Letter from the Mayor – Spring 2015

Wiltshire Life Awards

Many of you may already be aware that Malmesbury has been voted Wiltshire Life’s Best Wiltshire Town 2015. In my humble opinion, this is a well-deserved accolade for the whole town. The citation referred to our historic heritage and environment and how we work to look after it, as well as our wonderful community spirit; our excellent schools; the many clubs and societies for all age groups, and the way we are looking to and preparing for the future with our Neighbourhood Plan and Town Team. We all have the right to be very proud of our town and community, because we have all played a role in making Malmesbury such a wonderful place in which to live.

I want to thank Steve and Hilary Cox who had the foresight to send in the nomination for without that we would not even have been in it to win it!

I should also like to congratulate our own Robert Peel who came third in the Photographer of the Year Award, and Emily Clark of Brinkworth who won the Young Achiever of the Year.

On the topic of awards, it is time to think about our own town awards to recognise the contribution that individuals and groups make to our community. This year’s Citizen of the Year awards are going to be on a more formal footing, and will be celebrated in a dedicated presentation evening to be held later in April. If you wish to nominate a person, young person or group, please see the further details overleaf or on the Town Council website. So many people put in so many hours and effort to create the community in which we are lucky enough to live, I feel it is really important to celebrate this properly.

Cllr. Mrs Sue Poole, Mayor of Malmesbury

Upcoming Events

St Aldhelm’s Fair - Bank Holiday Monday 25th May.

Malmesbury’s very own saint will be celebrated in grand style at a “fun for all the family”, medieval fair in the Market Cross, Birdcage Walk and Cloister Gardens.

Among his many talents Saint Aldhelm was renowned for his riddles! A prominent town citizen will appear as Saint Aldhelm and encourage children to create their own riddles. Other prominent citizens may find themselves in the stocks for a soaking all for the sake of charity.

Wandering minstrels, craft and charity stalls, children’s competitions, historical talks and displays promise a great day with something for everyone. Further details will appear on the Town Council website.

Spring Clean Day

It may not seem like it on these grey February days but spring is just around the corner. With a busy schedule of festivals ahead we want our town looking at its best. So we are proposing to hold a “Spring Clean” in Malmesbury on Sunday 29th March (that’s the day as our clocks “spring forward” an hour!). We plan to be out and about taking litter from river banks and road verges, all volunteers welcome. More details to follow on the Town Council website.

Cllr. Gavin Grant
gavin.grant@btinternet.com
07780 650785
this was made up of representatives of Town and Parish Councils and support of various officers as the project progressed. It is envisaged that other buildings in Malmesbury that have spare capacity could be part of the Campus. Many organisations have been contacted. We are in the process of contacting all the parish councils in the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Area to establish their interest. We will be organising open sessions for people to visit.

Cllr. Mrs Catherine Doody

Citizen of the Year – Any person who has worked tirelessly for the community and should be recognised for their hard work. Each year Malmesbury Town Council makes 3 awards: Citizen of the Year, Organisation or Group of the Year (The Paul Dove Trophy) and Young Citizen of the Year (The John Poole Cup) which is awarded in conjunction with the Rotary Club. We would now like to hear from anyone who feels they would like to propose someone for any of these annual awards. The criteria are:-

Citizen of the Year – Any adult (26+) living in the wider Malmesbury area (Neighbourhood Plan area) who has made a significant and sustained contribution to the community.

Organisation or Group of the Year – Any organisation or group within the Malmesbury area (Neighbourhood plan area) which makes a significant and sustained contribution to an aspect of community life.

Young Citizen of the Year – Any young person (16 – 25) in the wider Malmesbury area (Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan area) who has made a significant and sustained contribution to the community. This award is made in conjunction with the Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds, and may in turn be put forward for the Rotary Club’s Young Citizen Award.

The key word in all these awards is “Community”. To propose someone for any of these awards, please complete the application form, available at the Tourist Information Office or on line, and return it to the Town Council by 16 March 2015. Each nominee will need to have a proposer and seconder, and we will need contact details for all of these. The more information you can give us, the easier it will be for us to really appreciate the contribution they make and ensure that the awards go to the most appropriate people.

The presentation evening for the Awards will be the 23rd April at 7pm in Malmesbury Town Hall.

Malmesbury Citizen of the Year 2015
Do you know someone who has worked tirelessly for the community and should be recognised for their hard work?

Taking place here in Malmesbury 17-18 APRIL 2015, the new Gardens Illustrated Festival will offer a fascinating programme of talks from leading experts and gardening VIPs. There will also be photography and garden art workshops, and a talk from Gardens Illustrated regular columnist Frank Ronan.

In the grounds of Malmesbury’s sacred Abbey Cloister Gardens you’ll find a beautiful, traditional marque, with a selection of exhibitors chosen from our favourite nurseries and suppliers of beautiful garden products. Plus freshly made teas, coffees and lunches will be served.

Full details of all events and how to book can be found at gardensfestival.com or call into the Tourist Information Office

Festival Town

"Are you a Malmesbury Festival Maker?"

One of the many successes of London 2012 were the volunteer "Games Makers". With so many Festivals happening in Malmesbury we want our own "Festival Makers" to guide our visitors to locations and facilities. If you are interested in helping watch out for the details on the Town Council website.

www.malmesbury.gov.uk/cinema.html

01666 823748

Tickets available on the door, in advance from the Town hall or online (a £1 surcharge is applied to all tickets online) at www.oxboffice.com 2pm & 5.30pm Adult £4 under 16 £3 8pm all tickets £6

LICENSED BAR & REFRESHMENTS

March Films

Monday 2nd 8pm & Friday 6th 2pm - Testament of Youth (12a)

Friday 6th 8pm & Monday 16th 8pm – Birdman (15)

Wednesday 11th 7pm (ENO) LaTraviata

Thursday 12th 7pm (NT Live) Behind the Beautiful Forevers (15)

Thursday 26th 7pm – (NT Live) A View from the Bridge

Friday 27th 2pm – The Theory of Everything (12a)

Friday 27th 5.30pm – Big Hero 6 (pg)

Friday 27th 8pm – American Sniper (15)

To all potential Allotment holders

Your Town Council believes that there are some of you out there who would like to become allotment holders. However, we have no idea what the actual demand is. So, we would like you to register your interest with the Town Hall, preferably via email administration@malmesbury.gov.uk

Once we have a clearer idea of demand, we may be able to make progress in finding suitable sites.
Moravian Church & Athelstan Museum Project

This is an initiative by the Friends of Athelstan Museum to buy the former Moravian Church for the benefit of both the museum and Malmesbury. This listed building has been neglected of late and presents a sorry picture. Once bought and restored the building will be used to extend the museum’s activities – exhibitions, school visits, lectures, social, and for an office and storage. The museum will stay at its present location in the Town Hall which is ideal. Other groups will be able to use it so everyone benefits.

The Friends have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for help. If they award us a grant, match funding will be needed. The Friends are busy collecting pledges towards this. See www.malmesburyappeal.co.uk

Annual Town Meeting

This is the meeting of the town residents (electorate) where the Council reports on the previous year’s progress and if they award us a grant, match funding will be needed. The Friends are busy collecting pledges towards this. See www.malmesburyappeal.co.uk

And finally some good news stories!

The crossing at the top of Blicks Hill over the bypass to Milbourne Lane is to be improved for pedestrians. Warning signs are to be put up on the bypass and a pavement will be created on the Blicks Hill side for pedestrians to be able to wait safely before crossing.

The proposed footpath from Cowbridge into town via Baskerville is finally to go ahead. All the relevant permissions and agreements are now in place, planning permission has been granted and work should start this summer. This will provide a much more pleasant and safer route for walkers to get into town instead of walking up the narrow pavement on Swindon Road.

The road from Whychurch roundabout down to Holloway Bridge is finally to be resurfaced. It has taken a long time, and lots of work by many people to get this scheduled, but work is due to start early in March. First, the spring, which causes water to run down the side of the road, is to be piped under the road into the rain-water drain, and then the re-surfacing can go ahead. We are looking into improving the pavement for pedestrians as well, but this work is not yet scheduled. We will continue to work on this.

We have also identified various places where cars are parking and causing obstructions or unsafe conditions. We are applying for some small stretches of yellow lines to solve these particular problems.

We submitted our comments on the Car Parking survey, and identified the Station Yard Long Stay car park as needing considerably reduced fees to encourage its use. We are also looking into better signage so that visitors to the town can find it easily. We will continue to work towards this aim.

If you know of other areas which need improvement, please let us know. If you want to report potholes, please use the MyWiltshire App as this logs the report directly with Wiltshire Council.

Contact Details

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We hope to see you there!
Thanks to advice and planning by the Town Council to reduce flood risk, the river banks on the Tetbury Avon just upstream from Stainsbridge (where the river passes under Gloucester Road) have recently been substantially cleared. Wiltshire Council, through the Malmesbury Area Board, undertook the work on the north bank and the residents of Athelstan Court organised the work on the south bank. The reason, endorsed by the Environment Agency, was to remove overhanging vegetation and trees obstructing the flow of water downstream, away from where the Football Club and Athelstan Players clubhouses are vulnerable to flooding.

Cllr. John Gundry

The Town Hall & Facilities Committee has been busy over recent months planning and organising improvements to the Council owned infrastructure of the town. The important safety work on parts of the Town Hall has continued longer than we had hoped but it was essential to ensure the fabric of this historic building is kept in good order. We understand the inconvenience caused and thank residents for their patience. The work on the St Aldhelm’s Mead toilets is progressing well with every expectation that our springtime completion target will be met. Finally the work to widen the Memorial Gates to the entrance of St Aldhelm’s Mead has been successfully completed. This modification, which has been achieved without altering the character of the old gates, will allow larger vehicles access to the park thereby potentially increasing the number of events that can be staged on this wonderful green open space. The Council would like to acknowledge and thank the skilled craftsman who accomplished this important project. Cllr. Roger Budgen

Policy and Resources Committee oversees the Council’s finance. Apart from the running costs of the Town Council, the Town Hall, White Lion Park, St Aldhelm’s Mead Play Park and looking after St. Aldhelm’s Mead, Cuckingham Mead and Cloister Gardens, each committee has its own part of the budget for their own projects. Last year (2014-15) the budget format was revised, reducing costs and giving greater clarity to spending and we were able to successfully fund many works in the town, such as: flood protection works in Cuckingham Mead to help protect the residents in that part of the town; 13 extra grit/salt bins; works to improve St. Aldhelm’s Mead Toilets and work to the drains there; new play equipment in the parks; refurbishment of the Memorial Gates. Monies were also used to match fund Highways improvement to Blicks Hill and Dark Lane, to provide a plinth and foundation for the new statue at the side of the Town Hall. In addition funds have had to come from reserves for repairs to the fabric of the Town Hall frontage and side walls as well as roof protection. Lastly, grants were also made to The Town Twinning Association, Malmesbury Football Club and Glover’s Court.

Cllr. Mrs Kim Power, Deputy Mayor

The re-development of Burnham House, a much loved home for the elderly from 1966-2010 is an amazing outcome for Malmesbury. Councillor John Thomson Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council was very keen to develop this much needed extra care facility for Malmesbury. He was supported by Councillor Simon Killane, County Councillor for Malmesbury and the Area Board, Wiltshire Council, Abbeyfield and Ledbitter, the developers. A working group has been appointed and consulted by all parties regarding many aspects of the design and build.

Burnham House Development

The plans are in and we should hear soon that they have been accepted. Work will begin soon. The site will be cleared but the bungalows will remain. There will be disruption but it will be a small price to pay for this much needed addition to our extra care provision. There will be 49 apartments, 6 one bed and 43 two bed of which 1/3 will be for sale, 1/3 for rent and 1/3 for part buy and part rent. There have been very important changes in how housing allocation is determined. The residents of the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Area will have first priority over residents from outside the area. You can register your interest by writing to Mr. D. Furlong, Business Manager, South and Isle of Wight, The Abbeyfield Society, Divisional Office West, The Old Vicarage, High Street, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 8RT

The campus

Over the last two years Wiltshire Council has promoted the concept of ‘The Campus’ in our market town. This can be a purpose built building i.e. in Corsham or using a variety of buildings that are already available i.e. Malmesbury. The main campus building in Malmesbury will be the building that was used as a Youth Centre and has the Skate Park attached. In future it will be known as the Riverside Campus. There is a planned refurbishment which was worked on by a small working party set up by Wiltshire Council,