From the (stand in) Editor
Welcome to edition eight of Higham Times. In this edition you will find lots of news from around the town. If you would like any events advertised please let me know by the 9th of October.
I can be contacted via the Town Hall or email info@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk.
Thank you for your support.

Danielle Edwards

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of Higham Town Council.

“MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR”

Firstly, I would like to thank the Town Hall Staff and the many others who helped my Mayor Making Meeting and Reception to run so smoothly. My family, friends and guests were very impressed with it all.
Since then I have attended Rushden Mayor Making and Chichele Garden Fair where I judged the children’s paintings and presented prizes.
I opened the new Serve Therapy Centre in Upper Kings Avenue, which will be an important asset for the town’s elderly.
Higham Ferrers Secret Gardens was again an eye-opener with several new gardens. It was especially good to see the new ones from Grasmere and Windermere taking part. Unfortunately, despite starting at 1.30 p.m., I failed to visit 10, 11 and 15 after running out of time, sorry.
I finished the month of June by attending Higham Ferrers Business Forum Lunch Meeting and visiting The Shrubbery Strawberry Fayre, where I enjoyed meeting several of the residents.
On 4th July I went to Newton Bromswold Village Fete where I judged the fancy dress competition which was themed on Alice in Wonderland.
My Civic Service, led by my Chaplain, Rev. Margaret Eales of the Hope Methodist Church, which will be held (by kind permission of Father Joe) at St Peter’s Catholic Church on Sunday 20th September at 3 p.m., followed by afternoon tea in the Church Hall. I hope people from all Churches will attend.
Fundraising events will be taking place during my year, which will be posted on the Council Website and the Notice Board.
I am hoping to launch Higham Ferrers Mayor’s Awards when I will be looking to honour individuals for their work and commitment within the town over a number of years. I know how important the voluntary sector is to the community. More about that in the next edition.
Have a good summer
Cllr Richard Gell, Mayor of Higham Ferrers
News
This month we have a new trader joining us, Real Artisan Bread who produce the most wonderful bread. It is bread made with flour, water, yeast and salt (other natural ingredients can be added). The process takes between 14-40 hours and is free of any kind of enhancer or agents that make up most of the bread sales in the U.K. With supermarkets, high street bakers and market stalls still using the Chorleywood Process (counting for approximately over 80% of bread sold in the U.K.), it is a sad truth that a lot of people will never have eaten real artisan bread. However with a renaissance in the craft and with sales of pre-sliced white falling, now is an ideal time to try real artisan bread.

Free raffle
At our June Farmers' Market we had a free raffle where customers could win prizes kindly donated by our fantastic stall holders. We had over 50 prizes donated and 3 very lucky winners.

Dates for 2015

25TH AUGUST        26TH SEPTEMBER        31ST OCTOBER
28TH NOVEMBER      19TH DECEMBER
Macmillan Nurses receives a boost to funds of £2800

Cllr Mrs Pam Whiting, wife of the late Cllr George Whiting, Mayor of Higham Ferrers 2014/15, presents a cheque for £2800 to Sally Fordyce from Macmillan Cancer Support. During his term of office George held several events to raise funds for his chosen Charity.

Following the Regulation 14 consultation the plan was amended to take account of responses received. The final document along with several supporting documents has now been submitted to East Northamptonshire Council for the next stage. They have undertaken the legal check of the plan and in their opinion it complies with the relevant statutory requirements. The plan is now subject to consultation under Regulation 16 of the regulations which will run until 17th August.

After the close of the Regulation 16 consultation they will send all relevant documents to the Examiner. It is likely that he/she will consider these during September, with a hearing session (if necessary) held during September/early October. It should be noted that the “default position” for Neighbourhood Plans is that the Examination will be undertaken through written representations. Later during the autumn (2015), the Examiner will report and East Northamptonshire Council will then be in a position to set up a referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. If the majority of you who vote support the Neighbourhood Plan they would look to “make” (adopt) the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan early in 2016.
The Pavilion (youth group) is slowly getting more and more youngsters through the doors ages from 8-15 years. We are currently throwing the ideas around on what the youngsters want to do, but at the end of the day, you cannot make them join in. Children have enough structure at school so they don’t tend to want it at the club. I know it is difficult to please everyone, however we do have rules in place, for safety, respect for others and the environment. We are here for all ages to come and socialize. Our aim is for them all to have some fun playing pool, table tennis, outdoor games in the summer and plenty of indoor games. Teenagers have for a long time been blamed for hanging around areas and criticised so this was the reason for starting this club. It’s taken 7-8 months to get up and running and the numbers can vary from 16 – 32. We have activities for all ages inside and outside. I would like to thank the leaders that are helping, Jane Eames (Secretary), Jane Smeathers (Treasurer), Simon Moore, Jody McSmith, Daryl Roberts and Derek Lawson (Chairman). We are still looking for volunteers for the club and some more committee members to jump on board. If you would like more information on the club you can contact me on 07507176719 Nikki Roberts (Manager Leader)
PLEA TO USERS OF THE OPEN SPACE NEAR ‘THE WROE’

Now that the summer is finally upon us the open space areas in Higham are being well used. One of the complaints we receive is about littering and anti-social behaviour around the green space at the Wroe. Rubbish such as plastic juice and water bottles, paper, crisp and chocolate wrappers, plastic bags and even unwanted sandwiches are being discarded within 10 metres of a litter bin. When ball games are played – residents have complained about balls hitting cars and balls being retrieved from private property by cutting through hedges. Trees are also being broken.

If you or your family use this area please can you not drop litter and can you respect the property of the residents who live round there. Thank you.
Each Quarter, the numbers are growing in the Higham Ferrers Business Forum which means that more and more business people are talking to new and potential customers that they may not have had as customers beforehand.

The last meeting at the end of June was in the beautiful surroundings of Chichele College in College Street, on a delightful afternoon, and lunch was served in the gardens after presentations from two companies in the town, and from the new Mayor, Cllr. Richard Gell.

For a humorous start to the lunchtime session, Claire Short from Ashgrove Health introduced everybody to the world of osteopathy, from treating 2-month old babies, to elderly horses, with the odd camel and human in between! Most of their work however, is focussed on humans and the Ashgrove Clinic can offer help and assistance to aches and pains all around your body. Based in Lancaster Street, they are only minutes from the A14 and are increasing their customer base around East Northamptonshire every month.

Were you aware that there is a large company based in Higham Ferrers which provides high-level strategic advice to government, public sector and commercial clients on renewable energy? Rolton Group in Midland Road has over 60 designers and advisors employed at their offices, providing an established engineering consultancy with experience in projects all over the world. They have been instrumental in designing with Jaguar Land Rover, the Ministry of Defence and the Crown Estate, amongst many others, and are recognised thinkers, speakers and advisors in this area of energy strategy.

Cllr. Richard Gell became the Mayor of Higham Ferrers for the second time in his career as a councillor at Higham Ferrers Town Council. Having been a councillor for over 50 years, he was last the Mayor in 1983.

Cllr. Gell gave a quick overview on some of the projects the Council is working on this year, including the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, and working closely with the development of Rushden Lakes, the Rushden East project, and local community events in the town.

This year, money raised for the Mayor’s Charity will be donated to local groups connected with the town, and having seen the town grow by 32% in the last twelve years, the Mayor finished by advising the businesspeople of Higham Ferrers that there are many opportunities to be had, as the population continues to grow in the town and our surrounding areas.

The Higham Ferrers Business Forum was formed in 2014 in order to bring together business people from around the town and surrounding areas once a Quarter, so they could network and develop relationships for business, and businesses are encouraged to talk to others about what they do, in order to develop more sales and relationships with people in the town.
The group meets on the last Thursday of the Quatermonth – March, June and September, and then on the second Thursday in January, at various locations in the town from local pubs, business offices, function rooms, the medieval Chichele College and the Town Hall.

As the organisation grows, more and more businesses are getting involved and many have generated additional trade by being able to let everyone know about what they do. There are over 200 office-based and home-based businesses in the Higham Ferrers town boundary, and we are always looking for new members to come and join us once a Quarter.

The next meeting is on Thursday 24th September, at Chichele College, and the fee is £10.00 per meeting which includes a buffet lunch (provided by a local business!). Call Tracey on 01933 410000 to join our next meeting, or email to tford@wilsonbrowne.co.uk
We look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues.

**Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Partnership**

The events so far this year have been very well supported and now we can look forward to August 29th Garage Sale 9am-1pm.
To register your garage (cost £5.) in order to be on the map, call Liz on 07766 406298. Maps will be available on the Square, on the day.

Oct.16th Cheese and Wine evening in the Bede House.
Nov. 21st Christmas Sparkle. Keep a look out for the posters.

Students from Moulton College are now involved with implementing their ideas for the newly developing area in the corner of the Cloister Garden at Chichele College. It will be interesting to see this next Spring. The planning of this was part of their exam work at the Moulton College.

Town tours are now taking place fairly regularly and at ENC Kate Williams is liaising with me for some Tours in September in the week of the Nene Valley promotion that she is organising.
This will certainly help in putting Higham Ferrers firmly on the map.
CHICHELE COLLEGE ART EXHIBITION

The historic walls of Chichele College in Higham Ferrers proved to be a wonderful location for Northamptonshire artists Marlene Snee and Tamsin Edwards’ recent exhibition. Despite the many other attractions and events being held locally, these two creative ladies were pleasantly surprised by the high number of visitors they received, and they greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many interesting people. Some had travelled from further afield and had never had cause to visit the town before. All were impressed with what they found, from the lovely architecture and buildings, the farmer’s market, welcome refreshments in the Bede House, through to the many independent retailers. Many visitors to Chichele also commented on what a refreshing eclectic variety of artwork was on display. Marlene exhibited her delicate Chinese influenced paintings as well as some contemporary landscapes, whilst Tamsin’s rather quirky fantasy artwork and jolly illustrations caused much interest. Maybe not all the works suited all people’s personal taste, but definitely there was ‘something for everyone’. Sales were optimistic for both artists, and poet Caroline Buckby who was selling copies of her book “And it goes like this …” to raise money for the Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service was pleased with the generosity of visitors. Examples of their work can be seen at [www.minigallery.co.uk/Marlene_Snee/] & [www.texart.co.uk]
1st Higham Ferrers Girls Brigade

With 2014 being such a wonderful year for 1st Higham Ferrers, filled with Fellowship, Fun & Friendship as we celebrated our Centenary, was it possible to go forward from that milestone and enjoy the following year just as much??

Well, the answer is yes we have!! 2015 is turning out to be just as eventful. We have a new Captain (Lisa Adams) who has plans and vision for our future guiding a strong team of Officers (leaders). A Sponsored skip has boosted funds - £200 at the last count and money is still being collected. Our Church is supporting us financially too which is a great help, and we have recently started a Facebook page. During the year we have focused on a recruitment drive and our numbers are growing as has the parental support. At the local Mayors Market morning recently, we took up a spot on the Market Square, distributing GB flyers and invited girls to come and skip with us (or throw & catch bean bags for the real young ones). We had a great time and that event really generated interest in the Brigade and new members. With the weather on our side we have got out and about Explorers/Juniors combined on company nights, enjoying picnics at Irchester Country Park & Stanwick Lakes. We plan to round off the year with a trip to McDonalds as a whole Company – wish us luck!!

Our Senior section is about to grow, which in this day and age of pressures within secondary education, homework and afterschool activities is a real feat in itself. The future is bright for 1st Higham Ferrers, and as the saying goes we are looking at 101 not out!!

Would your daughter like to join Girls Brigade? To find out more contact Lisa on 01933 313417 or adams95@btinternet.com

Irchester Country Park

Sponsored Skip

Did you know that the Pavilion at Saffron Road Recreation Ground, Vine Hill Drive is now available to hire throughout the week to coincide with the Cricket and Football? If you are interested in hiring the facility or would just like more information please contact the Town Hall or call 01933 312075.
Higham Ferrers Town Council has received a prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This achievement recognises that the Council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and Council improvement. Moreover, Higham Ferrers Town Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those Councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising Councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual Councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

The Leader of Higham Ferrers Town Council, Councillor Derek Lawson MBE, was quoted as being delighted. “This is great news and is a true reflection of the hard work and professional behaviour of the Town Council and its staff. The Town Council is delighted and proud to be the first Council in Northamptonshire to receive this award.

In terms of the future, the Council is now reviewing ways in which it can keep on improving its offer to the local community and welcomes input from local people and partners on this. Higham Ferrers Town Council, and other local Councils like it, are at the front line of the government’s localism agenda and are doing as much as they can to delivery services whilst being efficient and cost-effective. Currently the Council provides a range of services from Play Areas and Open Space to Public Toilets and a Farmers’ Market and wants to improve its community engagement through this.

HIGHAM CHICHELE SOCIETY

The Higham Chichele Society meets at the Bede House (in the grounds of the Parish Church). The meetings start at 9.30am. Admission is £2.50 for members and £3 for visitors, including refreshments. The annual subscription is £2.50.

Please check our website www.chichelesociety.co.uk Speakers are as follows:

Friday 31st July Crested China Mr Eric Franklin
Friday 18th September History of Harvest Festival Mr Andrew Sankey
Friday 6th November Remember, Remember the 5th November Chris Rowe

The Society welcomes new members. PLEASE COME ALONG

Our 2015 Exhibition will be held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September – venue to be announced at a later date. Displays will include ‘Anniversaries’ and the Parish Church.
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** County Councillor - Northamptonshire County Council