



## Councillor "Baz" Hamblin the new Mayor of Axbridge



The Council's Annual Meeting and Mayor Making took place on 8th. May. Cllr. Barry (Baz) Hamblin was elected Mayor for the year. He swore the historic Mayor's Oath of Office. Many Axbridge residents and civic dignitaries from local councils and other Somerset towns were present. Cllr. Mike Taylor was

elected and installed as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor reminded those present that Axbridge had been granted its Royal Charter even before Wells and that in 2007 the town would celebrate the 450th anniversary of its incorporation.

During his year of office the new Mayor's charity fund raising would be two-fold – cash for the BABE Appeal (Children's Hospice) and stationery and equipment for schools in Zimbabwe.

**Annual Assembly - April 24th.** 32 folk (**TWICE** last year's attendance) were at this public open meeting to hear the Mayor give an account of the Town Council's work over the past 12 months.

The guest speaker was Steven Membery a Somerset County Council archaeologist. He explained how in historical places such as Axbridge, there was almost always a need to investigate what might be buried beneath, when planning applications are considered.

Sgt. Tulley (Burnham Police) reported a general reduction in the crime figures for the area over the past year.

County Councillor, Dawn Hill and District Councillor Liz Scott both made reports of their work during the period.

Dr. Phil Wookey reported, as School Governor, another very successful year at Axbridge First School. There are currently 178 pupils on roll.

**A site to behold!!** Do you know the Council's website - [www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)?

The virtual Notice Board gives up to date news on Town Council developments, and on clubs and activities in Axbridge. It has other vital information such as how to respond to planning applications.

The What's On page lets you know about social events, and Axbridge Council meetings.

**Register your e-mail address** on the Notice Board and What's On pages to receive an e-mail when new details are posted. ("*Monitor page for changes*" box.) We will not to use this address for any other purpose.

**Town Council agendas and minutes**, copies of any formal council policies and the remits of the various committees are all published. "Oyez" newsletters can also be read on-line. The Town Council area of the website will tell you what your Council does on your behalf, what is going on at the moment, and how to get in touch about any concerns. The rubbish and recycling dates are on the website, and a contact number to complain about litter around the Town.

There are **links to other relevant websites**; to local government and to organisations in the Town. Local businesses also feature in a directory.

There is **visitor information** - how to find Axbridge, parking, eating, accommodation and what to see. There is a street map and a brief town history.

Our website is evolving. Send your ideas to us at [website@axbridge-tc.gov.uk](mailto:website@axbridge-tc.gov.uk). You can even send us a picture of Axbridge for the Home Page. Soon the website will also hold the Town Diary.

**FREE Somerset Travel Pass** If you are over 60, disabled or would be refused a driving licence on medical grounds, and you are a permanent Sedgemoor resident then you are entitled to a **FREE** bus pass. This may be used for any bus journey that starts or finishes within Somerset County between 09.00 and 23.00 on weekdays and all day at weekends and public holidays. You can apply at Cheddar Cash Office, Parish Rooms, Church Street (743392) Monday to Friday 09.00-13.00 and 13.30-15.00. You will need to take documents proving identity and proof of entitlement. Phone Sedgemoor District Council (0845 4082540) for more information.

**Chamber of Commerce** Axbridge Chamber of Commerce will hold its Inaugural AGM on Friday June 16th. at Compton House. A Ploughman's Lunch and guest speakers will follow the business part of the meeting. Nominations from members are invited for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and 2 further committee members. Names to Carole Hamblin at [rhema@onetel.net](mailto:rhema@onetel.net) or Robert Tallack at [info@comptonhse.com](mailto:info@comptonhse.com)

**Town Diary** Does your group have an event planned? This year or next! Consult the Town Diary (Paul Passey 733373 paul@westmead31me17.freemove.co.uk) and check that no other bunch has its eye on the same date!

**Dates for your diary from the Town Diary - thus far!**

24/06/2006 Open Gardens - Axbridge  
25/06/2006 Open Gardens - Axbridge  
01/07/2006 Strawberry Fayre - Square  
08/07/2006 Church Fete/Carnival Queen crowned  
15/07/2006 Axbridge Fun Day  
19/08/2006 Twinning Association Social Event  
02/09/2006 Somerset Showcase  
21/09/2006 Visiting fair  
23/09/2006 Blackberry Carnival  
18/11/2006 Progressive Supper

**Twinning Trip** The trip to Houlgate has been postponed until the weekend of November 24th.. To book your place contact Jennifer Trotman ([committee@axbridge-twinning.org.uk](mailto:committee@axbridge-twinning.org.uk)). The Association is also planning a social event on August 19th. - so look out for more details.

**Lost property box** Have you checked out the box yet? At the Co-op Stores the lost property box sits, with gloves and keys and odds and bits.

**Youth Shelter** Youngsters from the CRIS Project presented the Council with a proposal for a youth shelter on the Furlong. Councillors agreed to support their request, subject to the shelter fitting in with other field uses and to finance being available. Cllr. Mrs Browne agreed to investigate grants. The youngsters are raising funds themselves - firstly by a sponsored walk on 25th June from Dunkery Beacon to the sea.

**Saxons appreciated** Cllr. Dennis Bratt (Youth Representative) publicly thanked all the managers and organisers of the Axbridge Saxons Football Club for their hard work in promoting youth soccer in the town over the past year.

**Planning application rejected** The Council recommended rejection of an application to build two houses on land at Miri Cottage, Chestnut Avenue on the grounds that the siting of one of the houses was too close to neighbouring property.

**Standing Orders** The Town Council has agreed a set of Standing Orders, which will regulate the future conduct of Council meetings and business. This is another step towards the Council applying to become a "Quality Parish Council".

**Grant to Town Trust** The annual grant of £3640 to the Town Trust, for maintenance of the Town Hall, was confirmed and will be paid in two instalments.

**Museum Trust workshops** The Museum Trust is looking for **volunteers** to help run two "History Workshops" for **children** in August (21st. & 24th.). Phone Wendy Mace 734603 with offers - **before 7th June please**. She will then give further details.

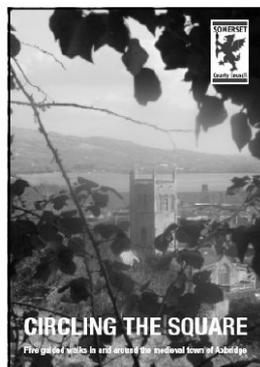
**Allowance and honorarium** Council voted to increase the Mayor's allowance - to support his local work, to promote Axbridge and to represent the Town at civic events. The allowance for 2006/7 will be £1000.

The Town Crier's honorarium will also be increased, from £75 to £100.

**Changing Rooms repairs** A sum of £5000 is to be invested in a separate bank account to meet the costs of future repairs and maintenance of the "Jack Todd Changing Rooms". It was reported that a considerable amount of petty vandalism has already taken place to the building. Preventative measures are in hand.

**New play area fencing** Work is almost finished on the replacement of the fencing around the children's play area in the Furlong. Work on the hedging around the First School's play area will be carried out in the autumn by Somerset County Council.

**Extra parking in Chestnut Avenue** The Council re-affirmed its wish to see extra parking spaces created at the far end of Chestnut Avenue east of the churchyard wall. The land belongs to Sedgemoor District Council and is currently a grassed area. Anyone who would like to comment on this proposal is invited to contact the Town Clerk.



A **FREE LOCAL WALK GUIDE** IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE POST OFFICE AND FROM AXBRIDGE MUSEUM

IT HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY **YOUR** COUNCIL WITH A GRANT FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL.  
Pick up your copy today

**This newsletter and other local information can be found on the Town Council's website**

**[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)**

Any elector, who wants information, or who has any issue to put before the Council should contact:

**Town Clerk, Mrs Vicky Brice.**

Telephone number: **07884 264033**