

IN TOUCH with your TOWN

The Town Newsletter

APRIL 2003

Issue 19

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, 4 London St, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7DQ

Editorial & Commentary by the Town Clerk

Richard Bishop

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THE BEGINNING OF THE END....

The end is neigh for your current crop of Town Councillors. The end of an eventful four-year term that has seen a dramatic turnover in staff, with three Town Clerks, three by-elections, an upturn in finances and the start of many projects designed to improve services and facilities to the town in the very near future. So what is there for the new Council to inherit? On-going projects need to be seen through to the end. Many other issues have still to be resolved and then there is that unforeseen problem; the one that happens when you are least expecting it. This is what makes local council work so interesting.

So before our new council takes office following the election on 1st May, we have our Annual Town Assembly on 30th April. Then after you have cast your votes, the first meeting of your new council will take place on Wednesday 14th May in the Assembly Rooms at 7pm. I will just thank our retiring Town Councillors for all their efforts in my first couple of years as your Town Clerk. There is a healthy working relationship between the Councillors and Staff, although it must be hard to understand how we operate sometimes. We all constantly strive for a greater understanding of the role each other plays and together we work for the best of the Town.

Finally, I will thank the retiring Mayor Ben Emmerson who despite not being in the best of health has done his best to represent the Town with a great deal of dignity and pride, sadly without the full support of all councillors this past year. My lasting memory is of the Mayor's address to our twin towns Hemmoor and Couhe back in September on the Civic visit to Germany. No notes, no prompts, no hesitation, a message of friendship straight from the heart and in one single defining moment, in my opinion he did a great deal of good for Swaffham, as he always has done as your Town Mayor.

Enjoy your read.... RB Town Clerk

COPY DEADLINE for next issue

N.B. Your copy DEADLINE for the next issue due out in early July. All copy in by Friday 14th June at the latest. Thank you to all contributors of the newsletter, new contributions always welcome.

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FROM THE

MAYOR'S PARLOUR

It is Monday 24th March 2003 as I sit to write my last newsletter report as your Mayor before the Town Council elections on 1st May. My thoughts are with the families of the two pilots from R.A.F. Marham who have given supreme sacrifice whilst doing their duty for the freedom of others, my condolences to the families and friends of these two brave men. My wife and I know what it is like to have loved ones away at war, our son was involved in the last gulf war, and may be involved in this one, as he is still serving as a helicopter pilot. I wish a speedy return for your loved ones.

A lot has been achieved in the past year, and much more is in the pipeline. The plans for the town hall extension have been submitted, if approved it will mean easy access for all in the community. The Cemetery has had a facelift, the old hedge being removed to allow the new one light to grow. The Recreation Ground needs more equipment for the youth and it is hoped that the skate-park will be up and running this year. The Camping Land has been added to by now owning the Community Centre which along with the Assembly Rooms are to be rebuilt and modernised. The Assembly Rooms is looking smarter thanks to a coat of paint and the hard work put in by our staff. The allotments are being looked at and a letter has been sent to the secretary of state to see if we can change the use of some allotment sites. It is nice to be able to welcome the Citizens Advice Bureau to the Town Hall fortnightly on Mondays and now Icen Partnership's development officer Bernie Rapensberger has an office in the Sampson Room.

I would like to thank all the council staff for their continued support and point out that all decisions made by the council are by democratic vote and the majority rules, no policy decisions are made other than by the Council. I end by thanking those who have given me the privilege and honour to serve our town once again as Mayor.

Your willing servant.

Cllr Ben Emmerson, Mayor of Swaffham

Underneath the Buttercross

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL **2002/03** **ANNUAL REPORT**

The purpose of an annual report is to take a closer look at what has been achieved in the past year and what is planned for the year ahead. There is always work in progress in local government and you can never be complacent, even if you believe you are getting on top of things, just one controversial item can put pay to all the best laid plans.

The most difficult message to get across is the value of good administration. It is easy to confuse inefficiency with being busy or simply not having enough time. Administration is noticeable when something goes wrong. It is only newsworthy when something seems to be amiss or if speculation or an allegation can provoke a response to put the record straight.

Dealing with complaints is expected it is part and parcel of a Town Council's job. But a lot of time is spent dealing with complaints that have little to do with the Town Council, these are usually Breckland or Norfolk County Council issues. In many cases it is like complaining about the price of beef to the local estate agent. You wouldn't do it would you? The estate agent would have little or no influence on the price of beef. Neither have your Town Council, even though they are expected not only to influence but also to resolve many things that are beyond their control.

So let us take a closer look at what has been going on over the past twelve months.

THE PRECEPT

The Precept this year is **£125,000**, an increase of £5,000. The new Council Tax bandings for the Town Council are as follows:-

A	£33.68	+62p
B	£39.29	+60p
C	£44.91	+69p
D	£50.52	+77p
E	£61.75	+95p
F	£72.97	+£1.11
G	£84.20	+£1.28
H	£101.04	+£1.54

What is a Precept? It is the amount of money your Town Council requests to deliver the services in the Town. It is collected as part of your Council Tax Bill.

WHO ARE YOUR COUNCIL ??

For the moment your council are as follows:-

Mayor

Ben Emmerson 01760 720982

Deputy Mayor

David Butters 01760 722949

Councillors

Jack Boddy 01760 722916

Ellen Bompas 01760 721518

Pam Buxton 01760 724741

Dave Cannon 01760 720900

Paul Darby 01760 724479

Peter Francis 01760 725222

Paul Ison 01760 724660

Shirley Matthews 01760 723205

Ian Sherwood 01760 725076

Jerome Stockdale 01760 724091

Les Wise 01760 723825

Don't forget to vote on 1st May at the Town Council elections held in the Assembly Rooms. This is YOUR chance to elect the Council that you want for the next four-year term. There is also Breckland District Council elections on the same day. So you can vote for three District Councillors and thirteen Swaffham Town Councillors. If you are uncertain please call in the Town Hall before polling day to get an explanation.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS or ALLOTMENTS

All bookings or enquiries to the Town Hall Council Offices open daily Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm (except bank holidays).

MARKET

CODE OF CONDUCT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL AUDIT

INLAND REVENUE

A-BOARDS

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL

WRITE, E-MAIL, TELEPHONE or FAX

The address is The Town Hall, 4 London Street, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7DQ. If you are up to speed on computers you can e-mail the Council on towncouncil@swaffham.fsnet.co.uk The telephone number is **01760 722922** and fax is **01760 720469**.

TOWN HALL opening times Mon to Fri 9am- 1pm

Call in at the Town Hall and we will do our best to answer your queries. If you want to discuss an issue with either the Town Clerk, the Mayor or a Councillor it is best to make an appointment.

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There is an opportunity to raise issues with the Town Council at their monthly meetings. There is a 15 minute public session about halfway down the agenda. By all means come along and put your question, however the chances are that if you require a full answer it might be best to make an appointment at the Town Hall or write down your thoughts in detail for a future meeting. You may catch the council on the hop if that is the aim but there are better ways of getting a full answer.

ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

This meeting is where annual reports are given by the Town Council and the public are encouraged to raise as many issues as they wish. This is a public meeting for everyone in the town, usually well attended. This year it is on the 30th April, the day before the Local Council Elections in the Assembly Rooms at 7pm.

WHO ARE THE TOWN COUNCIL?

You have 13 Councillors who have been elected to serve the people of Swaffham. The Mayor is Ben Emmerson, The Deputy Mayor is David Butters. Other Councillors include: Jack Boddy, Ellen Bompas, Pam Buxton, Dave Cannon, Paul Darby, Peter Francis, Paul Ison, Shirley Matthews, Ian Sherwood, Jerome Stockdale and Les Wise. You can contact them direct or make an appointment at the Town Hall.

As your Town Clerk I have a small staff of six including my Deputy Michelle Meyrick, Clerical Assistant Rosie Noble, Market Superintendent/Car Park Supervisor Ivor Livesey, Assembly Rooms Caretaker/Town Gardener Mike Dye, Cemetery Groundsman Stephen Haynes and Town Hall Caretaker Dick Taylor.

WHAT ABOUT 'THE' COUNCIL ?

Often people come into the Town Hall they want to talk or complain to the Council, but they don't know which one, as there are three or which department, as there are so many. The vast majority of enquiries at the Town Hall are taken on behalf of Breckland Council or Norfolk County Council. Your complaint is always promptly passed on to the correct Council or the correct department. Remember too that Breckland Council are at the Town Hall on a Monday morning each week 9.30am – 12.30pm.

The Town Council may be unable to help you on every occasion but we will always do our best. If it is our responsibility, we do need your feedback on a regular basis, you are after all the eyes and ears of the town and by working together we can keep the heart beating too!

Richard Bishop, Town Clerk

NEW TOWN GUIDE

The Town Guide was updated last year, Cllr David Butters edited the text and others contributed to the collection of photographs. The end result is a guide that presents Swaffham as that bustling market town that we all know and love. The guides are available from the Town Hall and the Tourist Information Centre.

THE SHAMBLES

There has to be a solution out there somewhere to this long-standing problem. There have been many meetings and a draft proposal put forward that needed amending. A further consultation document is being circulated at the time of going to print. The Shambles is an area where everyone wants there say, many want to protect their rights but no-one wants to pay for the upkeep. It has a network of seven public rights of way into and through the area. It currently has a bollard controlling one vehicular entrance. It has a main use of providing a loading area to service some of the adjacent businesses. There are pedestrian rights to protect. There may be a vehicular right of way but there are no rights to park. There are manorial rights in the area. The easiest thing to do would be nothing at all, but the Town Council are trying to take the lead on this issue, they are hopeful that an agreement can be reached to satisfy all parties. A local solution looks to be the best option. Watch this space....

SKATEBOARD PROJECT

The Town Council have purchased equipment from Dereham at a cost of £3,000. The SK8 Mob continue to impress, inviting the Mayor and others to an evening at the Leisure Centre to give a progress report. Grant funding is sought and a recent discovery that planning permission would be required has delayed matters slightly. The application is being made by the Town Council as owners of the Recreation Ground. It is hoped that if permission is granted and funding can be found, then this project can proceed this year.

RECREATION GROUND

Extensive repairs have been carried out on the childrens play area in the past year. The fencing has now been replaced with low galvanized metal railings on three sides and 3 metre high fencing adjacent to the hard surface. The wood chippings have all been replaced to give a safe surface in the event of a fall. The area currently used for basketball needs attention in this next year, as the surface has suffered from weed growth and moss. There is also a possibility that five-a-side football goals could be placed on the other half of this surface. The Council have also agreed to set up a Recreation Ground Committee to see if there are interested volunteers who can work with the Councillors to raise funds for more equipment on the Recreation Ground.

PRESS & PUBLICITY

There is no doubt that the local press can play an important part in publicizing the work of the Town Council. It is quite right that on occasion they are called into account, providing that when the true facts are given that equal editorial space is given. The Council has also agreed recently to have a question and answer session in the Swaffham Herald. It all helps to provide open, transparent local government. The headlines are weird and wonderful sometimes, this can be self-inflicted due to the pantomime drama of playing up to 'the gallery', (*Oh no they don't*) but you and I know that (*Oh yes they do*) so this is not the fault of our local EDP and Lynn News reporters who attend most Town Council meetings.

ALLOTMENT REVIEW

An extensive review of all allotment sites has taken place this past year. The aim of the review was to assess the current usage of all allotment sites. To look at alternative ways of managing the allotment sites in order to achieve best value. In order, to promote allotments, an active partnership between leisure gardeners and local authorities must be forged as well as partnerships with external parties as a source of funding, sponsorship and promotion. It will be necessary to diversify to remain viable and where necessary apply for change of use to keep within the law. The review was presented to the Allotment Committee in January 2003 and is at the action plan stage.

PLANNING

The Town Council are consulted by Breckland Council on all planning applications in the town. Planning is often one of the most misunderstood issues that the Council deals with, as the plans are discussed at Town Council meetings, to the public it must seem that decisions on whether to approve or turn down applications have been made. But the role is different to that. The Town Council can recommend approval, they can have no objections or they can object to plans, but the final say rests with Breckland Council. Breckland as the planning authority are looking for that local knowledge to come into play, so it is an important role to observe, advise and recommend. 90% of the time both the Town and District Councils agree, it is only that approx 10% of all applications where there is a difference of opinion.

The Town Council opposed a proposal to build on the **Antinghams** that would have resulted in most of this open space coming into public ownership. This was a sensitive

issue that provoked an angry response from members of the public and councilors alike. The Town Council resolved not to sell an access to the site through the Community Centre car park. There was no formal planning application made, only a tentative enquiry in principle to the idea.

CEMETERY

There were a number of complaints received in respect of long grass at the Cemetery last summer. This was due to having limited resources for outside staff, no holiday cover, sub-standard equipment and a wet summer. These problems have been addressed this year, although guaranteeing the weather might be a little more difficult. In addition the spire on the Cemetery chapel fell down in the storm last winter. At the time of writing the Council is awaiting contractors to start work on site. It has been agreed to carry out roof repairs at the same time as repairing storm damage, as this is less costly in the long run. An effort will be made to improve the interior of the Chapel throughout the year to restore its main intended use as a chapel, rather than a potting shed or workshop. The overgrown hedge at the entrance to the Cemetery has been removed in order to allow the new hedging to flourish. The new hedge was planted a few years back, with that intention. The dramatic change did provoke some complaints, but the long-term improvement will be evident. A post and wire fence will be restored at the front to give some protection to the new hedging.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

19th April 2002 - Mayor's Annual Reception held at Swaffham Rugby Club. The outgoing Mayor Dave Cannon and 80 guests attending.

6th to 9th September 2002 – Civic Twinning visit to Hemmoor in Germany attended by a group of 14 from the town lead by the current Mayor Ben Emmerson. With 30 from Couhe in France.

29th September 2002 - Mayor's Civic Service attended by dignitaries from neighbouring towns, district and county council.

- The family of Private Davis witnessed a very moving service to unveil the missing name on the war memorial.

- Mrs. Toni Groom was presented with an honorary citizenship of the Town.

10th/11th November 2002 - Private Davis' name was added to the war memorial inside the church and dedicated on remembrance Sunday. A short service took place at the war memorial at 11am on 11th November, for the two minutes silence.

N.B. The above events are those organised by the Town Council last year. The Mayor is invited to many events in the Town and Civic events at our neighboring

JUBILEE HERITAGE PLAN

- Swimming Pool Site

The Town Council has set aside £85,000 in their budget to purchase land for a future swimming pool. It has been very frustrating this past year to still not be able to secure the preferred site at Eco-Tech. A delegation from the Swimming Pool Association (SPA) and the Town Council have met with Breckland Council and Sport England, also with the three PFI bidders and then Parkwood Holdings the preferred PFI bidder. There has also been a liaison meeting between SPA, Town Council and the Icen Partnership. The latter meeting was to discuss various options to explore should the door finally be closed on the Eco-Tech site. At the time of writing, Parkwood Holdings have just stated their objection to a proposed private land sale by Breckland, so as this saga comes to an end it is time now to move on. The SPA have the support of over 1,000 members, they have carried out extensive research and remain convinced that a 4-lane 25 metre community swimming pool would be viable in Swaffham, that it is needed in Swaffham.

Where there is a will there must be a way. The Town Council policy remains unchanged, the search for a swimming pool site continues. It is firmly believed now, as it was at the conception of the Jubilee Heritage Plan, that to secure a swimming pool site would give a tremendous boost to the SPA and help them to achieve their ultimate goal. This latest setback may harden the resolve of the SPA and Town as a whole, it gives the new Council an opportunity to build on the recent efforts to finally make it happen.

- Assembly Rooms

It is surprising what a lick of paint can do to lift the spirits of those that use our Assembly Rooms on a regular basis. For far too long we have been giving out the message that we are waiting to hear about grant applications and will be having a meeting very soon to talk about the future of the Assembly Rooms. There have been meetings about further meetings, meetings to discuss what was said at the previous meeting, consultation meetings, liaison meetings, in fact you begin to believe that you will meet yourself coming back from another meeting. So what has been achieved? Well behind the scenes a great deal, the Icen Objective 2 Group are at this very moment optimistic about a grant application before discussing the future of the Assembly Rooms at another meeting... Those involved with this group are aware

that so much progress has been made, but to those using the building now it is a small consolation. The new Assembly Rooms Management Group under the Chairmanship of Cllr David Butters decided to give the place a bit of a facelift while the waiting game for grants continues. The Town Council staff carried out this work shortly before Christmas. In addition the impact made by new Caretaker Mike Dye has been noticeable in terms of cleanliness. Bookings to use the Assembly Rooms continue to thrive and these can continue at least up to the end of 2003, all users will be informed of firm dates for the refurbishment programme as soon as this information is available.

- Youth & Community Centre

The purchase of the Youth & Community Centre was finalized last year. The cost of £44,000 plus legal fees was regarded as a good bit of business for the town. The ownership issue has been a bit of a stumbling block when applying for grants in the past. The building was built in the 1960's

- Tourist Information

A

- Town Hall & Museum

A

HERs

A document described by one councillor as similar to a rushed late piece of homework caused

SWAFFHAM RELIEF IN NEED

The trustees of this registered charity are as follows:- Chairman Dave Cannon, Vice Chairman Ian Sherwood, plus Jack Boddy, David Butters, Ben Emmerson, Peter Francis and

+++

SWAFFHAM MUSEUM LTD

FINALLY Swaffham Museum Ltd was legally formed in December 2002. In a process that made watching paint dry seem extremely interesting and very quick. There are three councillors appointed as Company Directors (*David Butters, Paul Darby and Peter Francis*) and four appointed by the Friends of Swaffham Museum (*David Burchell, John Clarke, James Dean and Barbara White*) with the Town Clerk as Company Secretary. David Butters was elected as Chairman, John Clarke as Vice Chairman and recently the new Directors have been getting to grips

with the task at hand. They will be involved in stage two of the town hall refurbishment to provide enhancements to an enlarged refurbished Museum.

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL

AND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE...

ICENI PARTNERSHIP

By Bernie Rappensberger (Development Officer)

At the time of writing this article I will have been in post for just 3 weeks as the first staff member employed by the Icen Partnership. We have just set up a new office based in Swaffham Town Hall, a further example of the support given to the partnership by the Town Council, both by Councillors and Officers.

This is an exciting time to have joined the Partnership, with the results of the Objective 2 bid for the Assembly Rooms and Community Centre expected in the next few weeks and funding bids for the Skate Park now being submitted.

The role of the Development Officer is to build on the strong foundations already laid by the Icen Partnership and work to develop and promote the partnership and its objectives within the whole partnership area. Much of this will involve the engagement of local interest groups and volunteers and my aim is to involve as many groups, organizations and individuals from across the area in the work of the partnership as possible and I hope that anyone who is involved in a local project or who would like to discover how they can become involved with the partnership will get in touch.

There is a whole network of support available to community groups through the Icen Partnership, local authority and other agencies. By working in partnership we can make better use of this network to provide the services and facilities needed by our local communities.

Bernie Rappensberger

Telephone: 01760 722800

E-mail: bernie@iceni.info

Ed: Extra... A testament to Bernie is that she has fitted into the Town Hall extremely well. It seems as if she has been there much longer. Icen Partnership are very fortunate. The office at the Town Hall is planned to be temporary but... consideration could be given to making her stay a little more permanent if the shop front idea is not viable.

SWAFFHAM MUSEUM

LIMITED

By Jessica Lynn B.A (Hons) P.G.D Education Officer

"A new and improved understanding of the past for local children."

As the new Education Officer for Swaffham Museum I would like to take this opportunity to promote the new exhibition called "Pills and Potions" which is due to open to the public on Easter Saturday, the 18th of April. This exhibition will tell the story of the health of Swaffham. In association with this exhibition and the National Curriculum there will be a series of accompanying educational sessions. Themes such as the history of the health of Swaffham, the history of the Swaffham Hospital and others such as scourges, emphasize the importance of clean water will be covered.

My key role as the Education Officer is to create and promote educational links such as learning about the heritage of Swaffham and our social past, especially to local schools. Another important role is to provide not only an educational but enjoyable way for the public to understand about their past through history.

We strongly feel that by presenting educational sessions children will receive the educational enjoyable experience, which many schools are looking for today. These educational sessions will be exciting and fun, involving hands on interpretation using the museum collection. This educational approach intends to attract children to the subject of history, one which they may have found to be boring and dull!

The museum is free of charge to children and so are the educational sessions. Why not come to visit us and enjoy the history all around you more!

Should you have any queries regarding these educational sessions please do not hesitate to contact me at the museum. We are very much looking forward to hearing from you and to meet you at the museum.

e-mail: swaffhammuseum@ic24.net

Telephone 01760 721230



**Swaffham Museum's 2003
Exhibition opens on Easter
Saturday 19th April at**

10am. Come and see the history of the "HEALTH OF THE TOWN", including the story of the local hospital since 1887.

OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday/Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Admission £1 Adults.

Children FREE.

Museum Shop - exclusive Swaffham souvenirs, books etc.

Changes to the Waste Collection Service

Breckland Council is pleased to announce that due to the success of the new waste and recycling scheme in the Dereham area, the second phase can start earlier than planned. Residents in Swaffham and surrounding villages will be receiving their new black bin in late January, together with an information pack offering all you need to know about the new scheme.

What is the new Scheme?

An alternate weekly collection of waste and recyclable materials (paper, card, plastics, aluminium and steel food and drinks cans)

Week 1 – your existing green general waste bin will be emptied

Week 2 – your new black recycling bin will be emptied

Roadshows

Come along to a roadshow, meet the recycling team and have your questions answered.

Saturday 18th January

Pedlars Suite, George Hotel, Swaffham 10.00am – 1.00pm

Saturday 25th January

Litcham Village Hall 9.30am – 10.45am

North Elmham Memorial Hall 11.15am – 12.30pm

Or contact us:

Recycling helpline: (01362 656836

Email: recycling@breckland.gov.uk.

Website: www.breckland.gov.uk

Swaffham

The Pension Service

The Government has set up a new service called The Pension Service. It is part of the Department for Work and Pensions and will improve the service provided for existing pensioners or those planning for their retirement, no matter how far off it may be.

The Pension Service will give an improved local service nationwide. This will operate in the community, providing face to face contact. It will be available at places pensioners can get to easily and places they feel comfortable. The local service will give customers a more complete service by working closely with voluntary organisations, local authorities and other government departments.

The local service will also provide:

- A visiting service when it is needed
- Information and advice surgeries at venues across Norfolk
- Awareness talks
- Information points at various venues

The Pension Service will be holding regular advice and information surgeries for over 60's on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Suffield Court, London Street, Swaffham from 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm. For an appointment please call 0845 6060265.

The local service will be supported by pension centres across the country. These centres will usually deal with you by phone, already the most common way of contacting many services. The pension centre for the Norfolk area is in Norwich on 0845 6060265. The up to date phone service will be backed up by other ways of contacting us such as post and e-mail.

If you wish to find out more about the local service or want to arrange for someone to come and talk to you about The Pension Service and pensioner benefits please ring Linda O'Connor on 01553 695835

**Volunteers urgently needed
For
Age Concern Swaffham and District**

Can you spare a little of your time to help organise events for the benefit of the elderly

people in Swaffham. A few concerned people are required to serve on the committee of the local Age Concern Group. It is an interesting and rewarding experience occupying only as much (or as little) of your time as you are able to spare. At present there is a monthly meeting with entertainment held in the Methodist Church Rooms (however see below for the next two venues). Future events planned include a Befriending Scheme, Benefits Day, Rotary Tea, the very popular Art Exhibition and Coffee Mornings. It is hoped we can organise many other events, but urgently need help to cope with all of these. Age of the volunteer is of no concern – everybody, young to elderly, has ideas to bring forward that will be of tremendous help to this thriving organisation. If you can help or just need further information, please contact Barbara White 01760 723866 or come along to a meeting, you will be most welcome.

Next meetings:

April 15th – Ken Gunstead ‘Guide Dogs for the Blind’ (with dog) Assembly Rooms.

May 20th – Tony Ireland ‘You must remember this’ Assembly Rooms.

Swaffham Spiritual Awareness Group

Meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month in the Salisbury Room at Swaffham Conservative Club, London Street. The dates for the next 3 months are:

6th April – David Pritchard – Norwich

20th April – David Hughes – Hopton

4th May – Sheila James – Clenchwarton

18th May – Mary Hall – Boston

1st June – Pat & Mark Smith – Diss

15th June – Sophie Cotton – Sheringham

Patient Participation Group

Meeting held at the Campingland Surgery
Thursday May 29th at 7.15 p.m.
New Members always welcome

Swaffham Crime Prevention Panel

Barbara Clarke

The Panel is made up of a group of people from Swaffham and the surrounding villages. They wish to see the place in which they live free of the fear of crime, by making people aware of ways to increase the security on their property, and their own

personal security. Our aim is to reduce crime and increase the quality of life in this beautiful part of Norfolk.

At various times we have campaigns to highlight areas of concern. At the moment the big worry is auto crime in all its forms:

Breaking into cars, stealing cars, vandalism of vehicles, stealing tax discs etc.

We recently distributed leaflets urging vehicle owners to lock their possessions in the boot of their car and not to leave articles, however small on the back seat of the car. A car thief will smash a car window just to see what has been left on the back seat. If there is nothing he wants he will leave it or throw it away, but he has smashed the car window or broken the lock just to see. This leaves the owner with needless expense and worry.

To highlight our concern about the high level of car crime in our area, to offer advice on security of property and personal security, we are holding a Crime Awareness Day on Saturday May 24th 2003 in the Assembly Rooms. Please put this in your diary. It will be held in the Assembly Rooms from 8.00 am until 4.00 pm.

Experts and representatives of organisations such as Homewatch, the Police and Crimestoppers will be on hand to give advice and to listen to your concerns. Locksmiths, Lighting experts, Window and Car Security experts will also be present to show the latest gadgets and devices for both home and personal security.

Come along and see how you can improve the quality of life and gain peace of mind by joining with your neighbours to look after each others property and keeping an eye on the more vulnerable people. It is so easy to start a Homewatch Scheme or to join an existing scheme. Just ask!

Entry will be free and refreshments will be available. Remember Saturday 24th May 2003 in the Assembly Rooms

SWAFFHAM FUN DAY &

CLASSIC CAR CALVACADE

11th MAY 2003

organised by the

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

One of the events planned for the Fun Day is to be an Auction and we would like to enlist the aid of anyone with a suitable item/s. This is not going to be a second hand type of auction

(although obviously the items won't be brand new), but we would appreciate items that are perhaps unused Christmas/Birthday/Wedding presents or perhaps items you have which are 'as good as new'. No Clothes, Shoes or Large Furniture, please. Electrical items will be accepted, but again only if they are 'new'. All items must be in good condition, but value is not important as several items can be auctioned together (e.g. a cosmetic bag containing shampoo, conditioner and talc). No item will be too small as long as it has not been used. Collection can be arranged. We are sure you can see the type of thing we are looking for so if you have anything we can auction or if in any doubt please contact:

Barbara White 01760 723866

Do come along on May 11th to the Recreation Ground, Haspalls Road, where many varied events are planned (you may even pick up a bargain). Come and support our wonderful Museum.

Come for the Full Day for Fun, Fantasy & Food.

Swaffham & District lions

AUCTION OF SLAVES

At Lydney House on 4th April 2003

In aid of

ST JOHN AMBULANCE

8.00 p.m.

£6.50 including finger buffet

CHARITY BALL

AT Lynford Hall on 6th June 2003

In aid of

Swaffham & Litcham Home Hospice

Tickets from 01760 721550

£30 each

Macmillan Cancer Relief Fundraising Group

A new group of Swaffham based friends have recently joined together to support Macmillan Cancer Relief in the local area. It is the first time that a group has provided a focus for the wide range of fundraising activities that take place in the Swaffham area, in support of Macmillan Cancer Relief. Macmillan Norfolk County Organiser, Pat Worby, said 'it's great that these ladies have chosen to come together and help Macmillan Cancer Relief.

If you would like to join the Swaffham Group or would like to find out more about

their work, then please contact one of the following:

Miriam Collison 01760 722923

Carol Harris 01760 723152

Norma Salmon 01760 721937

All newcomers to the group would be most welcome.

Macmillan Cancer Relief is a UK charity committed to improving the quality of cancer care by funding local Macmillan services where they are needed most.

Swaffham Women's Institute

Maybe you have just moved into the area, if so we hope you have settled in by now and are getting to know your new surroundings and neighbours. Perhaps you have lived here awhile and would like to do something different and make some new friends.

We at the Swaffham Evening W.I. are a very friendly group and always welcome new members and visitors of ALL ages.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Church Rooms, Campingland. There is a varied programme of speakers and activities interspersed with tea and chat. There is a darts team, luncheon club and a gardening section.

We also organise coach trips from time to time, where friends and partners join in.

So why not give me, Rita Wadge, a ring on 01760 722825 and I'll try to arrange for one of our members who lives near you to accompany you on your first visit.

You don't have to join right away, come as a visitor first and see how you like us.

Programme:

April 2nd The Secret of Station X

May 7th Resolutions and Auction

June 4th Accupressure/Shiatsa

All events are in Church Rooms at 7.30 pm.

SWAFFHAM WEB SITE

at www.aboutswaffham.co.uk

You can telephone Cribbellum on 01760 721986

Or you can e-mail us at

Webmaster@aboutswaffham.co.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Drop in sessions will be held at Swaffham Town Hall every other Monday and will run from 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

7th April, 19th May, 2nd June,
16th June, & 30th June.

A well known local ladies group who sing for charity, were delighted to find themselves recently in a position to make the following donations:

East Anglia Air Ambulance £500
Swaffham & Litcham Home Hospice £500
Swaffham Methodist Church £100

The proceeds from the Christmas Concert at Pentney Bowls Club (200+) benefited the Swaffham Community Hospital.

The 3-Choir Concerts on Friday 23rd May in Swaffham Parish Church at 7.30 p.m. and on Saturday 24th May in St. Nicholas' Chapel, Kings Lynn at 7.30 p.m. will involve:

The Phoenix Singers,
The Kings Lynn Male Voice Choir,
The Alfreton and District Male Voice Choir, who will be visiting us from Derbyshire. Proceeds from the Saturday concert will go to Maxillofacial Research. Maxillofacial surgeon Mr Leo Cheng, will be there to say a few words, he operated on one of the choir members who later proved she could sing again after having a third of her tongue removed.

Other dates for the Phoenix Singers' Concerts:
10th May Hingham Methodist Church 7.30 p.m.
25th May Alfreton MVC – alone – Swaffham Methodist Church 7.00 p.m.
7th June Dersingham Church 7.30 p.m.
June 14th Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Rooms, 9.00 a.m.
June 22nd Houghton Church 3.00 p.m.

New Reading Group

The 2nd Swaffham Reading Group will hold its opening meeting at Swaffham Library on Wednesday 9th April at 1.45 p.m. It will meet at that time on the second Wednesday of every month. This is an opportunity to get in at the start of this new group and join in some reading adventures. Anyone who would like to know more should contact Chris Heron of the Swaffham learning Partnership by ringing 07816 369275.

Swaffham Arts

With the Jazz evening and the PhotoComp both being in March the committee has decided to plan music and literature for late Spring and Summer so watch for notices around town next month. This is Swaffham Arts twentieth year and great plans are

being made for Arts Week which will run from Saturday, September 20th to Saturday, September 27th. We hope the events will include Humphrey Lyttleton, Linda Smith, Ben Osborne and the Oxford Concert Party. Brochures will be available in July and we aim to make it another very successful Week. Put the dates in your diary now. Pam Buxton

You can remove the "We hope" and begin "The" as Humphrey Lyttleton Linda Smith and Ben Osborne have all been confirmed I am delighted to say!

I have received a request to put in the following:

Beachamwell events
May 4th: Half Marathon.
Enquiries to 01366 328 628
June 8th: A Summer Afternoon Concert
The Torriano Ensemble
Enquiries 01366 328 648
June 29th: Beachamwell Gardens Open
Enquiries 01366 328 452

Community Information Bus With representatives from:-

The Fire Service
The Police Service
Citizen Advice Bureau
Immigration
First Bus
Pension Service

The Bus will be at
SWAFFHAM MARKET PLACE
on the
4th Monday of the Month
1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Community Events

For April, May and June.

Any organisation wishing to include events in the Swaffham Diary should leave information at the Town Hall. Please indicate the nature of the event together with date, time and venue, your name and telephone number. For details see boards at the Town Hall, Tourist Information Centre and at EcoTech.

APRIL

Tuesday 1st 7.00 p.m. St Raphael, Assembly Rooms.

Monday 7th 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Citizen Advice Bureau, Town Hall.

Monday 7th 7.00 p.m. Friends of Swaffham Museum Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Wednesday 9th 7.00 p.m. Town Council Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 10th 7.00 p.m. Horticultural Society Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 12th 7.30 p.m. Bowls Club Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Tuesday 15th 2.30 pm Age Concern, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 17th 7.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m. Swaffham Community Hospital League of Friends, Cheese and Wine Evening, Pedlar Suite, George Hotel.

Saturday 19th 8.00 a.m. Pensioners Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 19th 9.30 a.m. Lionesses Craft Fair, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 18th 8.00am – 12noon Pensioners Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 26th 7.30 pm Horticultural Society Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Wednesday 30th 6 p.m. Town Assembly, Assembly Rooms.

MAY

Thursday 1st 7.30 a.m. – 9.00 p.m. Election, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 3rd 9.00 am North Pickenham W.I. Jumble Sale, Assembly Rooms.

Tuesday 6th 7.00 p.m. St. Raphael Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Wednesday 7th 9.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Blood Donors, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 8th 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Age Concern, Benefits Day, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 8th 7.00 p.m. Horticultural Society Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 10th 8.00 am Pensioners Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 10th 7.30 p.m. Bowls Club Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Sunday 11th H.V.S. Day, Friends of Swaffham Museum, Recreation Ground.

Saturday 17th 9.00 a.m. Save the Children Charity Fair, Assembly Rooms.

Monday 19th 10.00 a.m.- 12 noon Citizen Advice Bureau, Town Hall.

Tuesday 20th 2.00 p.m. Age Concern Meeting, “You must remember this” Assembly Rooms.

Friday 23rd 7.00 p.m. Horticultural Society Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 24th 8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Crime Awareness Day, Assembly Rooms.

Tuesday 27th 2.00p.m. – 4.00 p.m. Age Concern A.G.M. Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 29th 7.15 p.m. Patient Participation Group, Campingland Surgery.

JUNE

Monday 2nd 10.00 a.m. – 1 p.m. Citizen Advice Bureau, Town Hall.

Tuesday 3rd 7.00 p.m. St. Raphael Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 7th 9.00 a.m. Save the Children Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 12th 7.00 p.m. Horticultural Society Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 14th 9.00 a.m. Swimming Pool Association Sale/Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 14th 7.30 p.m. Bowls Club Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Monday 16th 1p.m. – 1 p.m. Citizen Advice Bureau, Town Hall.

Thursday 26th 11.00 a.m. – 8.30 p.m. Blood Donors, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 28th 8.00 a.m. Pensioners Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 28th 7.00 p.m. Horticultural Society Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Monday 30th 10.00 a.m. – 1 p.m. Citizen Advice Bureau, Town Hall.

DON'T FORGET that a Breckland Council officer is present in the Town Hall every Monday morning 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Registrar is at the Town Hall 10am – 12noon every Tuesday. All attendances by Appointment 01842 754115

Don't forget the deadline for copy in the July Newsletter is **Friday 14th June**

