



# Sawbridgeworth Town Council Newsletter

Issue 16 - Summer 2014

## Message from the Mayor

It is an honour for me to be able to serve as mayor for the civic year 2014 to 2015. This is my second term but nevertheless I am full of anticipation of the year ahead. My charity fundraising events for the coming year will be in support of the 'Youth Create' performing and creative arts group for young people. They meet in the Memorial Hall and have around 40 members of all abilities and are particularly supportive of children with special needs. They are an asset to the town and I look forward to being involved with them.

I shall also have a particular interest in the Rivers Orchard site as a member of the newly formed Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard Committee (RHSO). The committee will be organising occasional weekend maintenance mornings and arranging 'apple days' and other events in order to contribute to the preservation of this historically important orchard and wildlife area. The Town Council is delighted to be able to work in partnership with all of the volunteers and will support them in whatever way we can.

My particular focus will be to continue to ensure that residents are fully engaged in matters that affect our town. Earlier this year the District Council held a 12 week consultation for the Draft District Plan options for housing over the next 20 years. We held three drop in sessions in the Town Council Chamber and encouraged residents to submit their views either on-line or in writing. There were several hundred responses and this, in turn, informed the responses from the Town Council to ensure it reflected the views of residents. We are also currently meeting with a number of community groups in Sawbridgeworth in order to update the Town Action Plan to determine new priorities over the next four years. I'll keep you updated with our progress.

This year marks the centenary, of course, of the beginning of the First World War. A committee has been formed to consider ways in which we can reflect on, and commemorate, the events of 100 years ago. A number of items are being planned so please keep a look out for them so that you can attend and take part.

There are a various ways in which you can contact me:  
Via Email [eric.buckmaster@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:eric.buckmaster@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)  
Via Twitter @BuckmasterEric  
Via Sawbridgeworth Town Council's Facebook Page

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to meeting many of you during the term of my office

Councillor Eric Buckmaster  
Town Mayor



Sawbridgeworth Town Council and Leventhorpe present:  
**Sawbridgeworth Summer Prom  
& Firework Extravaganza**  
4 - 10 pm  
Saturday 5th July 2014  
Leventhorpe  
130-Piece Orchestra / Bring Your Own Food & Refreshments  
Free On-site Parking  
Adult £10 / Concessions £7 / Table of 4 group ticket £28  
SPECIAL EARLY BIRD OFFER  
Table of 4 group ticket £23 if purchased before 13th June 2014  
Tickets available from Sawbridgeworth Town Council & Leventhorpe

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## Clerk's Notes

**Sawbobus** - The bus that we have been using to provide the service from its inception in November 2009 is proving to be unreliable and extremely expensive to maintain. With the help of Herts County Council we have now acquired a replacement. You will not be able to miss it as it is bright green in colour! It is fully equipped with a tail lift to make it possible for us to continue to extend the service to passengers who are less mobile.

Members of the Town Council decided that although there are increasing financial pressures in providing the service, for the time being all parishioners with concessionary passes will be carried free of charge. Those regulars who live in Lower Sheering are being supported by their parish, district and county councils to keep the service free for them as well.

**Bell Street Conveniences** - Now we are into the new financial year we are pressing the District Council to get on with providing us with the promised funding so that the refurbishment of the Bell Street conveniences can proceed. This is an important project that the Town Council is determined will be completed this year.

**CCTV** - At long last after several false starts with other options, Herts Highways have installed the replacement poles that they said were needed. We are now confident that the CCTV coverage of the town centre will be in place and working by the end of June. We have already, with the coverage we have of the Bell Street car park, been able to assist the police with images that helped them deal with a number of incidents.

**Bell Street car park** - Members of the Town Council agreed to continue to subsidise the "First Hour Free" scheme in our car park. "Free" means that the Town Council has to pay the owners of the car park, East Herts District Council, what they would have collected through the "Pay and Display" machines if the scheme hadn't existed. In the last year this cost the Town Council £22,000.

**Farmers Market** - We continue to have record numbers attending the Farmers' Market which are now being held on the first Saturday of EVERY month. We've got new traders, new sponsors and are working in conjunction with "All About Sawbridgeworth" to promote our town

Remember that there is a "Park and Ride" service on market days. This facility is in co-operation with the Leventhorpe School. Park your car at the school and hop onto the minibus which will be doing regular runs on to the market and back throughout the morning. And its FREE!

**Richard Bowran**  
Town Clerk

## Sawbridgeworth *Farmers' Market*

### 2014 Market Dates

Saturday 05 July  
Saturday 02 August  
Saturday 06 September  
Saturday 04 October  
Saturday 01 November  
Sunday 21 December

### Park and Ride

Park your car at the school and hop onto the minibus which will be doing regular runs on to the market and back throughout the morning. And its FREE!



## Volunteers Needed

Do you have a few hours per week to spare?

Would you like to be part of a team helping to raise money for Isabel Hospice?

If the answer is yes...then please pop in to our shop in Bell Street in Sawbridgeworth and speak to the Manager or call: 01279 897027



**HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY**

The sunny weather is (nearly) upon us, it doesn't seem like long ago since we were offering advice and safety messages surrounding driving in heavy rain and through flood waters. However, the better weather brings with it new challenges, and different demands on us.

There are a number of pre-planned events taking place over the summer months, as there is every year. As I write this article, the football World Cup in Brazil is only days away, and many members of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team from across the county have been drafted in on rest days and shift changes to assist with the policing operation, particularly during England games. East Herts is no exception to this, and additional resources will be deployed in the area during and after every England game to ensure everyone has an enjoyable time and gets home safely. We are offering advice regarding drink driving, people need to be aware of 'the morning after' Remember the only thing that will get the alcohol out of your system is time.

In addition to the World Cup, we have a number of events planned across East Herts requiring a Police presence. The biggest of these is probably the 'Standon Calling' music festival, held nearby in Standon Lordship. This three day music festival generally passes without major incident, however, officers are required to be on hand to assist in the event of an emergency or occurrences of crime. On top of this we have the CazFest music event in Bishop's Stortford, carnivals in Bishops Stortford and Hertford, as well as numerous summer fairs, school & sporting events.

Crime across East Herts continues to remain at low levels, thanks to additional patrols, particularly late at night; making use of covert and overt patrols, ANPR and other technical resources. A significant crime trend appears to be a continuation of the 'Courier Fraud' scam. This complex offence involves an offender calling the victim, purporting to be a police officer, generally from London. This offender leads the victim to believe that they have had their bank cards cloned, and convinces the victim to part with their PIN numbers. Following this, the offender states that he will send around another officer to collect the cards to ensure their safety. The cards are then unwittingly handed over to an offender, who also has the PIN numbers, allowing full access to the accounts.

Detective Inspector Jason Keane said: "This scam has a devastating effect on the victims: not only do they lose substantial amounts of money but they lose their confidence and trust in people.

"I would urge people to make sure they're aware of this scam to ensure they do not become a victim of it. I would also urge people to share this information with their neighbours, relatives and friends, particularly the

elderly as they are often targeted.

Please remember, the police and banks would:

- NEVER ask for your bank account details or PIN number over the phone, so do not disclose these to anyone, no matter who they claim to be.
- NEVER ask you to withdraw money and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means.
- NEVER ask you to send your bank cards, or any other personal property, to them via courier, taxi or by any other means.

If you are not happy with a phone call and are suspicious of the conversation you have with the caller then please end the call and contact police via the non-emergency number, 101.

Remember, when reporting a suspicious phone call to police, wait at least five minutes before attempting to make the call to ensure you're not reconnected to the offender.

We are contactable 24/7, in the event of a non-emergency, or if you require advice, please call 101. In the event of a genuine emergency, ALWAYS CALL 999. We are also on social media.; visit [twitter.com/BstortPolice](https://twitter.com/BstortPolice) or [facebook.com/HertsPolice](https://facebook.com/HertsPolice) for further information and up to the minute appeals.

Further information on this crime series, along with a wealth of further information and advice can be found by visiting our website, [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)

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

## Dates For Your Diary



### Farmers' Market

Saturday 05 July 2014  
9am - 1pm  
Bell Street Car Park

### Sawbridgeworth Summer Prom & Firework Extravaganza

Saturday 05 July 2014  
4pm-10pm  
Leventhorpe  
Tickets are available from Sawbridgeworth Town Council & Leventhorpe

### Family Day and Sponsored Swim - hosted by

EHDC's Chairman Cllr Roger Beeching MBE, JP  
14 September 2014  
11am Redricks Lakes, Redricks Lane, Sawbridgeworth  
[chairmans.office@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:chairmans.office@eastherts.gov.uk) or [roger@rogerbeeching.com](mailto:roger@rogerbeeching.com)

### Christmas Lights Switch On

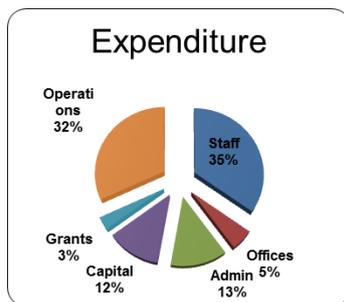
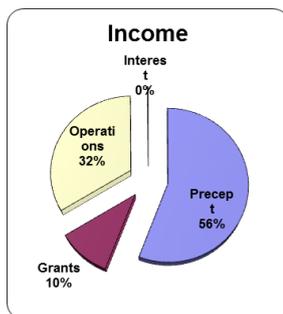
Friday 28 November 2014  
Bell Street Car Park

## Town Clerk's Report To The Annual Town Meeting 14 APRIL 2014

At the Annual Town Meeting the role of the Clerk is to report on the finances of the Council for the year just ended.

In the year 2013/14 the Town Council's Precept was £187,500, this was 56% of the Council's total income.

The Council derives other income from its operations in the town, such as the Town Cemetery, the four Allotment Gardens and the Community Bus services. Income relating to these other activities amounted to £146,736; and so the Council's total income for the year was £334,236.



Our ordinary income is shown in the diagram above left. The Council is aiming to continue to develop Operations Income to minimise any increase in the Precept.

We have used the resources in the way shown in the diagram above right. We spent a total of £325,126 this year.

The surplus of £9,110 has been taken to our general reserves.

Staff costs amounted to 35% of this; we have two full time employees, three part time administration officers, the town ranger and three part time bus drivers. All other services are carried out by contractors.

Our operations costs were 32% of our spend, and included management of the Town Cemetery, the Allotment Gardens, the two Community Minibuses, recreation areas, footpaths, the Town Ranger, provision and maintenance of Floral Displays and the Christmas Lights.

Our administration costs at 13% of the total included our responsibilities as a Consultee on planning applications and matters relating to the town, monitoring and action on the Town Action Plan, Fly Posting, Town Council Newsletters, Civic Events, Community Transport, Floral Decorations, Promoting the Town, subscriptions, insurances and our duty to provide Democratic Services including meetings, committees, elections and representation on outside bodies including liaison with the County and District Councils.

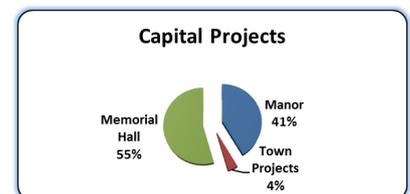
During the year, the Council continued the operation of Sawbobus, now in its fourth year. This has been

financed by a grant from EHDC, support from HCC and from commercial sponsorship. It started Sawbobus 2 which provided a link to hospitals in Harlow and Bishops Stortford, this has not been well used and so has been discontinued.

It continues to manage the Farmers Market which expanded in 2013/14 to be a monthly market and community event. and the two Community Minibuses. These activities are self financing although take up significant administration time.

The Town Council continues to step in to preserve services to the community when other organisations are unable to continue.

The Council made grants totalling £5,000 to four different local organisations during the year, these were the Citizens Advice Service, the Girl Guides, the Bowling Club and the Rivers Nursery Site and Orchard Group. In addition it made donations totalling £5,000 to support the activities of the Town Twinning Association, the Hailey Centre and the Young Peoples Recreation Centre.



**The main capital** projects for the year have been the final tranche of grant monies for the repair and development of the Memorial Hall, this has amounted in total to £149,500. We have completed the works on the Council Offices and spent some money on preliminary works for the town centre CCTV system.

The other project we had provided for was the refurbishment of the Bell Street conveniences. However negotiations with East Herts District Council have resulted in a partnership agreement with them which will relieve the town council from bearing the capital cost, although we will be responsible for the maintenance of the new facility when it is completed.

For this coming year the precept has been increased to £223,746. This amounts to an extra 18p per week for a Band D household. The increase will make a contribution to the estimated cost of £22,000 that will be payable to East Herts District Council to subsidise the one free hour parking scheme, to the decrease in Council Tax support grant and because of an increase in vandalism to the cost of employing extra help to maintain our footpaths and open spaces. Income from other operations will continue to be around £100,000 this coming year, thus keeping the precept to parishioners at the second lowest level of any town in East Hertfordshire.

Major projects the town council is undertaking in the coming year are the complete renewal of the Bell Street public toilets, the development of the Town Green, and the completion of the CCTV system covering the town centre. The capital cost of these projects is being met by grant funding.

## Annual Civic Awards 2014

The 2013/14 Mayor, Councillor Mrs Angela Alder, hosted the Annual Civic Awards Evening on Friday 09 May 2014. The Mayor presented her chosen charity Teenage Cancer Trust with a cheque for £7,025. This impressive sum of money was raised throughout her year as Mayor through a variety of events.

The Mayor in conjunction with The Rivers Hospital also presented awards to Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook's Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year 2014. The winners were both presented with cheques for £100 to donate to their chosen local charity.

### Citizen of the Year



(Pictured above left to right Nicola Thorp of Rivers Hospital, Citizen of the Year Liz Evans & 2013/14 Mayor Councillor Mrs Angela Alder)

Liz Evans was awarded Citizen of the Year in recognition of her wonderful work with Youth Create and Ellie Carveth-Ames was honoured as Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook's Young Citizen of the Year for her outstanding contribution to Guiding.

### Young Citizen of the Year



(Pictured above left to right Nicola Thorp of River Hospital, Young Citizen of the Year Ellie Carveth - Ames & 2013/14 Mayor Councillor Mrs Angela Alder)

## Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard



### Maintenance Day

on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 12:30pm  
(Tools and instruction will be provided)

Entrance to the Orchard is on the Crest off Brook Road.

**Learn a new skill, help maintain a local historic site & make new friends**

For more information, please e-mail us on  
rhso1725@gmail.com

or leave a message on 07980 305681 and we will get back to you asap

### Need a lift or like to volunteer?

**CVS Community Car Scheme for Ware, Hertford, Bishops Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and surrounding villages.**

***Driven by the community***

The Council for Voluntary Service has introduced a new social car scheme to help people living in Ware, Hertford, Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and surrounding villages who struggle to use public transport due to age, frailty or impaired mobility to get around.

If you do not have access to a car or someone who can help you out, this scheme might be right for you to cover your transport needs for essential health and social appointments (doctor or hospital appointments, church visits, visiting friends and relatives, shopping etc.). Volunteers are paid 45 pence/mile directly by the client.

### **We are also looking for volunteer drivers**

If you enjoy working with people, are compassionate and reliable, have a clean driving licence, a car and some time to spare, we would like to hear from you.

For detailed information please visit  
[www.drivenbythecommunity.org.uk](http://www.drivenbythecommunity.org.uk) or contact us on  
**0300 123 1677.**

## Contact Your Town Councillors



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Website: [www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)  
Opening Hours 9am - 4pm

**Town Clerk: Richard Bowran** [richard.bowran@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:richard.bowran@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)  
**Town Projects Manager: Joanne Kenny** [joanne.kenny@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.kenny@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)  
**Town Ranger - Steve Parrish**

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

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



### County & District Councillor Roger Beeching MBE JP

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