



Sawbridgeworth Town Council Newsletter

Issue 15 - Spring 2014

Message from the Mayor

As I write this we are at the end of our first year in our permanent home and almost at the end of the first very wet month of 2014. We, here in Sawbridgeworth, have been spared the full force of the wet weather and apart from some very large puddles have not suffered too much inconvenience. However, one instance, unrelated in any way to the weather was the number of power cuts we experienced during the Autumn, one ultimately resulted in the October Council meeting being cancelled for the first time ever as far as I can recall. The second problem related to the power supply for the switching on of the Christmas Lights. The power company offered profuse apologies for the disruption in supplies. On the bright side the big Switch-on was a huge success and many compliments have been received from residents. The Town Council staff pulled out all the stops to make it a truly memorable event helped by Councillors, Police and the local traders who stayed open.

Since my last message I have attended the Remembrance Day Service, the Lights of Love ceremony in Baker's Walk, opened the Isabel Hospice Shop in Bell Street, the ATC 30th Anniversary Service and Dinner and many other events as Town Mayor.

This year holds much to interest and engage our residents – the new Town Action Plan is being formulated with the active participation of local people. The initial proposals will be on the Agenda at the Annual Town Meeting on 14th April. Also this year we will see the start of the many acts of commemoration being organised to remember the fallen in the First World War.

Finally, can I remind residents that my Civic Dinner is on 26th April – my chosen charity is Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of Josh Taffs - everyone is welcome. Tickets from the Council Offices – price £35

Cllr Mrs Angela Alder

Town Mayor



Sawbridgeworth *Farmers' Market*

2014 Market Dates

Saturday 1st March
 Saturday 5th April
 Saturday 3rd May
 Saturday 7th June
 Saturday 5th July

Dates For Your Diary



Central Surgery - Open Meeting

Thursday 06 March at 7pm
 Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club

Mayor's Charity Boot Sale

Sunday 16 March, 10am - 2pm
 Bell Street Car Park
 £10 Car / £12 Van / £15 Large Van
 To book a pitch contact: Joanne Kenny
 Tel:01279 724537

Mayor's Civic Dinner

Saturday 26 April
 Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall
 Tickets £35
 To book tickets please contact: Joanne Kenny
 Tel: 01279 724537

Housing Options - Future Town Proposals

Saturday 05 April, 9:30-1pm
 Town Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor
 Drop in exhibition to ask questions and view details on proposed East Herts District Plan

Fun on the Field

Sunday 08 June, 12noon onwards
 Bullfields Playing Field

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 Town Council

Clerk's Notes

Bell Street car park - We carried out a survey in January to ask people about the First Hour Free Scheme for parking in the Bell Street car park. Over 60% of respondents realised that it was the Town Council who were paying for the Scheme and not surprisingly 99% of people said they would like the Scheme to continue. The Town Council has responded by budgeting to continue to pay for the scheme into the new financial year, although this will be reviewed again in August 2014, the second anniversary of the Scheme being put in place.

Sawbobus - The big Sawbobus continues to be a popular and well used facility provided by the town council. In the last twelve months we have provided an incredible 25,680 passenger journeys. Although the cost of the service is going up and the income we receive remains the same, the Town Council has decided that the service should continue to be provided **free** to all passengers with concessionary passes.

Sawbobus 2 - There has been very little take-up for the service to the three hospitals in our area, the Herts and Essex, the Rivers and the Princess Alexandra. So we have decided to change the service from running to a timetable to be on a "Dial-a-Ride" basis on Tuesdays and Fridays. To book a ride on the service please ring us on 01279 721447.

Christmas Lights - The Christmas Lights event last year was a huge success with an estimated 3,500 people crowding the town centre. And here's some advance notice for your diaries – the date for the Switch-on-Event for 2014 will be Friday 28 November. The Isabel Hospice Lights of Love ceremony will be on Saturday 29 November.

Farmers Market - The market continues to be a popular event for the community. As a result of a survey we conducted last year amongst traders and shoppers we found the overwhelming response was that people would like the market to be monthly and on a Saturday. So from April this year but with the exception of the December market we will continue to hold the market of the first Saturday of every month.

Budget 2014-15 - Lots of hard decisions this year, but despite pressures on our income the Town Council have determined that it will maintain events and services and continue to fill in the gaps left by other authorities.

Richard Bowran
Town Clerk



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

The onset of the winter weather perhaps caught us all by surprise; with the usually expected snow replaced by downpours of heavy rain. Hertfordshire itself saw some localised flooding, however, properties remained largely unaffected with the disruption sticking to our roads, particularly those in the rural areas

We urge residents to drive safely and sensibly. We have been assisting with evacuations in The Hadhams, Standon, Puckeridge and Hertford. More locally, roads were flooded and impassable, and Police, along with other Blue Light services and local partners all teamed together to ensure the flooding was managed appropriately. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all residents to please comply with road closures and diversions. Although it may not always be apparent as to why a road is closed, it is only done for your safety.

We have also identified a new crime trend, targeting our elderly and vulnerable members of the community.

The scam works in different ways. The offender calls the resident, purporting to be a police officer, and tells them they are investigating a fraud on their bank account. On occasions, they claim to be working for the victim's bank.

The offender asks for account information, including card numbers, security number and pin number. Sometimes the offenders will ask victims to 'key in' their PIN number into the phone – the number is then captured by the offenders. On other occasions the victim is asked to withdraw large sums of money ready for collection.

"In these incidents, and in most cases in the county, the victims have been aged in their 60s, 70s and 80s and we would urge people to share this information and advice with their older relatives, friends or neighbours so they are aware.

"The advice is very clear - police officers would NEVER ask you to withdraw cash or reveal your personal bank account details, including your PIN or bank card. NEVER give this information out over the phone and visit your local branch if you have any concerns about your account.

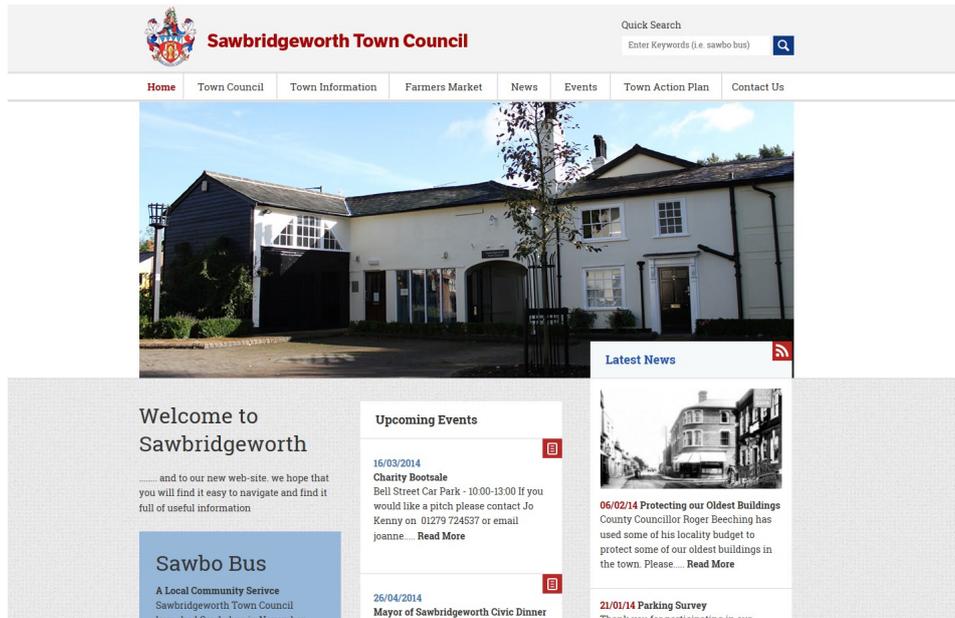
"If you do get a call, use a mobile phone if you have one to call police or leave the landline for at least 5 minutes before attempting to make an outside call. You can always test the line first by phoning a friend or relative."

Contact Details: 999 Emergency
 101 Non-Emergency
 0800 555 111 Crime Stoppers

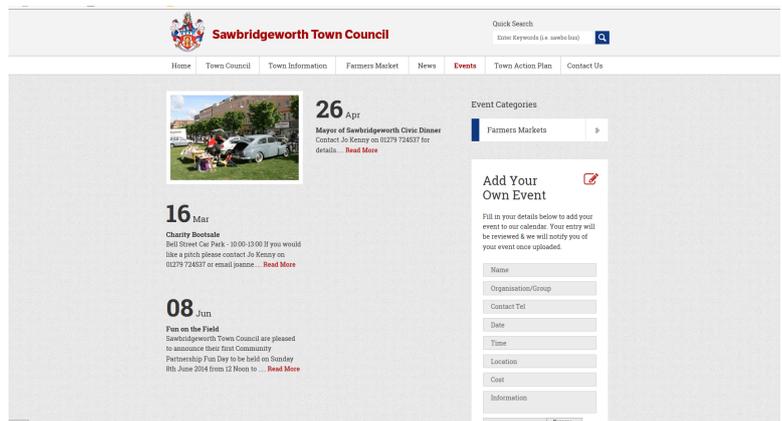
New Website for Town Council

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our new website, created for us by local company Rubber Cheese. Online communication is important to many of us and we take for granted how easy it is now to have instant information at our fingertips. Our hopes and ambitions for this new website are to keep you in touch with what's happening in our town. If you are more adventurous you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for instant updates, for example alerts with regards to weather conditions, road closures, news and latest events.

Please find us today at www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk



If you are a local group and wish to alert us about an event in the town, you can do so by completing your details online under the **Events** tab - we will then be alerted about your event and can upload it to the website



Please have a good look around to find information. Uploaded for you are the Agendas and Minutes of Council Meetings, including Planning, Amenities and Finance. Town information includes halls for hire and contact information, your local councillors, grant information, local amenities and the latest news on the Town Action Plan for 2014-2018.

Most importantly is the opportunity for you to sign up to our Newsletter, when we have something important to tell you, this can be emailed directly to you and alert you to what is happening in the town, we promise not to pester you though with endless amounts of information just a monthly bulletin in case you have missed something.

We hope that you enjoy the new website, please leave us a comment and tell us what you think about our new look— if there is room for improvement then please let us know this too!

Contact Your Town Councillors



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Sawbridgeworth Town Council

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Town Projects Manager: Joanne Kenny joanne.kenny@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk
Town Ranger - Steve Parrish

Admin Officers - Part-time
Gill Abbott - Planning & Cemetery
gill.abbott@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk
Laura Carter - Community buses, allotments & reception
laura.carter@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk
Sue Adams - Finance
sue.adams@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk (Finance)

Community Bus Drivers - Part-time Tracey Dobinson, Ken Knight & Cyril Lumley



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