



OYEZ!

January 2014

News from your Town Council

Civic awards

This year's civic service will be held on Sunday 2nd March in Axbridge Church. Civic Awards, which are given for outstanding service to the community, will this year be presented to Edith Channon and Stella Moore who were selected from a field of 14 people who were nominated.

Axbridge Remembers



An initial working group has produced outline plans for a whole community event on Saturday 19th July to mark the centenary of the First World War. It will begin in The Square in the afternoon with an open air performance based on life in

Axbridge in the summer of 1914. The evening event in St John's Church will include music, poetry, readings and displays reflecting wider aspects of the war. There will also be exhibitions in the church and the museum

We now wish to enlist wide participation in both events - everything from personal family memories to full group activities. Details will be sent to local groups during February, and will be enclosed with the next Oyez. All are welcome to an open meeting in the Town Hall at 3pm on Sunday 9th March to outline the proposals for this event and to invite people to take part. Meanwhile, if you have any individual or group ideas, or enquiries, please contact Cllr John Kendall by e-mail or phone (jk.axbridge@gmail.com or 732103)

Some date changes . . .

Council meeting: Because it would otherwise fall on a bank holiday the April Town Council meeting will be brought forward to Monday 14th April.

The Annual Assembly: will now be held on Monday 10th March at 8.00pm in the Town Hall.

Parking in The Square



Drivers are reminded that parking in The Square is permitted in marked bays only. Inconsiderate parking has several times recently caused serious delay and disruption to the bus service, even sometimes forcing it to turn back.

Axbridge Museum



The museum in King John's Hunting Lodge will open for the summer on 1st April, with an official opening by the Mayor during the Farmers' Market on Saturday 5th April.

The Museum needs more volunteers to act as custodians for the coming season. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to leave contact details on 01934-733208. There will be custodian training sessions on the 19th and 23rd March.

LED lighting

Somerset County Council has abandoned an earlier proposal for part night lighting, but is now to make Axbridge the first town in the county to convert its street lighting to LED lamps. This will result in a 66% saving in the cost of street lighting. It will also reduce light pollution as LED lamps direct light downwards. The only exceptions will be Back Lane which will continue to have part-night lighting as at present, and The Square for which LEDs may not be suitable and which is still under discussion.

Allotments available

There are currently two vacant allotments available. Anyone wishing to have an allotment now should contact the Town Clerk (contact details overleaf).

Mayor's cadet

A Mayor's cadet is to be appointed to support the Mayor in civic events in Axbridge. A cadet will be appointed by the incoming mayor each year, chosen from the members of the uniformed youth organisations in the town such as the Guides or Sea Cadets.

Mayor's Banquet

The annual Mayor's Banquet will be held on Saturday 12th April 2014. Further details will appear in the next edition of Oyez!

Cheddar Reservoir 2

The Council has advised Sedgemoor District Council that it broadly supports the planning application for a second Cheddar reservoir, but that it does have some highways/pedestrian safety concerns which it hopes will be addressed in view of the increased traffic:

- The speed limit should be reduced and the lack of a footpath addressed on Cross Lane.
- Measures to improve pedestrian safety, including lighting and footpaths, should be considered at the junctions at each end of Upper New Road known as the *Fiveways junction* and the *Magic Roundabout*.

Micro-chipping dogs



The law is changing and from April 2016 all dogs will be required to have a micro-chip. Sedgemoor District Council will be holding a free chip fitting session in Burnham in April.

For further information phone the dog warden service on 01278 435210

Coffin Lane campaign

The campaign group is pursuing the provision of a safe pedestrian and cycle route between Axbridge and Cross. Consultation has shown overwhelming support. A symbolic walk from The Square to the New Inn at Cross will be held on Saturday 9th March, starting at midday - everyone welcome.

Disabled parking

The Council has agreed that existing disabled users living close to Moorland Street car park should not be disadvantaged by the change of ownership when the Council takes it over. The council will therefore give further consideration to avoiding this.

Station paths

The Council has raised no objection to proposals from the Axbridge Sea Cadets unit to modify footpaths in the vicinity of the old station building. The unit would like to make the following:

- to re-route the footpath which currently crosses the by-pass midway along the length of the all-weather court to go round the western end of the court to the steps to Back Lane instead of past the station building
- to close the path which leads from the back of the station down steps into the Churchyard. There is an alternative route via the steps to Back Lane and a gate to the churchyard.

Town maintenance contractor

The contractor worked 17 hours in December including litter picking on the Furlong, work on the Furlong hedge, litter picking in the car park and repair of the bench in Jubilee Road.

Litter & recycling

There is concern that a quarter of the town maintenance contractor's time over the last year has been spent on litter picking. Some of the litter is thought to be wind-blown from re-cycling boxes. Residents are asked to secure the contents of boxes to prevent this, and to put boxes out as late as possible (ie. not before the evening prior to collection).

The council is to approach Somerset Waste Partnership about the problem of litter being dropped by recycling crews.

Money advice sessions

Sedgemoor District Council is holding a series of money advice sessions for residents to discuss their financial problems. Sessions, held in conjunction with The Money Advice Service, will be held at Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater on the 12th & 26th February and 12th & 26th March. To make an appointment phone 0845-408-2540 or e-mail customerservices@sedgemoor.gov.uk

Anti-social behaviour survey

The police are asking for people's views on anti-social behaviour and want to hear about your experiences to help them to work with communities to reduce and prevent this. You can complete an online survey by going to:

www.consultation.avonandsomerset.police.uk/poli ce/anti-social-behaviour

Guarding against burglars

Following a series of break-ins in the Cheddar Valley the police have issued guidance on protecting homes from burglary. It is too long to include here but the advice can be found on the Town Council website at:

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk/news.html

Thank you to . . .

The Sports & Social Committee would like to thank Richard Tilley who shredded the town centre Christmas trees for no charge.

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 next meeting will be on Monday 17th February

The agenda is displayed in advance outside the Town Hall and on the website

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

07884 264033 vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk

The Town Council's website is at: www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk