



MALMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2016

Malmesbury Carnival

Despite some appalling weather in the run up to the procession, the event went ahead with the participants well supported by the community who lined the streets. This event is the main highlight in the Carnival calendar and the enthusiasm of the entrants shone through.

Many congratulations to all who took part in the procession as well as in all of the other events within the carnival period. Special thanks must go to the Carnival Committee for yet again laying on a superb programme of events which shows the best of Malmesbury.

Planning Applications

In our role as statutory consultees, the Town Council have formally submitted comments to the Planning Department at Wiltshire Council on both the Backbridge Farm development (231 houses) and the Gleasons development (71 houses). Our comments support the views presented within the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan.

Introduction from the Mayor, Cllr Wayne Jones



This is my first newsletter as Mayor and I wanted to let you all know how proud and privileged I am to hold this prestigious position within the town.

We have much to be proud of in Malmesbury. Our reputation as a festival town is now well established, and we have a thriving high street thanks to its predominantly independent nature. The Town Council is having a positive impact on development in the area and we are pleased to have Dyson as the town's primary employer, an international organisation currently expanding its research and development capabilities, creating more jobs and bringing more staff into the area on a daily basis. All of this makes my job much easier when I am representing Malmesbury in the wider community and I will not miss an opportunity to promote all that is good about this town.

My Mayoral Appeal will be raising funds and support for three charities this civic year.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Having worked closely with the Air Ambulance for a number of years I have witnessed first-hand the excellent work of their crews, and the vital intervention they provide particularly in the more rural and semi-rural areas such as ours. It costs £3.25 million to provide this invaluable service. Able to

reach all parts of the county within 11 minutes, it is reassuring to know they are available to our residents.

HEALS of Malmesbury

HEALS, who have recently been granted charitable status, aim to support the people in our community who find themselves in poverty or are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

They provide advice, information and advocacy, helping residents to address problems with disability and housing support, homelessness and tenancy, as well as health, family and education. They also work with other community organisations to offer financial assistance where this is deemed the most appropriate course of action. HEALS also run a Christmas Community Lunch bringing the community together at this time of celebration and goodwill.

Malmesbury and District Link

A team of volunteer drivers (and co-ordinators) who use their own cars to provide a confidential support service enabling those without transport or unable to drive, to access local services and facilities. This includes visiting the doctor, dentist, optician or chiropodist, collecting prescriptions or attending hospital.

Covering a vast area, this service is vital to many of our residents and is financially dependent on donations to help run the service and contribute towards costs. However, and more importantly, they need more volunteers so they can fulfil all of the requests for help made of them.

I am really pleased to be able to support these three worthy causes and hope you will help me to raise funds and awareness over the coming year.

I intend holding a number of fundraising events to achieve this and details will be sent out as they are confirmed.

If you wish to make donations to my Mayoral Appeal these can be made in person at the Town Hall. All donations would be gratefully received.

Community and Town Promotion

It would be fair to say there have been a few ups and downs with our community events this year, but mostly ups.

St Aldhelm's Fair saw Malmesbury residents enjoying longbow practice, sword decorating, badge making (thanks to the Athelstan Museum) viewing art outside the Abbey, and taking in the flower displays of the Flower Festival (supported by Churches Together). Hopefully you will have noticed the fabulous new market stalls, courtesy of the Town Team with financial support from the Area Board and the Town Council.

Unfortunately, the Queen's Birthday Picnic in June was rained off, but a last-minute move into the Town Hall saved the day - thanks to the hard work of the Town Councillors who set out picnic tables and chairs in the nick of time.

In July we had an opportunity to appreciate the creativity of our young artists when pupils from Malmesbury School exhibited their work in the Hub. It was one of the highlights of the summer and we look forward to seeing more from the town's talented youth in the future with other opportunities currently being planned.

(Acrylic painting below by Maddie Shields)



This summer, as always, we monitored tourist visits to the town and noted the increase in visitors both before and after the WOMAD weekend. We're pleased to say that the festival continues to draw visitors (and business) to the town. We always have a presence on the site and make the most of the

opportunity to give out information about Malmesbury and its attractions.

Visitors to the town this summer will have noticed the fabulous flower displays everywhere. Our thanks go to Hortico for the eye-catching displays and to the sponsors who invest in making our town so beautiful every year.

Disappointingly, without bigger venues in town, we lost the BBC's History Week to Winchester this year as the event became a victim of its own success. However, thanks to a local group headed by Barbara Pollard and Julia Bowen, we can look forward to an exciting Wessex History Week in October. See local press and publicity for the full schedule and details, but rest assured that the involvement of Tony McAleavy guarantees some interesting talks.

In recent years we have witnessed a decline in interest in the 'Malmesbury in Bloom' garden competition so we agreed to leave it off the events calendar this year. However, we have been informed that you are missing the competition so it will be reinstated next year. We still ran the children's 'Malmesbury in Bloom' painting competition though (sponsored by The Standard). The quality of the entries was very high and the participants enjoyed the presentation of the certificates and prizes.

On 23rd September we hosted the third WWI Commemorative Afternoon Tea, which was very well attended, and our thanks go to The Athelstan Players for providing the entertainment.

Finally, the highlight of the winter months has to be the much loved Late Night Christmas Shopping on Friday 2nd December. We will be joining forces with the Town Team again this year to stage this traditional event and kick off the celebration of the Festive Season.

Cllr Fran Vandelli

Chair of Community and Town Promotion Committee

Cemetery Extension

Work is underway to extend the cemetery at Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury in order to provide much needed additional burial space for the community. The contract was awarded to local contractor Philip Ward who began the work in early August to prepare the land already owned to the rear of the existing cemetery.

The work is progressing well and the preparatory work is on schedule to be completed by the end of October. The ground will then be weed treated and seeded, and we expect the extension to be available for use in 18 months.

Cllr Hayley Webb

Vice Chair of Joint Burial Committee

Parish Steward Scheme

Wiltshire Council re-introduced the Parish Steward Scheme in partnership with Ringway over the summer. The stewards liaise with town and parish councils to carry out minor works swiftly and efficiently. Each steward has responsibility for their own group of town and parish councils.

Under the new scheme, we will receive regular visits for minor works providing a much more frequent service. They work with the Town Council in prioritising works relating to roads, pathways, drainage and verges, and provide a 'one stop and done' service by undertaking repairs and maintenance themselves wherever possible. This could include painting railings, strimming hedges and undertaking 'minor' pothole repairs.

To help us prioritise the work to be passed to Parish Steward, it is important that homeowners and landowners understand their responsibilities. If vehicular or pedestrian access is restricted as a result of over-grown or poorly maintained hedges, shrubbery or trees you are responsible for cutting them back – this is particularly important where safety is the priority, although it should also be noted that Malmesbury is a beautiful town and none of us want to live in an untidy environment. While we will consider passing this work to the stewards this is an unnecessary use of their time when they could be focusing on more important work within our community.

Room Hire at the Town Hall

There are a number of meeting/function rooms available for hire within the Town Hall including a bar. These rooms are available throughout the year with a very competitive rate available for private hire to local residents as well as community, charity and voluntary groups hosting events for community benefit. Please contact the Town Hall or visit our website for more details.

Councillors and staff often find that residents are not clear on what Malmesbury Town Council (MTC) does and what Wiltshire Council (WC) or other local organisations do in the town. This article seeks to clarify some common confusions.

Buildings

- WC owns the Activity Zone and the Library and leases the Riverside Centre.
- MTC owns, maintains and repairs the Town Hall and runs its services. MTC has responsibility for the 15th-Century Market Cross and its use for performances and charity stalls.

Parks, Public Spaces, Cemeteries and Allotments

- MTC owns and maintains Cuckingstool and St Aldhelm's Meads, the White Lion Recreation Park, leases the play area at Reeds Farm and provides and maintains all their play equipment, and owns the Flying Monk playing field which it leases to local clubs.
- WC owns and maintains the Newnton Grove Recreation Park and the Filands Community Park.
- The Cloister Gardens are owned by Abbey House but leased and maintained by MTC, Conygre Mead is owned and managed by the Malmesbury River Valleys Trust, the small park on Holloway Hill is maintained by MTC. MTC rents Birdcage Walk from the Abbey.
- The Jubilee Gardens on Abbey Row and the River Walk from the Town Bridge towards Truckle Bridge are maintained by the Civic Trust.
- MTC owns the area of pavement and garden abutting the east of the Town Hall; the Monk in Meditation statue is on permanent loan to the Town Council.
- Together with St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council, MTC owns and runs the Tetbury Hill Cemetery.
- The Warden and Freemen own and allocate the allotments in Harper's Lane.

Highways and Parking

- WC is responsible for all the public highways (roads, pavements and public footpaths) in the town. It is WC's responsibility to maintain these, including repairs, street cleaning, litter collection and cutting the grass on verges and roundabouts.
- WC is also responsible for street lighting, street furniture and road signs.
- WC owns the Station Road, Cross Hayes, Burnham Road and Market Cross Car Parks. It is responsible for all temporary or permanent waiting restrictions and highway closures.

Refuse and Grit

- WC is responsible for all refuse matters: household waste collection, the recycling facilities in the Station Road Car Park and for some of the litter bins and dog waste bins and their emptying. MTC also provides some litter bins.
- Both WC and MTC own and maintain grit bins around the town.

Planning

- WC is the Local Planning Authority for Wiltshire and decides on all planning applications and enforcements in the county.
- MTC is the statutory consultee for these matters for

Malmesbury and provides WC with its comments on planning matters concerning the town.

Emergencies

- MTC has established a Flood Plan, including a Flood Warden scheme, and an Emergency Plan. Town Councillors and volunteers will seek to advise the community in times of flood or emergency and will liaise with WC and the Emergency Services.
- Neither WC nor MTC has any responsibility to provide flood protection equipment to householders.

Decorations, Events and Publicity

- MTC organises and maintains the distinctive 'Malmesbury in Bloom' flower baskets around the town and provides the High Street Christmas lights.



(Photograph by kind permission of Robert Peel)

- It organises community events, including Late Night Shopping (in conjunction with the Town Team), the St Aldhelm's Day Fair, the Citizen of the Year Awards and the Mayor's fund-raising events.
- The Twinning Association manages Town Twinning with support from MTC.
- The Carnival Committee organises and runs the Carnival events.
- MTC runs the John Bowen Gallery and the regular Indoor Markets, while the Artisan and Farmers' Market is run privately, supported by the Town Team.
- Movies@Malmesbury is run by a volunteer group under the umbrella of MTC.
- MTC runs the Town Council website and publicises the Town and its attractions and events locally and nationally, latterly in conjunction with the Town Team's "Discover Malmesbury" brand and website.
- MTC runs the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall which greets over 20,000 visitors a year.

Buses

- WC subsidises bus services in the town and to neighbouring towns. MTC has no involvement.

Costs

This year, MTC will receive 11% of residents' Council Tax, while the Police and Fire Services will receive 14% between them and Wiltshire Council retains the remaining 75%.

Cllr John Gundry

Chair of Policy and Resources Committee

The Geographical Area Covered by Malmesbury Town Council



This map shows the area covered by Malmesbury Town Council, with St Paul Malmesbury Without parish surrounding most of the town and Brokenborough parish to the north-west.

Reporting Highway Defects and Community Issues

Residents can report highways defects and similar problems directly to Wiltshire Council using the **MyWiltshire App**, online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts or by telephone on **0300 456 0105**.

Residents can also make suggestions for larger-scale highways and streetscene improvements to Wiltshire Council through its "Community Issues" scheme. Malmesbury Town Council can assist residents in raising Community Issues. If an improvement is implemented, the Town Council pays a quarter of its cost.

Friendship Agreement with Bad Hersfeld

At the beginning of September I had the privilege of welcoming to the town The Friends of Malmesbury from Bad Hersfeld, Germany.

The visit was the culmination of many years work to set up an informal relationship between our two towns following the discovery that Saint Lullus, a monk from Malmesbury Abbey in the 7th Century, had set up a new monastery in Hersfeld Abbey. The idea behind the friendship agreement is to strengthen the cultural links between our towns and encourage visitors in both directions.



I was very pleased to be able to sign the Friendship Agreement on behalf of the Town Council (and our residents). The document was signed on behalf of Bad Hersfeld by Cllr Gunter Exner, one of their government officials, and overseen by the Town Clerk, Jeff Penfold.

The agreement is a positive move for the town and we hope it will encourage residents from each town to visit the other town safe in the knowledge that each Town Hall will provide a friendly welcome and assistance if required.

Upcoming Events

Below are some of the events happening between now and the end of 2016.

October

- 14th HEALS Ladies Cinema Night in the Town Hall (6.00-11.00pm)
- 16th Wessex Week starts with events around the town
- 29th Indoor Market in The Hub (10.00am-2.00pm)
- 29th Clean for the Queen around the town (details to follow)

November

- 5th Bonfire and Firework Display in St. Aldhelm's Mead (Bonfire lit 6.30pm, Fireworks 7.00pm)
- 26th Indoor Market in The Hub (10.00am-2.00pm)

December

- 2nd Late Night Shopping in the Town Centre (6.00pm onwards)
- 10th Indoor Market in The Hub (10.00am-2.00pm)

For further information on What's On in Malmesbury and the surrounding area, please visit the What's On page of the Malmesbury Town Council website, www.malmesbury.gov.uk.

Alternatively information can be found at www.discovermalmesbury.life which is operated in conjunction with Malmesbury Town Team.

Your Town Councillors

Roger Budgen	Lyn Penfold
Steve Cox	Sue Poole
Catherine Doody	Kim Power
Julie Exton	Ray Sanderson
Gavin Grant	Fran Vandelli
John Gundry	Hayley Webb
Mike Jennings	Andrew Woodcock
Wayne Jones	Ken Wright

Contact details for Councillors can be found under the Who's Who section of the Town Council website.

Movies@Malmesbury

Full cinema listings can be found at www.malmesbury.gov.uk/cinema and displays and listing sheets can be found in the Tourist Information Centre. You can also sign up to a mailing list to receive information.

Tickets can be purchased through **OxBoffice.com** (there is a link from the listings page - a handling fee applies), from the Tourist Information Centre or on the door (subject to availability).