

Downham Market Town Council Newsletter ~ October 2011



Almost Six Months as Mayor

May 17th seems a long time ago now, but that was the day I was elected as Mayor of Downham Market and Robin Pegg as Deputy Mayor and it's been full steam ahead since. The first Full Council meeting was held the next day where Chairman of our Standing Committees were designated and they are, Cllr Charlie Pyatt – *Finance*, Cllr John Fox – *Town Hall*, Cllr John Doyle – *Property*, Cllr Frank Daymond – *Planning & Environment* and Cllr Jenny Groom – *Community Development*.

As a Councillor one of my main concerns is can the amenities of the Town support the amount of house building that is going on now and that which is planned in the very near future. We are constantly asking the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and Norfolk County Council what provisions they are making and intend making to ensure that the infrastructure can support our growing population, which we estimate now must be approaching the 10,000 mark.

As a Town Council we try to make ourselves heard, but sometimes we are completely ignored which was the case when Network Rail removed the barrow crossing in the name of health and safety. We had had meetings with them and asked that they did not remove the barrow crossing but place barrier gates at either side of the barrow crossing so as people could cross the lines safely, but no, up came the barrow crossing and now people, some with prams, suitcases and wheelchairs have to use the road crossing with all the traffic and no proper pavement. I fail to see how that in the name of health and safety is safer than a gated barrow crossing where commuters would have been safe from trains and traffic. Cost has been mentioned by Network Rail but it has surely got to be cheaper than the £1m + bridge they originally wanted. Another case where local people's opinions were not acted upon is Norfolk County Council's decision to press ahead with the Waste Incinerator at Saddlebow, Downham Market Town Council has lodged its opposition to the development with the County. Some welcome

news is that R.A.F. Marham is staying which is brilliant for the community and economy.

"The Community" are words I often use, because we have around 150 different clubs, societies and organisations in our Town where people can come together and get to know one another. Raising the flag at the start of The Downham Market annual 8 day festival was one of the very first civic duties I was asked to perform, 28 organisations put on some 34 events which Ray & I, Robin & Jill did our very best to attend. Our Twinning Club is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and Ryston Runners their 25th, The Royal British Legion is 90 years old and our Downham & District Branch is only 1 year behind.



Mayor Val Starling
at the Horticultural
Society Show

It is a tribute to the committees and members that we have so many community groups, have a look at

The Town Council's Web Site and see if there are any on the list of groups you wish to join or help. There will be a Community Fair in the Town Hall on October 22nd, please come along for a visit, chat and cup of tea.

IF YOU ARE PART OF A COMMUNITY GROUP AND WOULD LIKE TO USE THE TOWN COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER AS A WAY OF CONTACTING RESIDENTS WITH YOUR NEWS THEN PLEASE LET US KNOW.

People keep asking me if I am enjoying being Mayor, well it's a very varied position, from chairing meetings, attending social and civic events to donning High Vis jackets and litter picking the streets for the Downham in Bloom competition, but yes on a whole I am and of course it is an honour to hold the position.

Remember the general public are welcome at any of our meetings, so if you want to, come along or look out for our open surgeries outside the Town Hall

THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE HOLDING A COFFEE MORNING IN THE TOWN HALL BAR ROOM ON SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER, HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Regards

Cllr Val Starling (Mayor of Downham Market)

Downham Market and District Royal British Legion celebrates their 90th Anniversary in 2012



The meetings of the Royal British Legion take place at Dennis Sneezum Court - the Men's Branch every two months and the Women's Branch monthly. New members are always welcome – ex service personnel or not.

The Men's Branch has a Welfare Section which is there to help any ex service man or woman or their family who is in need of help or advice.

The Royal British Legion will be leading a gathering on the Downham Market Town Square for two minutes silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 2011. The following Sunday, 13th November, the Remembrance Parade will take place meeting at the Town Square at 2pm and marching to the War Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony with a short service For the Fallen and from there to St Edmund's Church for a 3pm Service of Remembrance.



Mayor Val visits the RBL 90th Anniversary Stall

On Sunday November 6th a special Band Concert will take place in Downham Market Town Hall with Standards from the local District and on Saturday 19th November there will be a Social Evening at the Conservative Club.

The Annual Branch Dinner takes place in April and throughout the year the Men and Women work together with stalls and coffee mornings to boost funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Why not give us a visit – everyone is most welcome - our membership begins at 16 years old. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information ring 01366 383129

Cllr Mrs Vera Botham

(RBL Women's Branch Chairwoman)

ANGLIA IN BLOOM

The ethos of Anglia in Bloom is to get as many sections of the community as possible involved in enhancing their section of the



Ashville House Garden

community we all share, each of us can do little but if each of us does a little the overall effect can be huge. This years award ceremony was held in Colchester in mid September and there will be a de-brief later in the year when the judges explain to us how they feel improvements can be made. There are five stages of the awards the top being Gold and for the third year running we received the second best, Silver Gilt. There are various sub categories and in two of these we won awards this year. The Sovereign Centre won an award for their World Garden in the community project section and the Railway Station won an award in the industrial and commercial property section. The Best Kept Garden Competition continues to grow in popularity and the children's seed trays were spectacular again this year and to my mind each and every one deserved a prize, thank-you to all those who entered. I must also thank the Borough Council for their displays and the members of the Downham in Bloom committee for all their hard work especially our Events Co-ordinator who puts the whole thing together. We are always looking for committee members or helpers so if you think this sort of thing would be of interest to you come along to one of our meetings, you will be most welcome.

Cllr John Doyle *(Chairman)*

COMING EVENTS for the rest of the year

7th October.....Craft & Collectables
 15th October.....Craft & Collectables
 22nd October.....Community Fair
 27th October.....Cinema - "GREASE"
 28th October.....Halloween Special
 29th October.....Craft & Collectables
 4th November.....Craft & Collectables
 12th November.....Craft & Collectables

24th November.....Cinema - TBA
 26th November.....Craft & Collectables
 27th November.....Christmas Lights Switch On
 2nd December.....Craft & Collectables
 2nd December.....School choirs on the Square
 9th December.....School choirs on the Square
 10th December.....Craft & Collectables
 22nd December.....Cinema - "Jane Eyre"

Downham Market Youth Council is eager to involve more members. They meet monthly on a Thursday evening. If you would like to be part of this Youth Council please contact the Town Council Office on 01366 382963 or email admin@downhammarkettc.co.uk for more information.

WATER FESTIVAL

The Water Festival was on the 14th August this year and I feel it was an outstanding success, everyone seemed to enjoy the day and the weather was again very kind to us, also this



year I managed to stay afloat. The Water Festival is now well established in the towns calendar thanks to the hard work of the

committee and also all those volunteers who help out on the day. Our Events Co-ordinator, Kerry Heffernan, worked extremely hard in getting sponsorships and helping to organise the day and Gable Events who supplied the Dragon Boats were as efficient as ever. We should also all thank Heygates Mill and Thurlow Nunn for allowing us to use their land on the day and the sponsors who made the whole thing possible including a magnificent £339 donated by those of you who came to the event on the day. The Water Festival really has two sections, the water events and the shore based events. The money we raise through sponsors and the shore based events subsidising the eighteen Dragon Boat teams on the river who are the spectacle and make the event what it is. This year again it has been a pleasure to arrange for the people of Downham Market to enjoy a free fun day out at no cost to the Council or the precept payers of our town whatsoever. Which is what the original remit of the Water Festival was, is and will continue to be.

Cllr John Doyle (Chairman)

HOWDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Howdale Community Centre is Downham's best kept secret. It has 6.4 acres and a large Community Centre. This was purchased from Norfolk County Council by the Town Council for the benefit of our community. It provides a large playing field for Downham Town's Football Club for the ages 7 - 13 years. The local Scouts have their headquarters here and very soon a new skatepark will be built on the site. Again funding sourced by the Town Council. The Youth Hut is also situated here for the benefit of the youth group.

The Community Centre itself is used by a pre-school group, Clever Clogs, Silverdale Club, Tap'n Tone, D.A.D.S for their rehearsals and the Young Carers' Group. It is also available for general hire. Information for all enquiries is available from the Town Council Office telephone number 01366 387770. The Town Council has just taken over Corporate Charity Status to run all aspects of the Centre. In the last year substantial improvements have been made to the heating system and toilet facilities to include special disabled facilities. The building was re-decorated by the Community payback scheme, new double glazed windows have just been fitted and a new alarm system has been installed together with security gate and perimeter fencing.



Howdale Community Centre

Unfortunately, at present, we are suffering from a spate of vandalism but with the extra vigilance of the wider community we are hoping this will be eradicated.

Cllr Charlie Pyatt (Chairman)

BIG CLEAR UP DAY

It was decided by the Environmental Committee to re-introduce a Clear Up day around the town to tie in with the Anglia in Bloom competition.

Town Councillors and partners worked around the town whilst the scouts, cubs, guides and brownies made a fantastic job of tidying up around the Scout hut. Several residents also cleared up their neighbourhoods so that when the big day arrived, the town looked at its best. It is hoped that this will be an annual event with more residents and organisations taking part next year.

Cllr Pam Sharp (Co-ordinator)



Some Team Members Prepare for Big Clear Up Day

Community Payback rides into town!

For well over a year now, groups of men and women from the Community Payback section of Probation have worked around the town, clearing up our 'grot spots' as in the bridge behind Tesco's (4 times unfortunately), carrying out general maintenance work along with painting and decorating various buildings.

The Willows Nature Reserve has been one of their larger projects and in fact is on-going, depending on the season. They have cleared away leaves and debris, installed and painted the seats, cleared away overgrown weeds/reeds from the area whilst repairing the sign and have even helped out with the pond when it froze over last winter.

Another of their projects has been to decorate

the Howdale Community Centre, the Youth Hut and they have almost finished painting our Town Hall.

Future projects will include painting fences at the Sovereign Centre's new World Garden, helping weed the garden when time permits and painting the outside of the old Fire Station before the winter sets in.

Community Payback work alongside the County, Borough and Town Councils, Freebridge Housing Association and local Churches – in fact any Authority or Charitable organisation that needs help can contact Pam Sharp who is their Downham Market voluntary Co-ordinator, via the Town Council offices.

Cllr Pam Sharp (Co-ordinator)

Town Hall Cinema

With our projector now installed in the Town Hall the monthly cinema presentations are becoming a regular outing for some of our residents. Despite the request that we show the "old musicals" it is obvious that the best attractions are the more recent films. When there are popular new releases then we will show them as soon as we can. In between times some "oldies" will be shown.

Cllr John Fox (Cinema Team Leader)

Downham Market Town Council
TOWN HALL CINEMA



Thursday
27th Oct
2011

Doors open 7pm
Film Starts 7.30pm

Tickets priced
£3.50
available from
Downham Market
Town Council
Offices
during normal
opening hours

Supported by


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DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCILLORS and the WARDS they represent

Mrs Vera I Botham	383129	South	Robin A Pegg (Deputy Mayor).....	385815	North
Frank E Daymond	383618	North	Charlie Pyatt	388023	East
John W Doyle	382386	South	Jeffrey J Reed	388986	South
Mike P Ford	383578	South	David Sharman	381393	East
John K Fox	382963	North	Mrs Pam B Sharp	07713009554	North
Jenny Groom	383963	Old Town	Tony D Stacey	383120	Old Town
Becky L Judge	382166	East	Val F Starling (Mayor)	387170	Old Town
Kathy A Mellish	387972	Old Town	Malcolm D Starreveld	07837 265752	East
Patrick W Neate	384852	Old Town	Stephen C Teverson	385117	North
Mrs Sheila M Nunn	383243	South	Mrs Yvonne Thompson.....	07876 688727	East

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Town Clerk: Mrs Jean Markwell ~ *Deputy Clerk:* Mrs Sara Porter

Receptionist/Administrator: Miss Sarah Mawby ~ *Events Coordinator:* Mrs Kerry Heffernan

Minutes Secretary: Stephen Nunn

General Duties Officers: Ian Drury, Mark Errington & Trevor Goodrum

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**Office Hours: 10am to 4pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
10am to 12noon Tuesday**

