



# Sawbridgeworth Town Council Newsletter

Issue 17 - Autumn 2014

## Message from the Mayor

### Elections 2015

We are now half way through the civic year and the Parliamentary, District, and Town elections are less than 6 months away. The Town Council will be holding a couple of open events to coincide with the Farmers Markets in February and March. If you have an interest in standing for District or Town you are welcome to attend and you will be able to talk with councillors and officers in a non-partisan way about the process for standing and what the role involves. Please look out for details on our website in the new year or contact the town council for more information.

### Keeping our vulnerable residents safe

I'm sure we all know someone who may be no longer able to look after themselves as well as they used to for reasons connected with age or ill health. I do not wish to cause undue alarm, because crime levels are actually low in Sawbridgeworth, but unfortunately people may become targets for rogue traders, or others wishing to exploit them. Sometimes the clue to vulnerability can be seen in that the external appearance of the house or garden is not what it used to be. In collaboration with Hertfordshire Police I should like to do all I can to make people safe. 'Operation Stomp' is an initiative calling on residents to register as volunteers to help those in need improve the appearance of their gardens and frontage in order to make them less susceptible to exploitation. If you are aware of somebody appearing vulnerable then you could alert us so that we could arrange for teams of people to work together for a couple of hours to make a difference. We are looking for groups of adults, or young people over the age of 16, to register and indicate their willingness to help on an occasional basis. Individuals, schools, associations, and churches are all welcome to participate. Please let me know. Contact details of the Town Council are on the back of this newsletter. You can also contact PCSO Paul Weston who will be working with me on the project.

I hope you all have a pleasant run up to Christmas and I

look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Lights event on 28th November.

Councillor Eric Buckmaster  
Town Mayor



This year we are running our Christmas competition once again, and an entry form will be given to every child in each of our primary and junior schools in Sawbridgeworth, High Wych and Spellbrook. You can also print off a copy from our website, [www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)

In addition to the questions this year children will have the opportunity to design a badge for the **Grotto Badge Competition**

The winner will have their design made into badges that Father Christmas will give out when he returns to us next year.

Please follow us to keep up to date with the latest updates on our events ~

[www.facebook.com/AllAboutSawbridgeworth](https://www.facebook.com/AllAboutSawbridgeworth)

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## Clerk's Notes

**Sawbus** - The replacement green bus on the Sawbus routes is now established in service. 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.

**Dial-a-Ride** - We are now able to provide a limited Dial-a-Ride service, initially for appointments at local hospitals. Initially this is available on Mondays and Thursdays. If you want to enquire about this new facility for local residents please call us on 01279 721447.

**Bell Street Conveniences** - We are pressing the District Council to get on with enabling the refurbishment of the Bell Street convenience. This remains an important project that the Town Council is determined will be completed by the end of this financial year.

**CCTV** - At long last, after several false starts with other options, the CCTV coverage of the town centre is in place and working. Already we have been able to assist the police with images that helped them deal with a number of incidents.

**Farmers Market** - We continue to have an average of around 600 visitors to the Farmers' Market which are now being held on the first Saturday of every month. The December Christmas market will be on Sunday 21 December.

**Bell Street car park** - The Town Council 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. Should the Town Council continue with this scheme next year? Please let a councillor have your views.

**New Councillor** - We welcome Spencer Richards as a new member of the Town Council. Spencer, who lives with his family in Cambridge Road, was co-opted at the council meeting at the end of September and as a new face will bring a fresh perspective to the council's work, especially as a member of the amenities committee. His contact details are on the back page of this newsletter.

**Elections 2015** - At the same time as the General Election in May 2015 there will also be

elections to the Town Council. Councillors will be at the February and March Farmers Markets to answer any questions you may have about what being a councillor involves.

Richard Bowran  
Town Clerk

## Central Surgery 2014

The staff and patients of the Central Surgery, Sawbridgeworth, would like to thank all those who recently signed the two petitions, one for the Royal College of Practitioners to submit to the Government to recognise that General Practices throughout the country need more than 8% of the total of NHS funding to continue to carry out 90% of NHS patient contact, and the other is a local one to be sent to NHS England to ask them to approve and finance the much needed surgery extension.

The end of September saw the start of our annual Flu Vaccinations, these are generally available to those regarded as being at risk from complications with flu, such as those aged over 65; or with a serious medical condition; pregnant women, and carers (because the person cared for could be at risk. If you do come within these groups please make sure you have your vaccination. If you are a carer, let us know when you call the surgery (603180).

Can we take this opportunity to remind you that many common infections of the nose, throat, sinuses, ears, and chest are caused by viruses, so too are flu-like symptoms, and often diarrhoea and vomiting. If you are normally well, your body's defence (immune) system is good at fighting off many types of viral infection. Antibiotics only kill bacteria not viruses, and they often cause side-effects such as diarrhoea, rashes, feeling sick. Past and present overuse of antibiotics has resulted in their often being ineffective when they are really needed.

## Sawbridgeworth Farmers' Market

### Market Dates

Sunday 21 December 2014

Saturday 07 February 2015

Saturday 07 March 2015

# Rivers Heritage Site & Orchard

Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard (RHSO) formed in May 2014 to continue the excellent work of the previous volunteer groups to maintain the site and history of the Rivers Nursery. With welcome help of Sawbridgeworth Town Council (both financial and administrative) we have managed to quickly re-establish the maintenance work in the Rivers Nursery orchard.

We have had good turnouts of around 10 to 15 people for most of our maintenance days on the first Sunday of every month. It has been very pleasing to see a mixture of experienced helpers from the previous groups combining well with new, enthusiastic volunteers – a combination that will prove extremely desirable in the coming season of apple tree pruning. We have also had the opportunity to spread the message of this globally important horticultural site at local events and through talks to local groups and schools. RHSO is in the process of moving its archives (a collection of the history of the famous nursery) to a more accessible location for greater community access.

We recently hosted our first Apple Day in the orchard with truly excellent turnout of the local community and others from as far as Cambridge and London to help us collect our apple crop and to taste and take away some of our 76 different heritage varieties of apples. With lucky weather through most of the day, we were able to collect enough apples to press into 435 bottles of three different varieties of apple juice to sell at local events. The progress of the new group has been extremely pleasing and we thank all those who have been involved over the last few months to make this possible. We look forward to our other major event – wassailing in January – and hope to see many people there.

**Rob Richardson ~ Chair RHSO**

**Christmas Day Truce  
Charity Football Match  
Sunday 14th December 2014**



All Welcome to come along to this great family event and cheer along your team

# Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard



## Monthly Maintenance

1st Sunday of every month

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  
[rhs01725@gmail.com](mailto:rhs01725@gmail.com)

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



## Dates For Your Diary

### Christmas Lights Switch On

Friday 28 November 2014  
Bell Street Car Park from 5pm  
Lights switch on at 6pm

### Isabel Hospice Lights of Love

Saturday 29 November 2014  
Baker's Walk, Bell Street

### Sawbridgeworth Mayor's Christmas Party

Saturday 06 December 2014 at 8pm  
Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall

### Christmas Day Truce Charity Football Match

Sunday 14 December 2014  
Kick off at 2pm  
Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club

### Farmers' Market

Sunday 21 December 2014  
9am - 1pm  
Bell Street Car Park

### Elvis Presley Lives Night

Saturday 14 February 2014  
7:30pm Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth. For further information email: [chairmans.office@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:chairmans.office@eastherts.gov.uk) or [roger@rogerbeeching.com](mailto:roger@rogerbeeching.com)

# Contact Your Town Councillors



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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

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Lisa Dale - Finance

[lisa.dale@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.dale@sawbridgeworth-tc.gov.uk)

Community Bus Drivers - Part-time Tracey Dobinson & Cyril Lumley



## County & District Councillor Roger Beeching MBE JP

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Issue 18 will be published in Winter 2015