. As well as providing you with reasonably priced coffee in pleasant surroundings you will be able to learn something about the W.I. - what it is, what the members do, how it operates. Members are proud of their 'Jam & Jerusalem' image but would like to reveal other aspects of their varied, creative, sometimes controversial but never dull organisation.

PRADER WILLI SYNDROME STAMP APPEAL: Mrs. Dianne Ryan is appealing for used postage stamps to be collected to raise funds for research into this rare condition from which her 10 month old son is suffering. The main problem is the obsession with food together with a varying degree of mental retardation. Various other problems can occur diabetes, scoliosis (curvature of the spine), weak bones (as calcium is not absorbed well) and temper tantrums. Anyone wishing to donate stamps will find collection boxes at St. Lawrence's Church, and the Health Centre, or they can be dropped through the door of 38 Bickerstaffe Road. Stamps should be cut with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " surround.

<p><u>S.P. Dunkley</u> Taxis - Private Hire. Plants, Flowers, Wreaths. Green Lane Nurseries, Brackley Road, Towcester. Tel: 50593</p>	<p><u>John W. Herbert</u> Painter &amp; Decorator General Repairs. 31 Richmond Road Towcester. Tel: Tow. 51315</p>	<p><u>Viscount Motors</u> For Vauxhall, Opel and Quality used cars. Self drive car hire. Central Garage, Watling Street, Towcester. Tel: Tow. 50529</p>
<p><u>The Farm Shop</u> Burcote Wood Farm, Wood Burcote, Towcester. Tel. 50208 Farm fresh meat, Brown eggs, vegetables. Pick your own fruit in the Summer.</p>	<p><u>S. T. R.</u> Photocopying &amp; Duplicating Service. Wedding &amp; Personal Stationery. 86A High Street, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes. Tel: M.K. 562325 M.K. 563775 after 5 p.m.</p>	<p><u>B. Hopkins</u> Television Services. Repairs, Sales &amp; Rentals. 24 Hour Service Competitive prices. Tel: Tow. 50706</p>

DO IT IN A BLISWORTH TUNNEL BOAT! The Grand Union Canal is on your doorstep at Blisworth. Why not enjoy it? We run a fleet of 8 self steer long boats, from 2 - 10 berth. You are welcome to call and view the boats or ring Northampton 858868 for a colour brochure.

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