

IN TOUCH with your TOWN

The Town Newsletter

JANUARY 2003

Issue 18

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Editorial & Commentary by the Town Clerk

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A NEW YEAR... ELECTION YEAR!

The idea is that this newsletter will be distributed early in the new-year, so hopefully you are reading it whilst the memories of slicing up the turkey and the details of the Queens' speech are not too distant. Happy new-year Swaffham... It is election year for your Town Council, with 1st May being polling day, the day after your Annual Town Assembly.

AND so another year has passed, a thicker skin grown, an ear that is slightly more deaf than last year, but sense of humour is intact... if only just. Swaffham is without any doubt a unique Town, and having worked previously for a unique village in Blakeney, I feel very privileged to be your Town Clerk as we start another year. 2003 could be an historic year, so lets get to work.

This is the time of year when your Town Council have to agree the budget for the next financial year starting from 1st April 2003. It is when we compare what we are doing with other Town's on a value for money basis. So comparisons are drawn on our charges and our services, but it is always difficult to compare the Town as a whole, as I have already said there is nowhere else like Swaffham. So we should be proud of that fact and keep it that way too!

Finally, I sincerely thank all my staff for their hard work during this past year. Starting with Michelle and Rosie at the Town Hall and the rest of the team Stephen, Ivor, Dick and Mike. My thanks also to the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Council for their continued support.

Happy New Year, enjoy your read.... RB Town Clerk

COPY DEADLINE for next issue

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

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FROM THE

MAYOR'S PARLOUR

The Mayor's duties continue to be many and varied, which is nice, as variety is said to be the spice of life. Sometimes when the weather is inclement and one is tired, and you would like to stay at home in front of the T.V. with a nice hot drink, you make the effort and go wherever or whenever invited, and the effort is rewarded by the hospitality, kindness and friendship you receive, it always makes it well worth the effort.

Council work continues to be heavy and varied, but thanks to our staff things get done. I would like to welcome a new member of staff, Mr. Mike Dye, who has already made his mark in the Assembly Rooms, as recently we have been receiving compliments instead of complaints (keep up the good work).

The Icen Partnership of which we are a main partner, should be ready to put a bid in for grant funding early in the new year. Let us hope that we are successful and the improvements that we all want to see in town, can start by this time next year.

The Jubilee Heritage Plan for new offices and the improvement of the Town Museum should get started early in the new-year. The plan for a Swaffham Swimming Pool is still on the programme and your help is still needed, please support S.P.A. and in the end we will win. We have a busy time ahead but by pulling together as a town we can do it for the benefit of all.

I will finish by thanking my fellow councillors, the staff and all who have supported me over this past year. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Cllr Ben Emmerson, Mayor of Swaffham

TOWN COUNCIL

NEWS

Underneath the Buttercross

This section of the newsletter looks closely at the work of your Town Council. It gives you an insight into what goes on behind the headlines in the local press.

BUDGET NOTES 2002/2003

1) MARKET

The Market has had a complete overhaul in terms of administration, a new pricing structure has been agreed to be put in place for year commencing 1st April 2003, which would reward those traders who pay on time or in advance and only increase the rent for those traders who continually pay in arrears. Provisional figures project that the basic rate of £3.05 per foot is increased to £3.32 (a 9% increase). However, this is only reflected on the monthly license if traders continually pay in arrears. For those who pay regularly the discount structure is as follows:-

- Regular monthly payments by 20th of each month - 12th month free of charge (8.3%)
- Quarterly payments in advance, calculated to reflect one month free of charge (8.3%).
- Six monthly payments in advance, calculated with two months free of charge (16.6%).
- Annual payments in advance, calculated with three months free of charge (25%).

In real terms regular monthly payers and quarterly payers would have an increase of just under 1%. Six monthly payers would have a decrease of just under 1% and annual payers would see a decrease of approximately 2%. It is estimated that overall, taking into account the 9% increase for those who continually pay in arrear, that the Market income would increase by 2%. Swaffham is very proud of its market and the intention is to keep it up to full capacity.

2) TOWN HALL

The Sampson Room will be used as an office by the Icen Partnership in 2003. The budget for the Town Hall extension is included in the projected figures for

2003/2004, but there will be expenditure paid in advance in the current year.

3) MUSEUM

There will be a grant to the management group 'Swaffham Museum Ltd' of £4,000. The cost to the Town Council is planned to decrease further in year 2004/05 to £3,000 before leveling out and possibly looking to increase with inflation year on year for the remaining part of the existing 10year agreement. There is no budgeted income for the Museum as the door takings and/or other income now goes direct to Swaffham Museum Ltd. There are other advantages to the Museum such as the Town Council continuing to pay for light, heat, water, rates and maintenance of the fabric of the building. Stage 2 of the Town Hall Development is also to work with the Museum Directors to obtain the grant funding required to improve the Museum displays in the enlarged space when the Town Council move into the new extension.

4) ASSEMBLY ROOMS

The Assembly Rooms is another area where an extensive administrative overhaul has taken place. Significant strides have been taking place behind the scenes, as faster response times to enquiries have lead to an increase in bookings. This is an on-going process that will continue, as the Management Group get to grips with how the Assembly Rooms works and what can be done in this interim period whilst the large refurbishment and part rebuild works are carefully planned for. The increase in income will mean that a little more money will be available to carry out necessary repairs and a limited amount of redecoration to ensure that existing users are maintained. The caretaking and minor maintenance costs will be monitored over the next 12 months as the new way of operating settles down. The Assembly Rooms will continue under the current arrangement with the Management Group, working towards the point where a lease is taken on by the Icen Partnership to allow the refurbishment to take place with the aid of grant funding. The Assembly Rooms is budgeted to at least break even in 2003/04, although actual figures will depend on the timescale of proposed major works, this would equally affect both income and expenditure.

5) ALLOTMENTS

The allotments are currently under review, due for completion early in 2003. There is a major 'clear-up' operation necessary as part solution to the allotment problem. The budgeted expenditure is once more in excess of budgeted income. A figure of £1,000 has been attached to the 'Magazine Restoration', this is to try and attract match funding from grants for such a project. It is not known what the actual cost will be, this is flagged up as a budgeted expense to carry out the feasibility study necessary to move this project forwards. Whilst the Magazine is within an allotment, it has been agreed to look at this as a separate project to the allotments. If as a result of the review additional income is produced during 2003/04, it is envisaged that this money could be used to help fund the 'clear up' operation. It is planned to provide composting areas at each allotment site. The allotment rents would be increased by 10% again this next year.

6) CEMETERY

The Cemetery is another area that has suffered neglect in some areas and administration has taken a while to review. The driveway has pot-holes and is need of repair. There are two brick built storage garages that need clearing out. These are currently being addressed. The Chapel has been used in recent years as a workshop/groundsmans store and potting shed. This is not the original intended use and over the course of the current financial year and throughout 2003/04 it is planned to carefully restore this building back to it's original use. The budgeted expense may attract match funding from elsewhere. It is planned to explore the avenue of grant funding. The current problem of rebuilding the spire will feature in the current years accounts as an insurance claim for storm damage. A new composting area will also feature during the course of the next financial year. The Cemetery fees will increase by 3% again this year, as Swaffham is in line with other burial authority charges.

7) OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES

The only income budgeted is for occasional use of the Recreation Ground for the traveling fair or circus. The expenditure is a bit more complicated, as contracting is reduced by the exclusion of the flower contract. There is a reducing cost for street lighting and Xmas lighting. Play equipment

repairs have been reduced this year to just standard repairs, as last year there was a lot of work carried out. Outside equipment maintenance includes one replacement mower for the groundsman and essential tools for the Town gardener. There is a maintenance contract for the Town Clock, also the war memorial lighting. Grants to the Tourist Information Centre, the Icen Partnership, website sponsorship and monies set aside for the Community Hospital, all as previously agreed. The money set aside for the Swimming Pool Land is also as previously agreed. The Twinning Association budget is a contingency made up of £1500 carried forward as unused from this current year and a further £2000 added in 2003/04 in readiness for hosting the Twinning event in 2004. It is envisaged that if a minimum of £2000 is added to this sum in 2004/05 this should be sufficient to return the hospitality given to the Swaffham contingent in September earlier this year. The Tree Pollarding budget of £4500 is half of the £9000 programme over two years. Therefore a similar sum would be required in 2004/05 to complete the programme. A match funding budget of £1000 has been established in principle as a contingency, this obviously needs to be added to substantially in future years in order to take advantage of the opportunities to obtain grant funding in a variety of areas for Swaffham in 2003/04 and beyond.

8) ADMINISTRATION & MISC

The interest on investments is budgeted at £33,000 this is a mixture of the capital sum from the sale of the allotments and other income contained in the Council's accounts. It was agreed to show all aspects of the Jubilee Heritage Project separately in the accounts and/or budget from year 2003/04 onwards. The only other income is from an agency agreement with Breckland Council for administration of car parking.

The expenditure features the £3,000 to be carried forward as a guarantee to the Community Centre. The loan repayments of £40,050 are a combination of the Council's two loans with the Public Works Loan Board. The Grants of £5,000 and Section 137 grants of £500 are now highlighted in the budget as well as the accounts, highlighting the Section 137 grants is a legal requirement. There are of course standard administration items such as insurance, stationery, office equipment maintenance

and replacements. Staff and Councillor training is increased to £2,500 as with the possibility of new Councillors, training will be necessary, particularly with Quality Council status coming that Councillor training takes place in addition to Staff Training. It is intended to draft a Training Policy for the new Council to consider soon after the May election. Salaries and Superannuation total £82,000 as previously notified, less the Agency fee of £2,000 bringing it to a net cost of £80,000. The Mayor's allowance is increased to £800, also detailing the Reception at £1,000 and the Civic Service at £300.

The Election/By election expenses of £2,500 were based on the cost of one election. There is no charge for the election next May, but the Council has incurred two similar costs for recent by-elections in consecutive years, so it has been agreed to retain this as a contingency in the budget. The estimated reserves at this time last year projected to the end of March next year was £66,000. There has been significant expenditure and overestimated income in year 2001/02 that depleted the reserves by almost two thirds by £42,000, this continued into this year with a further £9450 of unexpected or unbudgeted expenditure. This has been compensated by extensive streamlining of the administration, as areas such as the Market, the Assembly Rooms, the Cemetery, the Allotments, the use of the Imprest Account and the amount of stationery or cleaning materials held, has produced a saving on overall costs. However, the most significant difference has been the increase in income in all those areas. This has restored the Market to full capacity, turned the Assembly Rooms into a viable concern and stifled the constant drain of funds into both the Allotments and Cemetery. There are considerable changes still in progress and I therefore project that the realistic figure for reserves is now £40,000. This should remain constant throughout 2003/04 unless of course there is unforeseen expenditure, the streamlining process is on-going.

THE PRECEPT

What is the Precept some of you may ask? This is the amount of money your Town Council asks for to deliver many of the services outlined in the budget report. This figure would be considerably higher if additional income from the Market in

particular was not available to the Town. The figure requested this year is **£125,000**, this is £5,000 up on last year. It does mean that the Council Tax bandings for the Town Council section have been slightly increased 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

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

WAR MEMORIAL

The Mayor's Civic service was held on the 29th September and was well attended by dignitaries from our neighbouring towns, district and county council. It was also nice to have the family of Private Davis with us to witness a very moving service to unveil the missing name on the war memorial.

It was nice to be able to invite everyone back to the Town Hall & Museum on such a nice September day. The day was rounded off with a finger buffet, a glass of wine and a presentation of an honorary citizenship to Toni Groom.

The name of Private Davis was also added to the war memorial inside the church and dedicated on remembrance Sunday. The war memorial also took centre stage at 11am on 11th November, for the two minutes silence.

HONORARY CITIZENSHIP - EXTRA

Mrs. Toni Groom was presented with an honorary citizenship of the town on Sunday 29th September, just too late to feature in the last newsletter. A well deserved award presented in the garden at the rear of the Town Hall by the Mayor Ben Emmerson. There have been many accolades given and rightly so...She is a very special lady..

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 Community Hospital League of Friends

Dates for your diary later in the year are:

Cheese and Wine Evening to be held at the Pedlar Suite, George Hotel, Swaffham on 17th April at 7.00pm.

The Annual Street Collection is the 7th June and the Annual Hospital Fete in the grounds of the hospital will take place on 19th July at 2.00pm.

Any questions please contact David Gulliver 01760 722924

Swaffham Library and Opening Closure Times

Wednesday 1st January – Closed

Thurs. 2nd January – Open 10am until 5pm

Fri. 3rd January – Open 10am until 8pm

Sat. 4th January – Open 9.30am until 1pm

Skate Park

Members of the SK8 Mob received cheques from the Lions, the Rotary Club and the Hamond Trust amounting to £1,200. At their meeting in October, they made a presentation to representatives from these organisations, the Town Council, Norfolk Youth and Community Service, the Icen Partnership and interested local people who are supporting the project, thanking everyone for their help so far, and explaining how plans are progressing.

Surveyor's plans will be going to contractors in the New Year. Then when can send a detailed business plan to potential funding bodies. If any other local people or businesses would like to contribute to this project, donations will be gratefully received. We need to raise approximately £20,000 for the construction, and a further £6,000 for a Youth Shelter.

Please support the young people of Swaffham. We hope to see the Skate Park in use on Haspalls Road recreation ground some time during 2003.

Jane Atkins Tel: 721348
Iceni Partnership Young People's Focus Group

People's Network comes to Swaffham Library

Swaffham Library has been offering free internet access (and e-mail) for the past couple of years. Now however, as part of the People's Network programme, more computers have been provided. As well as internet access, these PCs include Microsoft Office software so users can, for example, produce CVs, letters, posters, web pages etc. Use of the machines is completely free, although print outs are charged at 10p per A4 sheet.

To find out more, contact Swaffham Library, The Pightle, Swaffham Tel 01760 721513

Opening Times:

TUE 1000 to 1700

WED 1000 to 1300

THU 1000 to 1700

FRI 1000 to 2000

SAT 0930 to 1300

FRIENDS of SWAFFHAM MUSEUM

The museum closed for the season at the end of October, and work has been going on dismantling the years exhibition "All Mod Cons". All the objects have been returned to the store, and plans are under way for Next Year's exhibition which will be on the theme of "PILLS AND POTIONS", the history of falling ill and getting better in Swaffham. Aside from the story of the development of care for the sick in Swaffham, there'll be a display of objects of, shall we say, a medical nature. And we're very grateful for a donation of surgical appliances which were used for unblocking various parts of the anatomy. I won't go into details, but suffice it to say that when the Museum opens, next Easter, all will be revealed. In the meantime, "Nurse! The screens".

For the present, the Friends are busy raising funds, and helping out behind the scenes. The preparation for next season is complicated by the fact that work will be starting soon on the Town Hall alterations, which means that for the forthcoming season we shall lose the "Bones and Stones" archaeology room. Cleaning, painting and reorganisation need helping hands, so if you've got a spare hour or two in the week, call in at the Museum office (Town Hall) weekday mornings between 9.30 am and 12 noon, and we'll be glad to see you.

John Clarke
(Friends of Swaffham Museum)

Swaffham Women's Institute

Maybe you have just moved into the area, if so we do 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 just 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 p.m. 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.

WI Programme

January 8th
Australian Contacts and Talent Evening
February 5th
Clothes from 'The Trading Post'
March 5th
East Anglian Air Ambulance
All events are in the Churchrooms at 7.30 pm.

Campingland

Patient Participation Group

will be meeting Thursday 30th January, 7.15 pm at the Surgery. The Speaker will be – Swaffham & Litcham Home Hospice. New members always welcome.

New Reading Group

There is already an excellent Reading Group which meets at Swaffham Library but because its membership is full there are plans to start another one. The group's purpose will be to explore books and develop adventurous reading. If you would like to know more and perhaps get in at the beginning, contact Chris Heron at the Swaffham Learning Partnership on 01760 726106

Community Information Bus

The Community Information Bus will be at Swaffham Market Place on the 4th Monday of the Month

1.0 pm – 3.00 pm.

There will be representatives from The Fire Service, The Police and The Pensions Service.

EAST is an independent voluntary agency with charitable status, set up in 1991 by a small group committed to easing the problems experienced by people who are HIV positive.

Visit the Website for further information:

www.aids-east.org.uk

(e-mail: mail@aids-east.org.uk)

Dates to Remember:

10th-16th February

Contraceptive Awareness Week

12th-18th May

National Condom Week

Cookies for a Cure

World Leprosy week 20th-26th January 2003

Can you cook up a cure?

Join the Greatest Cookie Party Ever and help cure people of leprosy.

All money raised will go towards supporting LEPROA'S vital medical development programmes in Asia, South America and Africa. Simply bake (or even buy) some cookies, and invite your friends, neighbours and colleagues to join in the fun at coffee break, lunchtime, afternoon or evening.

For an information pack contact

Sally Ormond, Community Contact Assistant,
Telephone 01449 710073

SWAFFHAM ARTS EVENTS

Following the AGM in November, a new committee has now met and plans are being prepared for Swaffham Arts twentieth year. These will be advertised later but in the meantime:

PUPPET THEATRE AT HALF TERM

On Tuesday, February 18th, during half term, there will be a performance of "The Enchanted Bird" which is aimed at children from five to twelve years. The Puppet Theatre, Baobab, will hold a workshop in the Church Rooms at 10 a.m. where children can make puppets which will be an integral part of the evening performance. The workshop is promoted by Swaffham Arts and is **free** and likely to last two to two and a half hours. The evening performance begins at 6 p.m. in Lydney House Hotel with tickets priced at £4 adults (£3 Swaffham Arts members) and £3 children (£2 members). Book the date now. Tickets will be available early in the new year.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

It is hoped to stage another competition in the Spring. The classes have been publicised so get snapping!

Class One - Strictly Digital "Architexture" black and white or colour.

Class Two - Wildlife: Animal, Bird or Insect, colour

Class Three - Abstract: "The Power of Colour" or "The Drama of Monochrome"

Class Four: - A Narrative: "The Decisive Moment", colour or black and white

Class Five- Seasonal Landscape: "The Shadowlands"

Further details will be published later.

Pam Buxton, Secretary Swaffham Arts, 724741

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

Swaffham and Litcham

HOME HOSPICE SUPPORT

Registered Charity Number 1035414

For over 10 years, we have been providing emotional and practical help in the home to the seriously ill and their families.

The Management Committee is looking for a new Chairman to take over in 2003.

For more information, please contact the office on **01760 722937** or e-mail:

homehospice@care4free.net

Norfolk Adult Education's Basic Skills service will be running two new courses in Swaffham in

January:

Healthy, Wealthy and Wise is a 12 week course held at the new Rugby Club. It is aimed at the over 50s and will give learners a chance to learn about:

- making their money go further,
- nutrition,
- the Internet and basic computer skills,
- personal safety,
- consumer rights,
- accessing local facilities and
- keeping fit.

Learners will also be able to brush up their English and maths. It's an opportunity to meet new people and find new interests. There will also be an opportunity to take a First Aid course. The course begins on Wednesday 15th January from 9.30-3p.m. Free transport may be available.

Working with Children course gives people the chance to:

- find out about employment and training courses in child care
- understand the basics of child development and learning through play
- learn about childcare protection and health and safety
- brush up their English and study skills

There will also be an opportunity to take a First Aid course. Free childcare may be available. There is a taster session on Tuesday 14th January from 9.30-12.30 at the Community Centre, Campinglands. Why not pop along to find out more?

To find out more about either of these courses or about how you could improve your English or maths and take the new National Test in Adult Literacy or Numeracy, please contact Julia Richards on 01362 860421 or Linda Brady on 01760 720222.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

for January, February and March. Any organization 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 Avenue, your name and phone number.

For details see boards at the Town Hall, Tourist Information Centre and at EcoTech.

January

Wednesday 8th 7.00 p.m. Town Council Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 9th 9.00am – 7.00pm Blood Donors, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 11th 7.30 pm Bowls Club Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 16th 7.00 p.m. Horticultural Society Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

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

Friday 24th 7.30 pm Horticultural Society Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 25th 9.00 am Narborough PCC Jumble Sale, Assembly Rooms.

February

Saturday 1st 9.00 am Save the Children Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 8th 8.00 am Pensioners Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms

Wednesday 12th 7.00 pm Town Council Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 13th 11.00 am – 8.30 pm Blood Donors, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 20th 7.00 pm Horticultural Society Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 22nd 9.00 am Necton Scouts Jumble Sale, Assembly Rooms

Saturday 22nd 7.30 pm Horticultural Society Bingo, Assembly Rooms.

March

Saturday 8th 9.00 am Save the Children Charity Fair, Assembly Rooms.

Wednesday 12th 7.00 pm Town Council Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Thursday 13th 7.00 pm Horticultural Society Meeting, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 15th 8.00 am Pensioners Coffee Morning, Assembly Rooms.

Tuesday 18th 11.00 am – 8.30 pm Blood Donors, Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 22nd 9.00am – 4.00 pm Charity Fundraising for Swaffham Pre-School, Assembly Rooms.

Wednesday 26th 11.00 am – 8.30 pm Blood Donors, Assembly Rooms.

Friday 28th 7.30 pm Horticultural Society Bingo, Assembly Rooms

Monday 31st 7.00 pm Swimming Pool Association A.G.M. Assembly Rooms.

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

The Pot Hole Hotline No. is

01953 858800

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 April Newsletter is ***Friday 14th March.***