

IN TOUCH

with your

TOWN

The Town
Newsletter

APRIL 2004

Issue 23

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Editorial & Commentary by the Town Clerk

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BORING TO BRILLIANT... 'in the best possible taste of course.'

Let us get things straight before we start this bumper edition of 'In Touch' – this really is meant to be no ordinary newsletter. It is designed to take you through all the emotions of the past few months in this wonderful market town of Swaffham. You may well find the commentary light hearted in places, this is quite deliberate. But you will often find a serious issue in there somewhere – promise. The main purpose of the newsletter is to inform with the secondary aim to entertain, similar to Town Council meetings in many respects! It may make you angry as you will more than likely not agree with everything. The best parts will hopefully make you smile though and if you can agree with more than you disagree with, at least it will mean that you have read it through to the end. The opening editorial simply has the task of stopping you throwing this newsletter in the litterbin before you have read it.

So are you sitting comfortably Swaffham? Good, because it is also time to reflect on the past year with the 'Annual Report' of the Town Council in this edition. The last 'In Touch' dealt with the budget for the year ahead, this provoked comments across the range from 'boring' to 'brilliant', in reality of course it is somewhere in between. We are looking to improve the content, layout and production of the newsletter in the coming year. A lot depends on cost though; it would be nice to accommodate some photographs and better graphics, also in an ideal world we would love to have all the newsletters delivered the minute they come off the printing press. But our team of volunteers help us deliver to more households than any of the distribution companies have achieved in the past and for that we are ever grateful. And finally, just to thank the outgoing Mayor Ian Sherwood for his past year in office, he has been a pleasure to work with, carrying out his duties with a great deal of dignity and pride, he is also another hard act to follow...

Enjoy your read.... RB Town Clerk

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COPY DEADLINE for next issue

N.B. Your copy DEADLINE for the next issue due out in July 2004. All copy in by Monday 15th June 2004 at the latest. Thank you to all contributors of the newsletter, new contributions always welcome.

FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

Swaffham is where my family and I chose to make our home some six years ago, I have always felt that it is a duty of each of us to give back to the community in which we live. I therefore stood for council and was pleased to be elected to serve. It was a double honour therefore following the formation of the new council in May 2003 to be elected as your Mayor by my fellow councillors. The role of Mayor has two main functions, the civic role in which I have had the privilege to represent the residents of Swaffham across Norfolk and beyond, and the role as Chairman of the Council. Looking at the civic role I have met so many hard working and caring people during my term I feel humbled to see the volunteers who give so much to our town. There are many groups who work with little recognition for all they do to make Swaffham such a great place to live. It is not possible to list all the elements of the town that make it such a great place to live but I do know we have a large number of people living and working in our town who we are lucky to have. These consist of business people and professional staff in education and care work along with the many groups and volunteers. Thank you all for the kindness you have shown when both my wife Julie, my daughter Amber and I have attended your functions or visited your businesses or groups.

The second part of the role is that of Chairman of the Council, I have given my overview of the year in which I have served as Chairman in the Annual Report and this covers how I view the last twelve months for the town. I must record my grateful thanks to the front line of the council - our hard working team in the town hall and our outside council staff. We have a very conscientious group working for the town, and personally I would like to thank them for all they do and for their support while I have been Mayor. I would also like to thank all my fellow Councillors, we have come along way during the last 12 months and we all have our own approach to our role as Councillors. I do know however, that your aim is to achieve what you all believe to be in the best interest of Swaffham. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Chairman and I hope I have returned your trust.

Since the last In-Touch we have lost two great stalwarts of the Town, Saul Harris and Jack Boddy. I know you will join with me in recording our grateful thanks for all the service and work they gave during their lives to Swaffham. The compliment I value most during my term as Mayor was paid to me by Jack, who when I had the honour to present him with the honorary citizenship of the town said he felt "I had done a good job as Mayor". As we come from opposite sides politically, I know it was meant as he was a man who did not give praise which was insincere.

I wish Councillor Pam Buxton all the very best for her forth coming year as the Mayor, and thank you for your support during my year.

Finally thanks go to my parents, my daughter Amber and my wife Julie who without I would not have been able to fulfill my role as Mayor. Thank you.

Ian Sherwood, Mayor of Swaffham

Underneath the Buttercross

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The past few months have seen further progress on a number of fronts, all will become apparent in the months ahead as various projects become more visible in and around the town. Many of the on-going projects are covered in the annual report that follows, but there are other bits and pieces that are worthy of a mention:-

NEW TOWN GUIDE

The new Town Guide is in draft form and should be available very shortly from the Town Hall and Tourist Information Centre. If any other organisation would like to take copies to distribute to members of the public on demand. Please let us know at the Town Hall. We hope that the new guide will bring more visitors to Swaffham and guide people around the town when they get here.

TOWN HALL SERVICES

One of the items to come out of the 'Have your say' consultation exercise was that the Town Council should do more to advertise or promote the services that are provided within the Town Hall building:-

Breckland Council – located in the Sampson Room
9.30am – 12.30pm every Monday

Registrar for births, deaths & marriages – located in the Town Clerk's office 9.30am – 12noon every Tuesday

Iceni Partnership – located in the Sampson Room – all weekdays except Monday mornings

Swaffham Museum – open from Easter through to 8th September 10am – 4pm Tuesday – Saturday

Swaffham Museum office, genealogy, research, archives – open Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm

Citizens Advice – located in the Museum Education Room once a fortnight on a Monday morning

Town Council – open Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm

COUNCILLOR/STAFF TRAINING & EXPENSES

The emphasis on local government at the Town Council level is to have trained, qualified and competent staff if Quality Council status is to be achieved in the foreseeable future. There has been various training events attended recently with regards

to law, procedures, planning, bullying & harassment, racial equality, emergency planning, community policing, risk assessment and health & safety to name but a few. Keeping pace with change is a necessity and similarly councillors have to be well informed and need to be suitably trained to be able to do their job effectively in the future. The latter of course has to be balanced against the fact that your Town Councillors are of course all volunteers; and contrary to popular belief they are not paid for carrying out their role.

WHO ARE YOUR TOWN COUNCIL ??

Your Councillors are listed below, the Town Council for the next four years are as follows:-

Mayor
Ian Sherwood 01760 725076

Deputy Mayor
Pam Buxton 01760 724741

Councillors:-
Carol Baker 01760 723733
David Butters 01760 722949
Dave Cannon 01760 720900
Paul Darby 01760 724479
Ben Emmerson 01760 720982
Anne Greaves 01760 725191
Sheila Lister 01760 720114
Frances Mann 01760 720403
Shirley Matthews 01760 723205
Jerome Stockdale 01760 724091
Les Wise 01760 723825

Your three Breckland Councillors as are follows: Paul Darby, Shirley Matthews and Ian Sherwood.

Your County Councillor is Shirley Matthews.

HONORARY CITIZENS Jack Boddy & Saul Harris

It is very sad to record the recent loss of both our first honorary citizen Colonel Saul Harris and our most recent honorary citizen Jack Boddy MBE. Both gentlemen were highly regarded by Swaffham Town Council, many people in the town of Swaffham and from much further a field. Many moving tributes have been paid both in the local press and at the church and quite rightly so. Both were worthy recipients of the Honorary Citizen of Swaffham award. What else can you say other than both will be sorely missed:-

"Saul Harris always did his best for Swaffham, he worked tirelessly out of the public eye for this his adopted home."

"10 minutes of advice from Jack Boddy will last a lifetime, he earned respect across all political parties, Jack loved to make a difference by working for and with people."

ASSEMBLY ROOMS or ALLOTMENTS

All bookings or enquiries to the Town Hall Council Offices open daily Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm

INTRODUCTION

It is difficult to know where to start when looking back at any year in the life of a Town Council. Everyone in the town will have a different perception of what they believe their Council has achieved or not, as the case maybe. This report is not comprehensive, as many important issues have been well aired in previous editions of the newsletter throughout the year. But it should give you some idea of what your Council have been working on and what is in the pipeline for the year ahead. If you need any further information you can call in at the Town Hall Monday to Friday 9am – 1pm or attend the Annual Town Assembly on Wednesday 28th April.

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

by the Mayor Cllr Ian Sherwood

Swaffham is a very active town known throughout Norfolk and the country. The towns residents are known for their strong views and opinions and as your Mayor, you have not been slow in letting me know how you feel the Town Council should best serve you. In this overview I will give you my view on how I feel your council has performed in the last twelve months, look at the achievements, and look forward to the hopes and aspirations of the residents for the coming year. I have limited space so please read the full report for the detail relating to particular subjects.

When first elected to serve as your Mayor, I was aware how the negative image that had been given to the town over the previous few years had made it very difficult for the town to receive support and cooperation from the other authorities with whom we have to work. I also knew that the first year of any four year term is very important to set the direction of the council during that period.

So the first job in hand was to unite the councillors. We had four new councillors serving for the first time, some starting their second term and some with many years experience. It has been very pleasing to see a greatly improved team effort during the last year. I would like to thank councillors for this, and while I accept we will not always agree on matters, I feel we do work as a body with one voice accepting the policy set at council.

We then needed to turn around the negative perception in our relationship with other authorities and bodies, and this has certainly been achieved through the hard work of both councillors and our officer team in the Town Hall. We now have regular meetings and a good exchange of dialogue with both the County and District Councils. The other bodies we now work with, such as the Icen Partnership, have also helped to present a positive united approach to help achieve real improvements for all the residents of Swaffham. The £4million regeneration scheme is just reward for their efforts.

Now I would like to look at the many concerns and aspirations we had to address during the year. It would not be correct for me to

review the year without looking at the two very negative events that occurred, these were of course the Parish Poll and Audit Investigation. These did nothing at all to help the town or the Council in their efforts to bring funding and cooperation with other organisations which is needed for the future benefit of the town. We had to accept that a minority pressure group could potentially cause the council to have expenses that could have been better spent on services to the residents. However the total cost wasted on this misadventure was not as much as was first feared and the Council, Councillors and Officers were found to have acted perfectly correctly in all matters and procedures. I also accept it is every individuals right to raise an issue of concern through the press letter pages. However a visit to the Town Hall with a question or a conversation with a Councillor would be more likely to answer your question. This will also not damage your Towns image across Norfolk and further afield. Some of the negative stories and letters have put hard work and funding for the town in jeopardy. Lets hope for the sake of Swaffham that a more mature approach to differences of opinion can now be taken.

This apart, the last year has seen so many projects started and future plans made, along with the work that is already in progress - its very hard to pick out particular areas to highlight. I am delighted to see the foundations for the Skate Park in place, the work put in by all the young people involved has been rewarded with this outcome. This also shows how all the different groups working together can bring results. The cemetery has also seen a great improvement in its appearance this has been achieved through both individual councillors introducing policy through council, and the hard work of our council staff.

The council also secured the help of our local MP The Rt Hon Gillian Shephard in bringing together all the bodies involved with surface water flooding. Meetings have taken place and hopefully this will lead to a resolution of this problem. A number of major projects have been progressed in the last twelve months. The previous council decided to use part of the income from the sale of the allotment land on Brandon Road to make improvements to the town hall and add an extension so as to secure the presence office for the District council, the Registrar of births and deaths and provide accommodation for the Icen Partnership. The present council has continued with this policy to ensure the residents have continued access to these facilities, and to provide suitable accommodation for the officers in the future, and a Town Hall that will be open for all residents to use whether able bodied or disabled. This has also meant the Museum has been able to look at future enhancement and secure funding for improvements.

We had the visit from our twin town in Germany, Hemmoor, to mark 35 years of friendship for the two towns. In 2004 we will have the civic visit from both our twin towns and I am very keen that the contact and events are opened up to more Swaffham residents. I have asked the Council and Twinning Club to arrange an event to enable this to happen, and I would encourage you all to come along.

The funding for the Bus Shelters has taken far to long to finalise. The council has arranged for a temporary shelter to be installed and the new shelters will be in place before the Autumn of 2004. Northwell Pool and the wildlife living in and around it have been in the spot light during the year, concern was raised over the duck numbers and how best to manage them. The Council has now taken advice and this matter will be addressed. The recent pollution problem was a tremendous blow and we hope that appropriate measures are taken to return the pool to its former state.

Looking ahead to the coming year we will see the new weekly Farmers Market take place, this I hope will add another feature to Swaffham's strong standing in Norfolk. I feel sure it will not be long before it will be known as the best Farmers Market in Norfolk. The council have all approved the introduction of a new web site, this will ensure Swaffham is well placed to serve the residents in the current technology information access environment.

You will all have recently received your Council Tax bills and will have seen the precept set by the Town Council. I see the setting of the Budget and the resulting precept as the most important task of any council as without the income from the residents, no services can be provided and it is the Councils responsibility to manage and spend your money with care to give you services you require at reasonable cost. We are lucky in having a very good income from the Market which together with the council tax enables the Council to provide a level of service above other local towns. We believe this is what you require as requests to keep and improve the present services of the council are always being made. However we always look for best value for the residents in the provision of services.

We continue to strive for quality and this is promoted through training for both Officers and Councillors, so Swaffham is well placed to achieve its aspiration to become a Quality Council.

I hope you will have taken the opportunity to complete the consultation paper "Have your Say". This was something I personally thought was very important and was grateful to Councillors for supporting my initiative in asking all the residents of Swaffham to let us know how you saw the future of your town. The results were very detailed and will take time to fully analyse. But, the council now has a very clear view of how you feel the town should develop, and about what issues matter to you. This will help us when taking forward proposals to both the district and county council. Thanks must go to all of you who took the time to take part in this consultation. One of the many positive outcomes from it has been the possibility of land or funds for a long hoped for leisure/swimming pool project. The resulting information will give Council clear guidance on the wishes of the residents and will help set policy for the four year term.

Cllr Ian Sherwood Mayor of Swaffham

HAVE YOUR SAY – CONSULTATION

The final results of the 'HAVE YOUR SAY' Consultation exercise conducted by the Town Council from October to December last year are available from the Town Hall. There are some interesting results. There have already been some issues progressed in respect of meeting with Breckland Council planning department, the Head of Development Control Phil Daines in respect of Section 1 future residential development and Section 8 travellers sites. The views of the public were endorsed by the Town Council and this information has been sent to Breckland Council in writing.

At the Town Council meeting in February Paul Elliot from the County Council Planning & Transportation Department attended to discuss the possibility or not of a North – South bypass. This does seem some way off and perhaps there are many debates to be had on this issue alone to impress upon the County Council that Swaffham still supports a bypass at some time in the future. In addition to these issues there are still the numerous comments to analyse, this is a mammoth task and this will be dealt with in smaller chunks to ensure that none of the issues are lost.

1) - FAQ's Firstly, some statements or questions asked within the consultation document were answered with a question and others with a passing comment on issues that has already been dealt with. Where it is clear either from Town Council policy what the answer to the question is or from a Town Council decision what information is required. Then the first document to be produced from the consultation comments boxes will give a brief 'resume' of the question or comment – followed by a concise factual response. – This report will be in the style of a '**Frequently Asked Questions**' section on a web site. When the Council adopts this report it is proposed to make it available on the new web site, with hard copies available at the Town Hall.

2) - MAJOR ISSUES Secondly are some of the major issues that need further debate, now these may total between 20 and 30. There will clearly need to be a separate meeting to address all of them, to adopt the subsequent report and prepare an action plan as a result of the initial report.

3) - YOUTH ISSUES Thirdly is taking forward the Youth issues out to the young people themselves, into the schools and youth groups. The Mayor and the Town Clerk have already met with the Head Teacher of Hamond's and this could help our Recreation Ground Committee in particular, although there are more areas around the town that need attention than just the Recreation Ground. These issues may also be relevant to the Icen Partnership and they may be able to help the Council in addressing the further consultation this could need.

4) - SWIMMING POOL Fourthly is the Swimming Pool, with 84% supporting a swimming pool this clearly needs addressing as a separate issue. There is progress and work going on behind the scenes but it should be a co-ordinated approach with the Town Council working with the Swimming Pool Association, Icen Partnership and whatever other agencies may be necessary to bring a swimming pool to the town.

5) - IDEAS, MINOR CRITICISMS & SMALL PROJECTS Finally would be to deal with all the individual ideas, minor criticisms and smaller projects at a future Finance Committee meeting, the June meeting would be the aim. This would complete the process.

THE PARISH POLL:

The first thing to clear up is that a Parish Poll is not and never will be a referendum. The poll held back in July 2003 caused many conflicting opinions. Whether you were for, against or indifferent, it raised strong opinions within the town and is recorded below as part of this annual report:

AGAINST the Town Hall Extension or FOR the Parish Poll	FOR the Town Hall Extension or AGAINST the Parish Poll
The extension is far too expensive, a waste of money and is too grand just to accommodate staff	<i>The extension allows the council to meet access for all requirements and future needs of a thriving Market Town</i>
The Museum is a waste of time and should be closed down or re-located	<i>The extension allows grant funding to properly fund an enhanced Museum</i>
Some Town Hall services could be re-located elsewhere in the town	<i>The extension allows services to be delivered in the town centre</i>
It would be less expensive to refurbish the Town Hall rather than waste money on an extension	<i>The capital cost of an extension is similar to the cost of refurbishment, and provides just enough space for existing users</i>
There was no guarantee of a successful grant application	<i>All grants were applied for at that time (and have since been confirmed)</i>
The extension will be a burden on the council tax payer	<i>The Town Hall as a public building has to meet minimum requirements in law</i>
The Poll was really about alleged misuse of the money received from the sale of allotment land	<i>The Poll was a waste of time and money. It was also a burden on the Council Tax payer, confirmed by the low turnout of 11%</i>
The Poll was a slap in the face for the Town Council	<i>The inevitable negative outcome was aided by misinformation circulated prior to the poll</i>
The Poll is representative of the people and should not be ignored	<i>Many people did not participate in the Poll as they were aware that it was not binding on the Council, this was stated at the outset</i>
Swaffham Taxpayers Action Group (STAG) called the Parish meeting that lead to the Poll being called	<i>It was not clear how to obtain membership of STAG, if there was a constitution, if any meetings were held and whom they represented?</i>

If there are lessons to be learned from this exercise, then surely there just has to be a much better way of communicating with the people who live and work in the town. The misinformation is even now, still being corrected, still causing unnecessary work, still having an adverse affect and has driven a wedge between some townfolk and the Town Council. A Parish Poll is of course your right as an elector, but it is not always going to be the answer. The Town Council will continue to try to work with and on behalf of all the diverse communities that exist within the town.

THE AUDIT INVESTIGATION:

You may have read in the local press about this and wondered what was going on or immediately assume that something was wrong. In fact your Council was give a clean bill of health as far as their financial decision making, procedures, budgets, accounts, internal and external audit is concerned. This fact was not really conveyed to the public by the local press in an enthusiastic manner.

The main issue raised by two members of the public last summer was their disapproval of the Council's financial policy in relation to investment and loans. There were unfounded allegations directed at the Council. Whilst the auditor confirmed that the council did not consider alternative proposals when agreeing a key financial policy

two years ago, this was using the benefit of hindsight, and it was not to say that at the time it might not have been the wrong decision. It really is not uncommon for the Council to have only one option to consider on any issue.

The Town Council at no time were instructed by the auditor to change their financial policy. It was simply suggested that they take further advice on the settlement of loans and the recent change of financial policy by the current council. The suggestion was in fact made after the Council had taken their decision to change their policy.

SURFACE WATER FLOODING:

A meeting on this important issue hosted by your Town Council and MP Gillian Shephard, took place back in October 2003. A representative from Anglian Water has been invited to speak and answer your questions at the Annual Town Assembly on 28th April. This is your chance to put your questions directly to Anglian Water. Others represented at the previous meeting were Breckland Council Environmental Health and Norfolk County Council Planning & Transportation. It was a useful exchange of views. Our MP in respect of the surface water drainage identified a gap in the legislation with regards to responsibility. Anglian Water are also no longer statutory consultees within the planning system, this was something that needed to be addressed by a change in the law. It was conceded that all surface water flooding problems could be overcome by capital investment in the sewage and drainage systems, but the reality was that Swaffham would not be a priority area. The Town Council are still pushing for a joint leaflet to enable them to inform the general public who visit the Town Hall as incidents occur. The public are tired of being pushed from pillar to post, this reflects badly on authorities concerned and this adds to public disenchantment.

TWINNING

The great tragedy of the twinning experience and its fiercest critics will always claim, that it is something enjoyed by only a minority of people in the town. This is something that the Twinning Association and the Town Council are trying to address in September later this year, as Swaffham plays host to 30 visitors from each of our twin towns.

In June last year a small party of seven visitors from Hemmoor including their equivalent of our Mayor and Town Clerk came to Swaffham. Their purpose was simply to be in Swaffham on the 35th anniversary of the association between Hemmoor and Swaffham. This civic exchange was organised ad-hoc and engulfed firmly in friendship between the two towns. The civic exchange in September is important for the town. There are strong links between the three twinned towns involved and these will be enhanced by this visit. The next civic visit to Swaffham will not be until 2010. In addition to the normal civic affairs, on the Sunday 12th September the Town Council are joining forces with the Twinning Association, the Swaffham Lions and the Icen Partnership to arrange a community event in the town centre. A town criers competition, farmers market, charity stalls, a pram race, a town band, morris dancers and an exhibition of twinning memorabilia in the Museum (*the last day before it is closed for the enhancement*). This it is hoped will bring the twinning experience to many more people in the town.

NEW WEB SITE

One of the things that came out of the 'Have your say' consultation was that clearly the Council needs to publicise and educate the general public to make them aware of the services offered at the Town Hall. Far too many people only ever come to the Town Hall when they have a complaint or something has gone wrong. This has to change in the future so that the people who live and work in Swaffham see not only the Town Hall but also their Town Council in a different light. The new Web Site is a good start, it will have the minutes of the last 12 months of meetings, the agendas of future meetings, various reports, dates and details, community links, services such as Cemetery, Allotments, Bookings, Market and of course how, where and who to complain to. Links also to the Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council sites. It is seen as a giant step forward to communicate with the computer literate members of society today and everyone in the generation that follows.

The new web site will be on-line from spring bank holiday onwards from the end of May. You will find it at: www.swaffhamtowncouncil.co.uk

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION:

The Town Council are actively engaged as a partner in the Icen Partnership who successfully secured a £4 million boost for town centre regeneration in the final quarter of last year. It is a great achievement and will see the Assembly Rooms refurbished next year, the Community Centre demolished and rebuilt starting this summer and improvements to the town centre starting in January next year. It is an exciting project that will give the town a real boost in terms of better facilities available within the two improved public buildings, pedestrian safety, traffic management and aesthetically adding to the natural historic appeal of the town centre.

TOWN HALL EXTENSION

The need and reasons behind this project are often not fully understood. Let us try to put this in a different context... If you invited a member of your close family to come and live with you, then over time they marry and have children, perhaps outgrowing your property as they run their own business from your home, what would you do? Tell them to move out? Tell them to go and live somewhere else? First of all take into consideration that your house is in a bad state of repair, that you need to do something before it falls down or is condemned and you only have enough money to do it up but nothing more. BUT then what if someone came along and said they had the solution...

They tell you to use your money to build an extension and they will not only pay to do up your old building, they would buy all new furniture for at least two of the rooms you are vacating and pay for two people to help you manage your relation's business for the next three years. *(Now why does Father Christmas come to mind at this point...)* This analogy tries to partially explain the concept behind the Town Hall extension and Museum enhancement scheme. It would be like turning down 'Buy one get one free' in Safeway's, it was clear to your Council that this option could accommodate everybody, that it would not cost the town anymore than refurbishment of the existing Town Hall, that it could not only provide improved

facilities in the town centre to take the Town Council through the next Century but it would at last give the Museum a chance of standing on their own two feet. To your Council it was as clear as night and day, this was the only way of doing things unless you were going to reduce services or do away with the Museum altogether.

Work is due to commence on the Town Hall immediately after Easter in week commencing 19th April. The Town Council offices are due to be moved towards the end of August and hopefully the new Council Chamber will be available to use over the weekend of 11th/12th September to receive visitors from our twin towns in Hemmoor and Coue Verac. The extension should be complete by the end of October and ready to move on to the Museum. The Town Council would prefer everyone in the town to be behind this scheme and hope that in time this will be the case. The Town Hall really is in a sorry state, to use this opportunity of also making the facilities accessible by everyone is necessary in law by October this year.

SKATEBOARD PROJECT – Haspall's Road

This project has created a great deal of public interest and wide ranging opinions. The Icen Partnership put together the funding package and were successful in obtaining grants from WREN, Breckland Council and Sport England. However, this project was developed from the initial presentation by the SK8 Mob at a Town Council meeting, followed by a second presentation at the Annual Town Assembly. This resulted in the allocation of a preferred site at the Haspall's Road Recreation Ground and the purchase of £3,000 worth of skateboarding ramps by the Town Council. A further expense of £300 was agreed to transport the ramps to Swaffham. The Swaffham Lions painted the equipment voluntarily. The Town Council submitted the planning application and this received numerous enquiries at the Town Hall and a number of objections, but planning permission was granted. The residents concerns were of noise, vandalism, unsightly constructions, position, size; misuse of the Recreation Ground in general and overall uncertainty of what this facility would bring to the area.

By the time this annual report is published the new skateboard park should be either in use or very close to completion. The skateboarding facility could be the first of a number of youth based projects at Haspall's Road. The town is desperately short of youth facilities this fact was confirmed in the 'Have Your Say' survey. The Recreation Ground Committee are currently looking at all the different options and will make their recommendations to full Council later this year. In the meantime let our young people celebrate the opening of the new skateboard park, lend your support to our SK8 Mob in their efforts to work with the Town Council in managing the facility. The Town Council have agreed to maintain and insure the skateboard park.

CEMETERY

The Council are constantly trying to improve things at the Cemetery. Last year the driveway was re-surfaced, and the potholes filled. There was an unfortunate spate of vandalism and theft from graves causing the council great concern. Gaps in the hedge have been filled and extra security measures taken. But overall the council have received many compliments on the general condition of the Cemetery.

NORTHWELL POOL DUCKS & FISH:

This is an issue currently being dealt with by the Town Council; there have been a useful discussion recently with an organisation called PICAS (Pigeon Control Advisory Service). The various options open to the council will be discussed in April. Earlier plans to have a cull or relocate the Ducks have been shelved for the time being. It is suggested that a more humane way of dealing with this matter is the way forward.

The pool itself has recently been drained following an alleged spillage that killed off all the fish in the pool. We await a report on water samples taken by the Environment Agency.

MUSEUM ENHANCEMENT

Swaffham Museum it has to be said is a bone of contention with some councillors and a minority in the town. The Town Council policy towards the Museum has changed somewhat in recent years. This was to address the perception of a bottomless pit of draining public funds. The financial support to the Museum is now under control and does not cost the Council Tax payer at all. Finances are organised so that the annual grant and a proportion of Town Hall expenses are funded from some of the income earned from the Saturday Market. The aim is of course now with the substantial grant funding amounting to £384,000 to work towards making the Museum self financing. If this cannot be achieved through door receipts alone, then other methods of financial support need to be brought into the equation. This will be the task of the new Museum Manager and Education Officer who will be appointed this summer by the Museum Directors. The posts are fully funded for three years. The two offices to be vacated by the Council will form new display rooms for the Museum, these will feature a fully funded display to celebrate the life and works of Howard Carter and explore the global popularity of Tutankhamun. This will not take away the central focus of the Museum and why it was established in the first place. Swaffham's history will of course be preserved and those existing displays and services within the Museum enhanced, such as genealogy and the education room. The latter will continue to develop and improve the links with local schools.

The grant funding will also pay for the refurbishment of the existing Town Hall, as this will be housing the Museum. Work has already begun in putting artefacts and documents into storage, this will continue until work begins in October. The Museum is due to close on 12th September this year and the target for re-opening will be July 2005. Three Town Councillors will join the four elected from the Friends of the Museum, as directors of Swaffham Museum Ltd. The Town Clerk is Company Secretary, to ensure that the company has proper advice or guidance when it is required and it is also a way of looking after the Town Council's interests, as the building and artefacts belong to them, but on a daily basis they are under the care and control of the Directors.

The most important people within the Museum are the volunteers; there are many who join the 'Friends' some are now 'Directors' or 'Town councillors'. The Museum could not exist without the volunteers and their aim is simply to keep the Museum going. The aim of your Town Council and the Museum Directors is viability. This can only be achieved

through a diverse, forward thinking, up to date Museum, that preserves our heritage and moves with the times.

THE BUS SHELTER & TOWN CENTRE AMENITIES

Improvements to the extended Tourist Information Centre caused problems for those using the bus services in the town centre. The loss of any kind of shelter was of great inconvenience to the general public. However, a successful grant application has now resulted in an order for a permanent shelter to replace the temporary construction currently in place (at the time of writing). There will in fact be two new shelters, with the other one replacing the shelter on the other side of the road, as this provides little or no shelter from the rain or wind from either direction. We are also looking at completing the erection of a new shelter at Safeways.

FARMERS MARKET

Swaffham's first Farmers Market will take place every month on the first Wednesday starting from April 7th. There will be about 15 stalls situated around the War Memorial site selling a variety of goods and produce. Meat, pies, cheese, eggs, vegetables and plants, locally-brewed beer, sauces and chocolates.

The Farmers Market will be promoted in association with the Iceni Partnership as part of the town centre regeneration project. It is hoped that this will bring more people into the town on a day when they would not normally come. This would be good not only to sustain the Farmers Market but for the other shops and businesses in the town.

This new venture will not compete in anyway with the traditional weekly Saturday Market. Swaffham is very proud of its heritage as a market town and our Market compares favourably with any in Norfolk and many around the country. It is hoped that our Farmers Market will be as successful.

THE BUDGET FOR 2004/05

The Precept was increased this year by £5,000 to £130,000 for the year 2004/05. A moderate increase compared with other councils of a similar size. The full budget was covered in great detail in the last edition of 'In Touch' and you will see a breakdown of some budget headings in the information circulated with your Council Tax bill. There has been a higher than average increase in a Band D property as the Council Tax base went down. This is the number of actual council taxpayers in the town. The Band D rate is now £55.37 whereas last year it was £50.52 an increase of £4.85 per year. The income derived from Swaffham's successful Saturday Market does help to subsidize the councils' precept requirements.

FLORAL DISPLAYS and finally....

Our Annual Report would not be complete without a special mention of the Town's Floral Displays last summer. They were quite spectacular and a credit to our Town Gardener. The town is his garden and the benefit is there for all to see.

Age Concern Swaffham & District.

Would all our regulars please note that in order to avoid a clash with the Pensioner's meetings, we have altered our entertainment afternoon dates to the **last Tuesday in each month. This is not necessarily the 4th Tuesday!** The venue in the Methodist Church Rooms, London Street, has not changed neither has the time, 2.30 pm. We look forward to meeting everyone on these occasions and invite any newcomers to attend. It is all very informal with either a visiting speaker or entertainer, there is no charge and refreshments are provided. Information on other services provided by Age Concern or other agencies is available on the day. The next meetings are on the 30th March, 27th April and the 25th May.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be launching our new **Befriending Scheme** very shortly as we have appointed a Volunteer Co-ordinator, Sheila Lewis to manage the scheme. Sheila has already recruited five volunteer visitors; the idea being that lonely people will be visited in their homes maybe just for a chat and a cup of tea. However, the opportunity will be taken to identify any specific shortcomings and the appropriate contacts made. A number of people have been identified by Norfolk County Council Social Services Department as being in need of help in this way, but we hope to grow and take on more clients.

If you know of anyone who might be prepared to become a volunteer visitor or anyone needing visiting perhaps you could contact me in the first instance.

James D Dean (Chairman)
Tel: 01760 720756

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

This activity is growing in popularity across the whole of Norfolk and if you are interested in joining a **beginners group** here in Swaffham, we meet on **Friday evenings in the Campingland Community Centre, from 7.45 pm until 9.45.** We are fortunate to have a very experienced teacher, Eddie Garratt, who comes over from Norwich to take our class. There is no need to bring a partner. It is a very friendly group so do come along and join in the fun. The cost is only £2 per session and refreshments are provided. Contacts for further information are James or Elizabeth Dean, 01760 720756.

Friends of Swaffham Museum

The Museum re-opens on April 10th, Easter Saturday and closes this year on September 12th. If you would like to volunteer to be a steward and welcome visitors to the Museum, please get in touch with Barbara White, c/o the Museum, or contact Philip Smith (Museum Administrator) on 01760 721230.

SWAFFHAM FUN DAY & Classic Car Cavalcade

SUNDAY MAY 9TH

This year's Swaffham Fun Day and Classic Car Cavalcade promises to be the biggest and best yet. The date for your diaries is Sunday May 9th: the location – **The Recreation Ground, Haspalls Road, Swaffham.** And wheels will be turning everywhere you look!

The Fun Day is organised by the **Friends of Swaffham Museum**, and is the main fund-raising event for the Museum. It's always a Spring event, a chance to shake the cobwebs out and let your hair down. This year our main sponsor is Bernard Matthews Foods Ltd. They are pleased and proud to be associated with this local Norfolk event.

There will be the regular centre of attraction, the **Classic Car Cavalcade**, which brings together drivers from a huge area with their wonderful cars, preserved and loved for many years, and displayed in all their gleaming splendour. This year there are two new classes – American Classic Cars and Boy Racers.

This year, there's an opportunity to experience that extreme sensation – a **bungee jump**. Hold on to your breath, and anything else that might fall off, and approach the ground rapidly! It costs £40 to enjoy this experience, but you can get sponsors to help and jump for a charity of your choice: however, you'll have to book early to get your go.

The Fantastic Whimsy constructed by Alby White will be on show! It's unique! It's breathtaking! What does it do? And most important, WHY?

The Radio Controlled Model Cars will be back in their National Final, hurling themselves round a grass track. The brand new **Skate Park** will be ready and no doubt giving the chance to lots of youngsters to learn or demonstrating their amazing stunts.

In the arena, a new display, back by special request from last year – **The Red Barrows**. Old favourites the **Tom Tom Troupe** will be there, and **Raz and Pearl**, a wonderful comedy act. Barbecues, Tombola, Fortune Telling and a whole string of other attractions await.

Contacts: John Clarke 01760 720140,
e-mail jake@jacee.demon.co.uk
Barbara White (Fun Day Chairman) 01760 723866,
e-mail mail@pe377xa.fsnet.co.uk

John Clarke (Chairman)

Breckland Home Watch

Anyone wishing to start a Home Watch in the Breckland area, contact:

Colin Hodge

Breckland.norpol@gtnet.gov.uk

Home Watch Administrator

The Police Station,

Norwich Road, Thetford

Norfolk, IP24 2HU

01842 222608

USEFUL INFORMATION

Norfolk Police 01953 424242

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Trading Standards 0800 328 6471

PACT 01953 424727

www.norfolkhomewatch.info

www.neighbourhoodwatch.net

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

www.norfolk-pa.gov.uk

www.norfolk.police.uk

Swaffham Parish Church, 550 years

The Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul is the oldest building in the town and dates from the year 1454. To mark these past 550 years a special programme of events is planned. Previous Vicars and Curates are being invited to preach on selected Sunday mornings through the summer.

Many of the other events will take place in July. During the weekend of 2nd-4th July there will be a **Flower Festival** in the church depicting the building of the church, its history and the varied roles that the church fulfils. On the first evening of the Flower Festival, Friday 2nd July at 7.30pm, there will be an evening in the church with **Keith Skipper**, an old boy of Hamond's School. He and his family will present "A Norfolk Garland" with special local interest. The Flower Festival will end with a Thanksgiving Service at 6.00pm on Sunday 4th July when the preacher will be the **Bishop of Norwich**. Later in July a series of outstanding concerts are to be held in the church as part of the Music in Country Churches programme.

The Phoenix Singers

now have a new secretary, Mrs Annette Davis who can be contacted on 01760 720298 and a new M.D. Marcus Harley who conducts the King's Lynn Male Voice Choir. They meet Monday Evening at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Rooms.

*Would you like to enjoy an evening's entertainment
Playing a game of cards amongst friends?*

The cost is only £1.50 including refreshments

If so, why not come along to

The Swaffham Bridge Club

any Tuesday or Thursday evening 6.30pm to 6.45pm start at the Church Rooms, Campingland.

All levels of play are welcome - Partner not necessary
For further information ring

Peter on **01760 725406**

or **Nicholas** on **01760 722076**

If you have never played, but are interested in learning, ring **Barbara** on **01760 723866**

We look forward to seeing you!

Swaffham Community Hospital

League of Friends

The Hospital League of Friends along with the Matron are staging an **open-evening at the Hospital** in the Multi Purpose Room on 28th April at 7.30pm.

Many people would love to help a Friends group but think that they wouldn't be of much use, if they're not exceptionally outgoing or outstandingly talented. They couldn't be more wrong! Kindness and interest are the main qualifications required when your role is to greet people with a smile and make their day a little brighter. Those keen to use their administrative or managerial skills will be welcomed with open arms, as well as those willing to simply help where needed.

So if you think you would like to do a small amount of voluntary work and are unsure what it entails, then do please come along and listen to the Chairman along with other members of the League speaking about the work and connection it has with the hospital. Mavis White (Community Matron) will be there to answer questions about the role of the hospital here in Swaffham and to give a tour if required. Light refreshments will be available so do please come along, you may just end up receiving far more than you give. If you feel you need to make contact prior to the evening, then please contact myself **David Gulliver** on **01760 722924**.

Family Welfare Association (F.W.A.)

Well Family Service based at Swaffham Community Hospital.

Family support service for individuals of all ages who are registered with G.P. Practices in Swaffham, Litcham and Great Massingham providing advice, information and conselling support.

For more information: contact – Geraldine Walsh, Project Manager 01760 720302

The Swaffham Players

Easter Production is a Music Hall – The Magic of Variety.

A well balanced programme gives the thirty four strong cast of comedians, excellent dancers, singers and musicians the chance to show off their talents. With a scene of Ivor Novello songs to a wildly enthusiastic pub scene the show gives plenty of opportunities for the audience to sing along.

The show contains over three hundred colourful costumes which will all be ready for the show on April 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th 2004 nightly at 7.30pm. Seats will be at tables with a licenced bar. Tickets £5.00 each can be booked by phone 01760 721899 or from The Green Parrot Health Food Shop, Swaffham.

Brian Hubbard

COMMUNITY INFORMATION BUS

With representatives from:

The Fire Service, The Police Service, Citizen Advice Bureau, Immigration, First Bus and The Pension Service.

The Bus will be at Swaffham Market Place on the 4th Monday of the Month 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Local Information Support Team

L.I.S.T. is for older people and people with a disability who are generally well but worried

THE LOCAL INFORMATION SUPPORT TEAM CAN GIVE YOU THE ADVICE, HELP AND SUPPORT YOU NEED.

Tel/Fax: 01553 774525

Email: list.project.socs@norfolk.gov.uk

Swaffham Hospital League of Friends

Dates for your diary
Friday April 23rd – Cheese & Wine
at George Hotel – 7.00pm
Saturday 31st July – Hospital Fete
at 2.00pm

Bingo Bingo Bingo

Valentine Barker Court

Every Thursday 7.00pm for 7.30pm start Small Prizes
Pleasant atmosphere
Tea and Biscuits 50p
All Welcome

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.

5th April, 19th April,
10th May, 24th May,
7th June, 21st June,
5th July, 19th July.

The Pension Service

The Pension Service holds 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.

SWAFFHAM & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB - Carnival 2004

is being held in July this year with events leading up to Carnival Day which is **Sunday 11th July**. 60% of the proceeds will be going to the Air Ambulance and First Response.

Campingland Patient Group

C.P.G. Meetings – Thursday 29th April,
Thursday 22nd July – Mark and Sue
September 24th – Quiz Night
At 7.15pm
Telephone 01760 725920
For further details

Parish of Our Lady of Pity, Swaffham

Parish Priest Fr. Michael Johnstone

Telephone: 01760 721418

Fax: 01760 720529

E-mail: fr.mcjohnstone@tesco.net

Web Site: catholicparish-swaffham.org.uk

MASS

TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Sunday 8.30am

10.30am (Sung Mass)

Holy Days 10.00am & 7.30pm

Weekday Masses and other celebrations

Wednesday & Saturday 9.30am

Other days: see notice in the church

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 10.00 – 10.30am

Exposition & Benediction: Simultaneously
Confessions also at any time on request

Swaffham & District Swimming Pool Association

Much work has been going on during the past year including fund raising liaising with the Town Council, Hamond's High School and Parkwood P.F.I.

As to whether a swimming pool will materialise in Swaffham either through the Jarvis P.F.I. at Hammond's or elsewhere with Breckland/ Parkwood P.F.I. is somewhat uncertain. However, two encouraging events have occurred more recently:-

1) The offer of £150,000 (or land plus some money) for the purpose of a swimming pool.

And

2) The results of last Autumn's "Have Your Say" Questionnaire which places a Swimming Pool very high in the opinion of local people – 84% for and 9% against.

With Icenis help, S.P.A. is determined to press forward to secure a pool in such a place as to ensure the greatest potential for maximum use by the Community. To this end it is hoped that a feasibility study can be carried out to identify the best possible site in Swaffham. **Reg Dowden**

Iceni Partnership

Working Together To Make Life Better

• **Update on the Partnership's Regeneration Project**

Work continues on planning and delivering our regeneration project and now is a good opportunity to give a progress report on where we are with the Town Centre enhancement scheme, Community Centre rebuild and Assembly Rooms refurbishment. Updates will also be provided through our website, newsletter, the local media and of course at our General Meetings, which are open to all. Our next General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 17 May at the EcoTech Centre.

Community Centre

We have recently obtained our Planning Permission for the new Community Centre which will be built on the site of the existing Centre at the Campinglands, Swaffham. The building, which is a low-energy, low maintenance construction will continue to house the existing users and provide good quality, accessible training facilities and space for public hire. We hope to be able to close the existing centre in June, with demolition taking place in late summer and the new Centre opening next year.

Town Centre Enhancements

Various proposals to make the Town Centre safer and more attractive for residents and visitors have been discussed over the past few months and we are now almost at the stage where we can offer the plans up for public consultation and feedback. We are planning to give a presentation at the Town Assembly on 28th April, followed by a week's consultation period in May. We hope as many people as possible will come along to have a look at the proposals and to offer us their ideas too.

Assembly Rooms

The Assembly Rooms will undergo a refurbishment and improvement scheme and we are currently considering a couple of different schemes – the option we choose will depend upon whether or not we are able to access any additional funding and this is currently being explored. Currently we are looking to improve disabled access, carry out restoration works to the front and interior of the building and provide kitchen facilities.

The project is funded through the European Objective 2 programme, East of England Development Agency, Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and Swaffham Town Council. New volunteers are always welcome so if you would like to be more involved and contribute to this project please contact the Partnership's Projects Manager, Bernie Rappensberger on 01760 722800 or email bernie@iceni.info

Swaffham Arts

On **Saturday 24th April** at 7.30pm in Lydney House Hotel 'A Tale that is Told' the life and work of Mary E Mann one of Norfolk's most significant writers.

On **Saturday 22nd May** at 7.30pm Songbyrds Choir in the Parish Church, Swaffham.

Friday 11th June Five Young Poets at Lydney House Hotel.

Arts Week this year is from Saturday 18th September to the 25th September.

There is a concert given by the Torriano Ensemble in Beachamwell Church on Sunday 13th June and their gardens are open on Sunday 27th June. Telephone 01366 328648 for further details

Community Events

April, May & June

+ some in July to cover the overlap in distribution

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 or Tourist Information Centre.

April

- 1st Blood Donors – 10.45am-8.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 2nd Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 3rd Lionesses Craft Fair – 9.00am-3.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 4th Eastern Fed. Of Birds Meeting – 9.30am-1.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 8th Icen Partnership Meeting – 10.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
- 8th Horticultural Society Meeting – 7.00pm-9.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 14th Full Town Council Meeting – 6.45pm Assembly Rooms
- 16th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 17th C D Sales – 8.30am- 4.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 17th Linen Sale – 8.00am-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 17th Baptist Church – 7.30pm-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 20th Pensioners Meeting – 2.00pm-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 22nd Blood Donors – 8.45am-6.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 22nd Hospital League of Friends – Cheese and Wine
- 23rd Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 24th Pensioners Coffee Morning – 9.00am-12noon Assembly Rooms
- 24th Horticultural Society Bingo – 7.00pm-9.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 24th Swaffham Arts – ‘A Tale is Told’ the life and work of Mary E Mann one of Norfolk’s most significant wriyer’s Lydney House 7.30pm.
- 27th Ornithologists Meeting – 7.00pm-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 28th Town Council Town Assembly – 6.00pm-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 30th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms

May

- 1st Linen Sale 8.00am-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 1st The Pickenhams W. I. Jumble Sale – 9.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
- 4th & 5th Town Centre Enhancement Consultation – Town Hall
- 6th, 7th & 8th Town Centre Enhancement Consultation – A/ Rooms
- 6th Icen Partnership Meeting – 10.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
- 7th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 8th Pensioners Coffee Morning – 9.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
- 8th Book Sale – 8.30am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 9th Friends of Swaffham Museum, Fun Day Recreation Ground
- 12th Full Town Council Meeting – 6.45pm-9.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 13th Horticultural Society Meeting – 7.00pm-9.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 14th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 15th Save the Children – 9.00am-2.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 17th Icen Partnership General Meeting – Eco Tech
- 20th Icen Partnership Meeting – 10.00am-12noon Assembly Rooms
- 21st Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms

- 22nd C D Sales – 8.30am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 22nd Shoe Sale – 8.00am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 22nd Swaffham Arts Songbyrds Choir in the Parish Church at 7.30pm.
- 24th Access Group Meeting – 10.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
- 25th Ornithologists Meeting – 7.00pm-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
- 26th League of Friends Coffee Morning – 9.30am-12.00noon Valentine Barker Court.
- 28th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
- 29th Swaffham Players Coffee Morning – 9.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
- 29th Horticultural Society Bingo – 7.00pm-9.30pm Assembly Rooms

June

- 3rd Icen Partnership Meeting – 10.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
 - 4th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 5th Pensioners Coffee Morning – Assembly Rooms
 - 5th Linen Sale – 8.00am-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 9th Full Town Council Meeting – 6.45pm-9.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 10th Eastern Region European Election – 6.30am-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 11th Swaffham Arts. Five Young Poets at Lydney House Hotel
 - 11th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 12th Save the Children – 9.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
 - 17th Horticultural Society Meeting – 7.00pm-9.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 18th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 19th C D Sales – 7.30am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 23rd Homestart Swaffham & District 4.00pm-8.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 25th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 26th Shoe Sale – 8.00am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 26th S.P.A. Jumble Sale – 9.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
 - 26th Horticultural Society Bingo – 7.00pm-9.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 29th Book Sale – 8.00am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 30th Book Sale – 8.00am-5.00pm Assembly Rooms
- ### July
- 2nd Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 2nd Baptist Church – 6.00pm-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 3rd C D Sales – 8.30am-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 3rd Baptist Church – 6.00pm-10.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 4th Swaffham Lions, Carnival, Childrens Painting – 9.00am-12.00noon Assembly Rooms
 - 6th Pensioners Meeting – 2.00pm-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 8th Swaffham Lions, Carnival Disco – 7.00pm-11.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 9th Friends & Neighbours Meeting – 2.00pm-4.30pm Assembly Rooms
 - 10th Linen Sale – 8.00am-4.00pm Assembly Rooms
 - 10th Pensioners – Assembly Rooms
 - 14th ICENI PARTNERSHIP AGM – Assembly Rooms

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Would organizers and secretaries of clubs and societies please check the current list in the Town Hall for their accuracy. If there are any corrections or omissions please inform the Town Clerk 722922, or me, Pam Buxton, 724741.