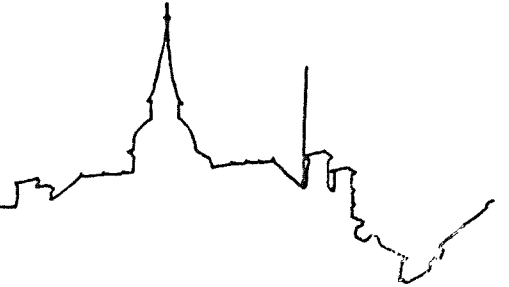


Towcester Town Crier

No.11 October 1985 Town Hall, Towcester.



BEWARE OF BOGUS OFFICIALS!!! Bogus officials have been making house calls in the Towcester area. DON'T LET THESE PEOPLE INTO YOUR HOME! Police have told Parish Councillors of one particularly despicable robbery where the thief called at an elderly lady's house, claiming to be a Water Board official. He told her that she had overpaid her waterrate by £5 and presented her with a £5 note. He followed her into the house and watched where she put the note. He then got her into the garden on the pretext of discussing some work that (he said) had to be done. He then asked her to wait while he checked something in the house, went into the house and stole her £1200 life-savings and left before she realised what had happened.

Don't let this happen to you!

Fit a strong chain to your door and use it.

If someone comes to your door claiming to be an Official and entitled to come into your home, if you don't know them and they haven't made an appointment by letter or telephone, don't let them in!

Ask to see their IDENTITY CARD.

Take it and READ IT.

Make them wait outside (even if its raining - they should have made an appointment, if they didn't want to get wet!) and phone their office and ask if they are BONA-FIDE OFFICIALS.

If not, phone the POLICE at once.

Don't go back to the door until the police arrive.

Remember - if you don't KNOW the person claiming to be a water board official, gas or electric meter reader or even a policeman, don't take what they tell you on trust, CHECK THEM OUT.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FROM IAN MILLER: First of all, I'm glad to be back, thank you to all who supported me in the May Election.

The County Council are responsible for Education, Library, Police, Fire and Social Services, Highways and Public Transport and major planning matters, eg Gravel and Mineral extraction. If you have any queries or complaints I will try to help. My telephone number is Towcester 52274.

The Library in Richmond Road will be open on 9th October. It is a bright, light building with plenty of space! I am grateful to the officers of the County Council, and my fellow councillors who acted so quickly when I suggested the County buy the old school to use as a library, and to Hesketh Estates, who readily agreed to sell to the Council rather than to a commercial bidder. Now we've got it, please use it, then I can make a case for longer opening hours.

The County Council decided to take the only practical course over

their depot at the Old Workhouse and agreed that temporarily the depot should stay at the end of the site nearest the brook, but move to a more practical location in about three years time.

A joint Education and Leisure and libraries sub-committee is being set up to look at the provision of dual use leisure amenities in schools, in our case that means Sports Halls. In the paper presented to the committee Towcester Sponne school was one of three schemes named. It doesn't mean that any money has been allocated, but the ball has started rolling, apparently in the right direction.

Congratulations to the Towcester and District Recreation and Leisure Association for their initiative in opening the Sponne pool during the school holidays. They expected to have to subsidise the scheme, but in fact made a small profit. They also helped me to pressurise the County Council to make much needed repairs to the pool. It's a nuisance that it has been closed for so long. Hopefully it will have been worthwhile.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF TOWCESTER PARISH COUNCIL, YVONNE ORCHARD: Nearly two years ago Towcester Parish Council, recognising the need for the provision of indoor leisure facilities within the area, called a public meeting to discuss the problem. As a result of this meeting the Towcester and District Recreation and Leisure Association was formed to investigate the demand for, and the feasibility of providing a leisure complex within the district. The Parish Council did not take on this task itself because the members believed that a much more thorough and professional job would be achieved by a working party with a single brief. This view has been totally vindicated. The report produced by the working party in August '84 is comprehensive, professional and lucidly thorough in its justification for the building of a leisure complex which should prove to be intensively used and profitable.

So, given this encouraging report and the knowledge that the South Northants District is recognised as having the poorest provision of leisure facilities within the East Midlands, the Parish Council and the TDRALA looked to the Sports Council, Northamptonshire County Council and District Council for support and financial assistance. The County Council and Sports Council have both indicated their support for the proposed complex, provided that the South Northants District Council would also support the scheme. This, the District Council has failed to do - and of Towcester's District Councillors only Mrs J Herbert has given her wholehearted and vociferous support.

Seven months after the SNDC had been sent a copy of the TDRALA report, in March 1985, TDRALA met the District Council Working Party and believed that they had agreed that the following recommendations should be made:

- 1 that £300 000 should be given to Towcester and Brackley over 4 years,
- 2 that there should be no SNDC involvement in the management of the complex.

The Policy and Resources Committee of the SNDC, however, recommended to the full council that the provision of any money should be rejected, that no involvement by the SNDC in management

should be endorsed and that the working party should be dissolved. The Full Council refused to accept the Policy and Resources Committee's recommendations and referred the matter back.

In July 1985, SNDC received an application from Brackley Town Council for £60 000 and free land for a leisure complex. After a meeting between members of Brackley Town Council and the SNDC General Purposes Committee that same month there is a recommendation that the allocation of the money and the land should be approved!

Towcester Parish Council is horrified by this sequence of events. Brackley appears to have made use of TDRALA information in order to lobby for a leisure complex for their town. The level of leisure provision within this district is so low that two complexes can be easily justified. However the PC considers that the upheld provision of a complex for Brackley and not for Towcester is yet another example of the discrimination against Towcester so often displayed by the District Council. The PC will be pressing the DC to support the provision of a leisure centre in the Towcester District. We also need to have active support by our all representative councillors. Please will you make YOUR views known to them so that they can take full account of the strength of feeling in Towcester when they are arguing Towcester's case. Your local District Councillors are Mrs J Herbert, Mr G Smith and Mr S Dunkley.

TOWCESTER FIRE BRIGADE: People of Towcester did you know that your Fire Station is manned by Retained Fireman (part time Fireman). This means that the Fireman are people who do a normal job throughout the week, live in the town and are called to the station in an emergency by pocket alerter, the normal turnout time is anything from 3 to 4 minutes depending on the time of day.

I am sure you must realise that emergencies do not happen between 8 am and 5 pm but happen anytime of the day, any day of the week, the longest turnout time therefore is when Fireman have to leave their beds at home and get to the Fire Station. Fireman that turnout during the working day have to rely on the goodwill of their employers to let them go.

I personally have completed 28 years service with Towcester Fire Brigade and have found it an exciting and rewarding job.

There are at the present moment four vacancies at this station and I would like to hear from men or women who live and work in Towcester who think they would like the life, aged between 18 and 35ish in good health and do not wear glasses. Shift workers would be considered providing their employers have a flexible approach to the job as training has to be carried out at the station for 2 hours per week, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.

A retaining fee is paid and extra payment is made for all duties. Anyone interested please apply Towcester Fire Station, Watling Street West any Wednesday 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.

Roy Coleman, Sub/Officer, Towcester Fire Station.

LETTER FROM ANDREW PIZZONI. I feel that I must write about Towcester's appalling facilities for young people.

There's nothing for young people to do in Towcester, at night for example, all there are is pubs. I can remember, two or three years ago, when many young people including myself, used to sit outside the Town Hall, just watching people and cars go by, complaining about Towcester and looking bored. As a result, young people go out of Towcester at nights (if they can), or go and have a few pints at one of Towcester's Underaged-drinkers pubs (no pub-names mentioned!). A petition was made about two years ago, but nothing was ever done.

What I would like to see is perhaps the town hall, or a hall in Towcester, be a smallish venue for pop/rock groups, whether local or not - along the same lines as the Roadmenders Centre in Northampton. Local groups could be encouraged to play there and perhaps gigs could take place on a regular basis. A sports centre would be a good facility that would benefit everyone, not only young people!

I feel that Towcester cannot cater for its growing population because housing estates keep being built, without building more facilities. I also feel that spending thousands of pounds on plush new offices for the District Council hasn't helped either!

Something must be desperately done about this problem because many young people, including myself, feel frustrated because there's nothing to do in Towcester and they haven't got the necessary transport to go elsewhere. Something must be done.

1ST TOWCESTER SCOUT GROUP: The Group is 75 years old this year and we are celebrating with a reunion at Group Headquarters, Baden Powell Crescent on Saturday evening 9th November from 7.30 pm.

All old Cubs, Scouts, Leaders, Committee members are invited to, what we hope, will be a memorable evening.

There will be refreshments and a bar, otherwise no programme has been arranged. We have learnt from our 60th., there was so much reminiscing and talking that it was impossible to go through with arrangements that evening.

Do please join us, there is sure to be someone there who you haven't met for years and is longing to talk about old times. Please pass on the date to other old members you know, we may have missed them with this letter.

We are charging £1.00 to cover expenses - this will be collected during the evening, but please let us know if you are attending. This of course to help the caterers.

Please notify either - Beryl Lewis, Towcester 51028 or Jason Roberson, Towcester 51182.

TOWCESTER SWIMMING CLUB: We still have a long waiting list for children wanting to learn to swim. Could you help us to take in a few more children?

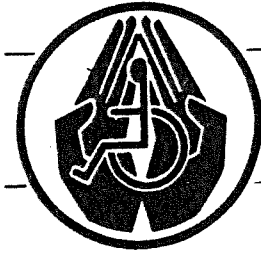
If you hold a bronze medallion life-saving award, or if you would

just like to help, you would be very welcome.

Our beginners swim from 6.00 pm on Tuesdays. Advanced swimmers meet on Thursdays. Can you spare an hour a week to help our local children to learn to swim?

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

SOUTH NORTHANTS CROSSROADS CARE ATTENDANT SCHEME has been operating in South Northants for nearly three years now. Our aim is to help families who are under stress as a result of caring for a physically or mentally disabled person living at home. We have a team of trained Care Attendants who go into these homes and take over for a while, giving the person who usually does the caring the chance to have a break. This means they can go off and do some shopping, go to the hairdresser, visit a friend, and so on.



In some families, our Care Attendants go in at times when other help is not available, to get a disabled person up in the morning or into bed at night, and this can make it possible for them to continue to live at home instead of going into residential care.

We would welcome help from anyone interested in our work and in fund-raising, as although we receive a basic grant from the statutory authorities, we need to supplement our budget by fund-raising efforts, large and small.

If you would like to help, please contact Mrs Wendy Brown, Co-ordinator, Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme, 45 Quinbury End, Blakesley, nr Towcester. Tel: Blakesley 860021.

HELP FOR OAP'S, DISABLED, ONE PARENT FAMILIES AND THOSE IN NEED: Community Task Force will shortly be setting up a project in Towcester and District under the Community Programme to carry out gardening, painting and decorating and odd jobs. In addition to this, CTF will also be undertaking work in the community generally for the Church and to improve the environment etc.

CTF is a Nationwide Agency employing the long-term unemployed who work in the community for the benefit of the community; it is a non-profit making organisation and a registered charity.

The employees' wages are paid by MSC who also provide funds for tools and equipment. There is no charge for the labour, but applicants are responsible for materials (paint, wallpaper etc). There are certain qualifying conditions as laid down by MSC.

Applicants who would like help under the scheme must be in receipt of supplementary benefit or rent or rates rebate.

The scheme is designed to help old-aged pensioners, disabled people, one-parent families and those in need generally. Leaflets explaining how the scheme works will be available once the scheme is under way. To be eligible to work on the scheme, you must be registered unemployed as follows and in receipt of benefit:

6 out of the last 9 months, if aged 18 and 24.

12 out of the last 15 months if aged between 25 and 64.

We particularly welcome mature people whose skill and experience can be passed on to younger people on the scheme.

Anyone who is interested in JOINING CTF TO WORK ON THE SCHEME should contact: Lyn Redding, Staff Officer, CTF Northants, 41 High St., Daventry - Tel: 0327 706403 or 0933 318406.

BUSY TIME AHEAD FOR TOWCESTER STUDIO BAND. Founded in 1910, Towcester Studio Band will reach its 75th Anniversary on 26th October when a Celebration Concert will be held at the Sponne School, Towcester. Following the Concert a get together is to be arranged for past and present members. Any ex-member wishing for more details should contact Bandmaster Tom Knowlton, Towcester 52946.

A busy time is ahead for the band leading up to the celebration. Joining up with the Rushden Windmill Band they are to perform a Massed Band concert at Spinney Hill, Northampton at 7.30 pm on 28th September, with guest soloist cornet player, James Shepherd. Then on 6th October the band will be competing at the Royal Albert Hall. This is the venue for the finals of the National Brass Band Championships. Although the band has competed at the finals in previous years at other London concert halls, this will be the first time on stage at the Royal Albert Hall. Musical Director Peter Wain is already rehearsing the band on the chosen testpiece, an original brass band work by Eric Ball, and in Towcester Studio's case aptly named 'Celebration'.

Tom Knowlton, Bandmaster.

COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE: We are compiling a list of local organisations and societies in Towcester to produce a number of directories which will be left at local focal points in the town (library, town hall, health centre, etc.) for consultation by the public. We have now sent letters to all the organisations we know of. If you have not received anything and would like your organisation to be included in this directory, please write to Mrs S Welsh, Council for Voluntary Service, 13 Hazelwood Road, Northampton or contact her by telephone at Northampton 740202.

TOWCESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY meets at the Scout Hall, Baden Powell Crescent, on the third Wednesday of each month. The Society would welcome new members. Forthcoming meetings: October 16th - Restoration of monumental brasses; November 20th - Stony Stratford to Wolverton tramway.

TOWCESTER & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB AUTUMN JUMBLE SALE on Saturday, 16th November at Towcester Town Hall. Doors open 10.30. Cake stall, Craft stall and refreshments. Anyone with items to donate, please telephone Towcester 50009 after 6 pm to arrange collection.

TOWCESTER EVENING W I GRAND BAZAAR - Saturday, 9th November at the Community Centre, Islington Road, from 2 - 4 pm.

FOR YOUR DIARY: The next Towcester Parish Council meetings will be held on 14th October and 11th November. Public question time is from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.

Events open to the public at the Town Hall:

19 October Towcester & District Recreation & Leisure Disco -

23 October 7.00 pm to midnight
'Any Questions' (Rev James Atwell) - 7.00 pm to
10.00 pm
14 December Shoe sale (Mrs York) - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The final date for contributions to the next issue of the Town
Crier is 28th November.

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

1ST TOWCESTER BROWNIE PACK has a full pack and a waiting list,
BUT desperately needs leaders for its meetings which are held on
Wednesday evenings, from 5.45 pm to 7.00 pm, at Towcester Junior
School. If helpers cannot be found, we may be forced to close
down the pack in October. If you think YOU might be able to help,
please contact Mrs D Ingrams on Northampton 858489.

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<p>MANDALAY HOUSE</p> <p>Your home away from home</p> <p>Bed and breakfast</p> <p>No spare room? - friends to stay?</p> <p>Then contact us: Chris & Graham Smith, Watling Street, Towcester. Tel: Towcester 50784</p>	<p>John W Herbert</p> <p>Painter & Decorator</p> <p>General Repairs</p> <p>31 Richmond Road, Towcester Tel: Towcester 51315</p>	<p>S T R</p> <p>Photocopying & Duplicating Service</p> <p>Wedding & Personal Stationery</p> <p>86A High Street, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes. Tel: MK 562325 MK 563775 after 5 pm</p>
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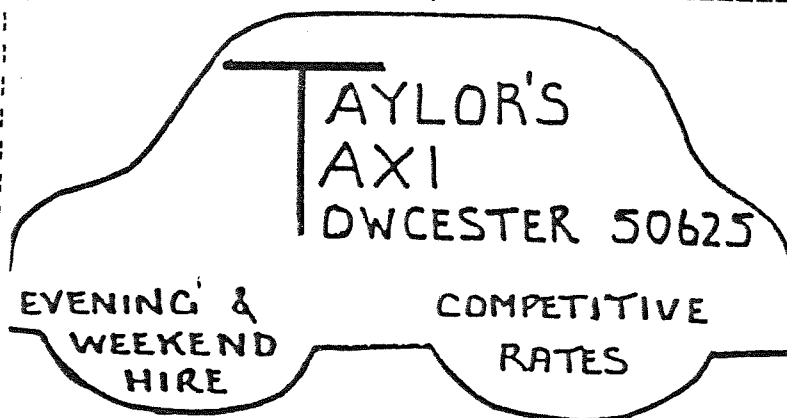
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