



# OYEZ!

May 2013

News from your Town Council

## Bonfires



There has been concern expressed about inconsiderate use of bonfires in the town. It is not illegal to light bonfires, but if they become a persistent nuisance the district council has powers to take legal action. The highway authority can also take legal action against anyone allowing smoke to drift onto a road. Any resident intending to light a bonfire is asked to consider the possible effect on their neighbours if smoke drifts into their gardens, over their washing line or even into their houses.

## Sea Cadets

The new Axbridge Sea Cadets unit will now begin its regular meetings in the first week of June in the old railway station. The group's AGM will be held there on 23rd July.

## Axbridge Town Trust

The Axbridge Town Trust was created by the Charity Commissioners in 1889 and manages the remaining assets of the former Borough of Axbridge. This was created under Royal Charter in 1557, but lost its status under The Municipal Corporations Act, 1883, which did away with many small boroughs. The assets include The Square, the Town Hall, some smaller properties and pieces of land and various artefacts.

Following the resignation of Mr Chard from the Trust and Mr Rabbitts as Clerk there are now vacancies for a new member of the Trust and a new clerk. Anyone interested in either of these positions should contact Francis Rabbitts, the present Clerk on 01934-732768 or francisrabbitts@gmail.com

## Allotments



Two vacant allotments which became available have been allocated to people on the waiting list. Three of the remaining five names on the

list, do not want to take up an allotment at the present time. Any Axbridge resident who would like to put their name on the waiting list should contact the Town Clerk (contact details overleaf).

## Water main project



Bristol Water has reported that it has identified a potential solution to the problems which have delayed this project and remedial work will begin shortly on the first section of the new water main. It is still working towards a completion date of late summer 2013 after which it will dismantle the site compound and undertake reinstatement work (including top soil, land drains and chambers). Bristol Water wishes to thank those affected by this work and apologise for any inconvenience caused by the project.

## Fair Trade café



The Church Rooms have received the necessary approvals and the café will be opened by the Mayor on 4th June 2013. Thereafter it will be open on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm.

The organisers wish to thank the Chamber of Commerce and Harvest Home Committee, in particular, for their support in equipping and setting up the café.

## Zing Somerset



Zing is a simple online way to keep track of your physical activity each month. Simply sign in, pick your activity and log your minutes. The site does the rest, keeping track of your totals, averages and targets. If you log enough minutes you'll receive a bronze, silver or gold award for your efforts.

Zing is run by Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (part of Sport England). For more information go to the website [www.zingsomerset.co.uk](http://www.zingsomerset.co.uk), which also has news and information about activities and events. It also has a phone app to help with logging physical activity.

## Recycling boxes

Complaints have been received about the mess left in the streets by the waste collectors. The council is drawing this problem to the attention of Somerset Waste Partnership, but also suggests that residents ensure that paper is weighed

down in recycling boxes so that it cannot blow about. Birds have been observed pulling foil out of the boxes, and it would help if this is bagged in the boxes.

## James McKay

The sad news of the death of former Axbridge resident James McKay has been reported in the press. In addition to his contributions to the community already mentioned there, such as being a founder member of Axbridge Community Theatre and narrator of the 2000 Pageant, he also served the council for several years as the Town Bailiff.

## Parking



### Town Car Park

An additional parking space is to be marked out on the Town Car Park.

### Sunday parking in The Square

Complaints have been received about the current 1 hour parking restriction in The Square on Sundays. The council has considered the problems raised but does not think that the suggested solutions of an extension to two hours, or removal of restrictions at weekends would actually do anything to resolve them. Such changes would lead to extended overnight parking and would not free up space for those arriving for church or Sunday lunch.

## Street Lighting

The county council is not proceeding with the proposal to reduce street lighting late at night in Axbridge.

## NHS 111

A new three digit phone number - 111 - is now available in Somerset. It is a helpline to call

if have an urgent need for medical advice or care but which is not a 999 emergency. The service is available 24 hours a day, and is free to use from both landlines and mobile phones.

## The Furlong

The council has voted funds for essential urgent safety work in the play area. Repairs will be carried out to the floors in the multiplay unit (the baboon) and to holes appearing in the safety surface by the swings.

A reminder again that The Furlong is a recreation ground intended as a children's play area and a sports field, and because of this dogs should be kept on a lead at all times. This has always been the case, but a banner and posters have now been placed on the field as a reminder.

## Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 13.5 hours during April. Tasks which were carried out included resetting a boundary stone, work at the cemetery (including tree work and tidying the waste bin) and litter picking at the Furlong and in the car park.

## Axbridge Active Living

At the Axbridge Active Living meeting held in the Town Hall on May 22nd Maggie Stanley from Pace for Living gave an interesting talk on complementary therapies, stress and anxiety management.

## Mayor making

The annual mayor-making ceremony was held in the Town Hall on 13th May, and was well-attended. Councillor John Albone was installed as Mayor for 2013-14, and Councillor Peter Yusen as Deputy Mayor.

Residents are invited to attend Town Council meetings to raise issues or just to listen. Matters may be brought to the Council's attention via the Town Clerk.

Meetings are held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday each month at 7.30 pm  
The agenda is displayed in advance outside the Town Hall and on the website

The Town Clerk, Mrs Vicky Brice, can be contacted by phone or e-mail:

Phone: (07884 264033)  
e-mail ([vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk))

The Town Council's website is at:  
[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)