



VERWOOD VISTA

The Town Council Newsletter for *Verwood* and *Three Legged Cross*

Issue No. 58
MAY 2019

28 Vicarage Road, Verwood, BH31 6DR
Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Monday - Friday



MAYOR'S REPORT

It has been a great honour for Clive my husband, and I to represent our town once again as Mayor and Escort. We have been fortunate to be part of so many wonderful events within Verwood and further afield.

My Mayoral year started as always with the Carnival. It was wonderful this year to see children once again on floats enjoying the occasion, and I would like to thank the Carnival Committee for all the hard work in making this such a success. This was the start of many local events. We have visited the Verwood Day Centre for an open morning, jumble sale and at Christmas

I asked if they could make a Christmas decoration for me to judge. They produced a wonderful Christmas card approx. 3ft high which was decorated with different materials, this was placed in the Town Council foyer for the Christmas period. My thanks go to Sue and all the staff at Verwood Connect. We have been entertained by the Fayrewood Singers, the Verwood Choral Society who were celebrating their 30th year and Verwood Community Group. The Sweet Charity Choir, who had been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall, had a concert at the Hub. We have listened to our wonderful Brass Band and once again heard of their amazing achievements and been to the Memorial Hall to hear the Solent Salvation Army Band which is always excellent. We have visited our schools; Cranborne Middle School invited us to their showcasing work of the Holocaust. This was a 6-week programme. The students heard from Holocaust survivors and a number of the local Jewish community. The quality of work from 13 year old students was absolutely mind blowing and the respect they showed to all was remarkable, we were extremely proud to be part of the event. We have opened the long-awaited new classrooms at Hillside First School and been present at the 5 minute walk zone project for both Hillside and Trinity Schools. Our Armed Forces Day was a special event as the Town Council presented two wonderful seats to the community for the 100-year remembrance. We were also so privileged to be part of our Remembrance Day Service for the 100-year remembrance. This was shared with so many and my thanks goes to the Armed Forces division from Blandford who turned out to support us. On the afternoon of the 11th we attended a wonderful concert at the Lighthouse Theatre, this was based on letters and correspondence written to loved ones during the war. That same evening, we arrived back at the Hub where Chris Inman had arranged a showing of 'A Journeys End', a film which definitely showed the horrors of war. The Fireside Theatre Group also produced their own version of events during the war years as did the Aurora Boveridge College. This college has not been open long and provides education to special needs young adults. The students had put together a time capsule which we planted in the garden under a cherry tree to mark the event. Attending the presentation evenings at our Upper Schools is always special. It is wonderful to see what our young people can achieve whether it be academically or through music and performing arts. The Scouting movement is still growing from strength to strength, and need more volunteers to help. I would like to thank my Scout, Jacob and my Guide, Catryn for agreeing to be part of my Mayoral year. There are many organisations within Dorset which, without volunteers, would not be able to offer the services they do. The CAB and the Dorset Youth Association are two very active groups offering superb services mainly maned by the volunteer sector and relying on fundraising. Christmas was once again magical with the wonderful school performances and invitations to many of our local group festivities, one of these being the Verwood Pantomime's performance of 'Robin Hood and Babes in

the Wood' which was excellent.

I have had five charity events this year. My first being the Suffragette Tea Party, my evening of song to commemorate 100 years, a Valentines dance, Tea with the Mayor, which Councillor Lindsey Dedden always lays on for the Mayors and my last event was an evening with William May for a Rat Pack Tribute on 11th May at the Hub.

These were very successful and I would like to thank everyone for their support. I would also like to thank my team of friends who have been with me from my last Mayoral year and are still working hard, along with their husbands to make these events so successful. My Civic Day was a lovely day and I would like to thank everyone involved for making it so special. My Civic Service was on 7th April and was held at the Methodist Church. It was lovely to see everyone on this special occasion.

All these events have been local to us and have been very special, but we have also experienced some wonderful events through our wonderful county as well as Somerset and Wiltshire.

We have visited Wimborne with the Militia and Christchurch to Highcliffe Castle and listened to the tales of the Battle of Mudeford on Mudeford Quay; Wareham to experience the Court Leat an old tradition which is still recognised and talks of shipwrecks in Portland; Lyme Regis where people were building boats from wood in the old traditional way, and Yeovil to the Leonardo (Westland) helicopter factory; The Portland Castle in Weymouth and Cefas the centre for environment and sat as the sun went down in Sherborne where the Riffles celebrated the Freedom of the Town. These are some of the many memories Clive and I will remember.

I could not finish my report without some very special thanks. These go to Val, Joyce and Michaela who work so hard making sure things are right and I am where I should be, they are a superb team. A huge thanks goes to Clive who is always there and to my family and friends for their support, and I would like to thank my colleagues for giving us this wonderful opportunity for a second time.

Cllr. Mrs. Sandra Grove



NEW TENNIS COURTS FOR VERWOOD

Re-surfaced Tennis Courts opening soon (June 2019) at Potterne Park, for more information contact the Verwood Hub 01202 828740



REQUEST TO RESIDENTS

Could we please request that residents ensure that their shrubs and hedging, if adjacent to a footpath, are cut back sufficiently so as not to impede pedestrians using the pathways.



VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB

It was a chilly afternoon for the opening game of the season on 13th April, but there was a good turnout of members. Open Days for new members and those wishing to try the game have already passed and anyone interested in joining the club should contact the Secretary, Roger Bassett on 01202 376296 or by email at: rbassett@verwoodbowlingclub



**Verwood
Carnival 2019
Monday
27th May**



VERWOOD & THREE LEGGED CROSS HELPFUL NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS

Verwood and Three Legged Cross Helpful Neighbours and Friends is a voluntary organisation which has come about from the 'Partnership for Older People programme' originally ran by the Council.

The scheme's purpose is to offer help and support to people when professional help is not what they really need. It's for people who are from 50 years old who may be unable to carry out these tasks any longer to enable them to stay independent and living in their own homes.

For a minimum £2 donation we offer to do small tasks only as we don't want to take work away from professionals. These are some examples: changing a light bulb, filling out a basic form, taking rubbish to the tip, posting a letter, walking a dog. We also offer a Befriending service which is free.

There are currently five volunteers who are all DBS checked and very willing to help and offer their skills.

**For further details contact
01202 834034.**

VERWOOD IN TUNE

Afternoon concerts at 2pm on the last Wednesday of each month at the Hub until 27th November when popular Dutchman Dirkjan Rantzijn performs on the Bohm keyboard.



Verwood Town Council YEAR END REPORT 2018-2019

AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Amenities Committee held three meetings this year. The Committee is responsible for Open Spaces, the Recreation Grounds in Verwood and Three Legged Cross, and the Verwood Cemetery.

Monthly inspections are made on all of these areas by Committee Members on a rotational basis.

At the first meeting (12th June) it was recommended that the Verwood Allotments Association should be given permission to erect polytunnels, or green houses, size as stated in their request, on the allotments. They were also given permission to hold two BBQ's a year subject to comments from the District Council.

It was also agreed that the Verwood Family Church could hold a service, and the Verwood Concert Brass were given permission to hold three outdoor concerts on the Recreation Ground.

At the second meeting (11th September) it was noted, in the Clerk's report on the Cemetery, that there was a need to clear items which had been left on the graves. This was causing a health and safety issue and letters would be written to some grave holders asking them to remove items.

At the third meeting (13th November) the Committee considered, discussed and proposed that we should recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Cemetery charges should be raised by £5.00 for Town Residents, and £10 for Non-Residents.

The Clerk reported a request had been made to hold a Miniature Horse Petting and Miniature Show Jumping event on the Verwood Recreation Ground. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to reply that the Recreation Ground was not a suitable venue and to give information on other possible sites.

And finally, the Clerk was asked to write to all the organisations who were responsible for the wonderful display of poppies at the Memorial Stone and on the Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground fencing. It was a very special Remembrance Day.

I would like to thank Val, Joyce and Michaela for all their help and support this year and also to all Members of the Committee for their hard work during the year.

Councillor Mrs. Lucy Clark

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance and General Purposes Committee consists of 12 members and meets eleven times a year. It is responsible for looking at the finances of the council, its administration and organisation. We deal with relevant correspondence and monitor the activity of the Council as well as highway matters.

We have dealt with the year on year matters including the insurance provision, pension policy, effectiveness and outcome of the Internal Audit, Annual Audit, Grant Aid, Financial Regulations and the Risk Management Statement. It is important that these are reviewed on an annual basis to make sure they remain fit for purpose. We have looked at different Councillors being involved in these matters so that different viewpoints can be considered. On a monthly basis we continue to review the budgets and accounts. During the year various consultations have been considered and responded to by the Committee, being recommended to the Full Council for submission to the relevant body. These include:

- Unauthorised development and encampments consultation;
- Community Asset Transfer to include some of the playparks in Verwood and Three Legged Cross, toilets on Ferret Green and the land at the Guide and Scout Hut;
- Local Government Boundary Commission – electoral arrangements. Concerns were submitted regarding changes to Three Legged Cross;
- Objections to the proposed Mineral Extraction on Horton Heath;

In addition, this year we have also considered the following areas:

- Setting up an information day for people interested in becoming a local Councillor in the elections in May. Working with Morrisons to put on the event;
- Support events also at Morrisons with the Police for the public to have additional access and ask questions;
- Writing to local MP Simon Hoare and Dorset PCC regarding police funding in the area;
- The relative benefit of free wifi in Ferret's Green;
- Ebblake Industrial Estate BID;
- Contribution towards nets and posts at the Tennis Courts at Potterne Park;
- WW11 Bombing Decoy Bunker educational and fencing support;
- Replacement of exercise equipment on Verwood Recreation Ground, as well as contributing towards new flooring at various play sites in the area;
- New road names for the proposed developments in Verwood.

We have been pleased to support various Grant Aid requests during the year where the sum of £23,838 was granted amongst 14 bodies.

In terms of finances, the Committee continue to monitor the finances of the Council and its spending. We have set a budget for next year of £318,417 spread across the various funds. The finances remain in good shape for Verwood and Three Legged Cross moving forward.

One particularly important aspect this year has been to prepare for the retirement of the Assistant to the Town Clerk and replacement. This is an important role in the ongoing smooth running of the Council, supporting the Town Clerk and Councillors in fulfilling their roles on behalf of the Town itself.

I would like to thank everyone on the Committee for their time and considerations of the various items during the year, as well as Val, Joyce and Michaela for all their efforts.

Councillor Matthew Parker – Chairman

PLANS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Verwood and Three Legged Cross continue to be the subject of a substantial number of Planning Applications which this Committee has to consider, and comment upon where necessary.

In general terms, we meet twice a month except during the summer so as to comply with the statutory time limits for consultation that an applicant for planning consent is entitled to rely upon.

So far this year, we have considered ninety-three applications, out of which we have only objected to eight. The ethos of the Committee is to try and approve applications wherever we can for the benefit of the local community.

I would like to make it clear, mainly because of certain comments that have been seen in social media posts, that we are only a consultation body, on an advisory basis, and not a designated statutory consultee. As such, we have no power to refuse an application, as that power rests with the local planning authority only. All we can do is advise and give our opinion where appropriate.

The other point that needs to be made is that we only can object to a planning application on statutory planning grounds as set out in the planning legislation and regulations (mainly Policy HE 2) and even if we do not like an application and do not wish to see it implemented, we are unable to express an objection if no planning grounds are transgressed. Just because we do not object does not mean that we approve of the application either, as we may not be able to find any valid planning grounds to do so. I remind all local inhabitants that they can access any planning application currently being considered by the local planning authority on line and can make their views known via that process.

As always, this Committee would not function without the superb loyal support and help of our Town Clerk, Val Bright and her hard-working assistants, Joyce and Michaela.

Councillor Martyn R. Hudson – Chairman

These draft accounts have not been audited

Account Name	Debit (£)	Credit (£)
Bank Accounts	518,903.28	
Lloyds Notice Account	153,589.56	
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	100,000.00	
Petty Cash	150.00	
VAT	2,670.21	
Sundry Debtors	430.96	
Sundry Creditors		620.77
DCC Town Plan		3,273.04
Solar Farm - Three Legged Cross		17,657.86
Solar Farm - Verwood		18,167.92
Precept - East Dorset District Council		310,895.00
Interest on Investments		2,220.70
Cemetery Income		10,471.50
Other Income		2,504.95
Retained Income Account		268,528.93
Fund - Amenities		45,784.17
Fund - Cemetery Land Improvement		42,485.45
Fund - Premises Repairs		36,147.24
Fund - Three Legged Cross Youth Facilities		7,000.00
Fund - Youth Facilities		9,930.91
Fund - Playground Repairs and Renewals		118,867.66
Fund - Election Expenses		5,000.07
Fund - Three Legged Cross Recreation Ground		4,241.00
Fund - Computer Upgrade		5,000.40
Fund - Wayside Seats		2,500.00
Fund - Professional Expenses		5,119.35
Fund - Bus Shelters		11,418.24
Fund - Town Enhancements		28,584.26
Fund - Verwood Recreation Ground		4,641.58
Fund - Environment		20,000.00
Fund - Town Competitions		2,000.00
Fund - Other		9,210.25
Employee Costs	83,383.20	
General Administration	27,681.47	
Insurance	4,806.69	
Cemetery	10,328.57	
Maintenance - Toilet Ferret Green	487.80	
Open Spaces	19,664.93	
Verwood Recreation Ground	1,999.54	
Three Legged Cross Recreation Ground	3,608.12	
Play Area	8,718.92	
Allotments	700.00	
Power of Competency - Grants	55,148.00	
	992,271.25	992,271.25



VERWOOD MEMORIAL HALL

It has been agreed that for the 5th year running there will be no increase in charges for the Verwood Memorial Hall despite extensive improvements. This much-loved community venue continues to be well used and maintained due to the diligence of Committee members who give up a considerable amount of their own time to keep things running smoothly. There are vacancies for additional members to be on the Committee to ensure continuity in the future.

Anyone interested should contact the Secretary, Ann Abernethie on **01202 827455** or by email: **ann@annabernethie.plus.com**
For booking enquiries: **enquiries@verwoodmemorialhall.co.uk**, tel.: **01202 828943**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS Verwood Town Council Offices

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Tuesday 24th Sept 2019

Three Legged Cross Village Hall

Wednesday 26th June 2019

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Due to the timing of the Council elections and the date of the production of the Verwood Vista, it is not possible to list the names of the Councillors.

Therefore if you wish to speak to a councillor please contact the Town Council offices on **01202 820880**.

PRESENTATION IN MEMORY OF PAM REEKS

Mr Ron Reeks, left of the picture presents a cheque to **Mr Gordon Thorne**, Chairman of the Trustees of Verwood Heathland Heritage Centre right of the picture, for £939 being half of monies given in memory of his wife Pamela Reeks, B.E.M. who was a founding Trustee and Archivist at the Museum. A similar cheque was also presented to the Verwood Concert Band with whom Pam had a long association, including conducting and nurturing the Training Band. Her tireless service to the community was recognised in the town when she became an Honorary Freeman of Verwood in 2013. This was followed in 2014 with the British Empire Medal.

A former teacher at Hillside School as well as tennis coach, founding member of the Historical Society and supporter of so many local events, Pam was well known and loved by many in Verwood. Her genuine interest in people and enthusiasm for the projects she was involved in leaves our community with a 'Pam shaped' hole in it.



VERWOOD IN BLOOM COMPETITION

Residents and businesses of Verwood & Three Legged Cross are invited to enter the Verwood in Bloom competition with prizes of £50 and a trophy to hold for the year in the categories listed below.

Prizes will be presented by the Town Mayor at the Verwood and District Horticultural Society's Autumn Show in September 2019.

Sponsors of the prize trophies are:

EDWARDS ESTATE AGENTS, GOADSY ESTATE AGENTS, IRVING & SONS ESTATE AGENTS, VERWOOD SURPLUS STORES AND VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Please tick the appropriate category below and return your entry by the **7th June 2019** to: Verwood Town Council, 28 Vicarage Road, Verwood BH31 6DR

Private Dwellings:

- ☐ Best Front Garden
☐ Best Use of Container/Hanging Baskets
☐ **Best Allotment Plot**
☐ **Best Commercial Property**
☐ **Best School Display**

Would you agree to your garden being photographed and displayed on the Verwood Town Council website?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Name

Address

Phone number

