



CARTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Carterton Town Crier

A series of newsletters which aim to keep residents in touch. Please let us have your views and comments. Contact points are given below.

Issue 12
Summer 2006

In May, I was elected to serve for the forthcoming year as the Mayor of Carterton. It is a great honour to serve in this capacity and I am looking forward to being involved in the many exciting projects which are under way in our town. You will learn more about these in this newsletter and in future issues. I am particularly interested in law and order issues and over the next twelve months, I shall be concentrating on working closely with the police and other local agencies to reduce disorder within the town. It is important that we find positive ways to channel the energies of our youngsters and I would welcome any views that you might have.

I have already been invited to a number of events in the town and, with my wife Liz, look forward to meeting many of you. I shall also be looking for ways to raise money for my nominated charity - Cancer Research. I would like to end by thanking Cllr Brian Crossland, the outgoing Mayor and his wife Maxine for all their work on behalf of the town.

Phil Scott, Town Mayor

Carterton Community Centre

Work is finally under way to plan for a new community hall, to be built on the local service centre on the North East Development, but designed to meet the needs of the whole of Carterton. SWA Architects from Eynsham have been employed to work with the town and district councils and the local community to draw up a Development Brief, which will be used to invite developers to tender for this exciting Design and Build Project. About £1m funding is likely to be available. Two successful consultations have been held, run by an expert independent facilitator, for representatives of local organisations and groups who will be using the new hall to identify their particular needs and suggest the best arrangements for the layout and general construction for the hall. This has been a key element in SWA's work in drawing up the Brief. Some general points to emerge were:

- The importance of making the building as large as possible, even if it couldn't all be fitted out immediately
- The need for flexible space to accommodate both small and large groups, with a number of groups requiring staging
- That the design should be of high quality and have a 'presence' within the new square

During the second consultation it was announced that the district council had been approached by a local brewery, wishing to develop a pub on the front part of the site (facing the square) limiting the space available for the hall, but providing additional funding. It was the unanimous view of those present, including several town councillors, that this was an inappropriate proposal which should be resisted. The District Council is consulting residents on the NE Development

Black Bourton Road Closure and sale of market site

The Midcounties Co-op has announced that it has bought the market site, but that the market traders may remain where they are until the site is actually developed. CFF Partnership, the town and district councils have already undertaken some work on how best to bring forward the site for development to provide better shops and facilities for the town centre. Discussions with the new owners of the site have already started to see how this can best be achieved.

Following the publication of the special edition of the Town Crier about the experimental closure of part of Black Bourton Road, a number of comments have been received raising specific concerns. These are being considered by the Town Council and will be discussed with the Highways Department.

Carterton



shows films at the Town Hall on the second Thursday of each month. The next showing is *Just Like Heaven* on 13th July. Tickets £3.50. A film will not be shown in August but will resume again on 14th September 2006 with *Girl With a Pearl Earring*.

THANK YOU!

The Town Council is very grateful to **Angus McCracken & Son** for sponsoring this year's Allotments Competition. Thanks also to **Shillbrook Stationery** and the **Mid-counties Co-op** for sponsoring Carterton in Bloom.

We appreciate the involvement of local businesses in our activities and would like to thank them and the residents who work so hard to make their premises look so nice

COMMUNITY PLAY - *Take a Victorian entrepreneur, several thousand chickens, some escapees from the rat-race, two world wars, an ex-chorus girl, fairground travellers and the US Air Force and you have a potent mix of ingredients for Carterton's own community play, currently being written. An outline plot is due at the end of July and the completed script by the end of October. For playwright Valerie Chidson the only problem is – what to leave out?*

Archaeological dig at Black Bourton Cemetery

An archaeological excavation was carried out in the Town Council's cemetery at St. Mary's Church, Black Bourton in early June. Two professional archaeologists worked full time on the project assisted by volunteers and school children. The dig was funded by the Local Heritage Initiative.

The Anglo-Saxon Minster of Bampton lies 2 miles from Black Bourton. The Minster is first mentioned in the 950s, by which time it housed a religious community venerating the relics of Saint Beornwald. Minsters were very important places during the Anglo-Saxon period with extraordinary power and wealth. They were not isolated communities but set within a complex dependent territory. The area of Black Bourton would have been within this territory for Bampton. Black Bourton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 indicating that it was well established by this period. Archaeologists expected to find an earlier Anglo-Saxon *Grubenhäusen* or sunken-feature building. The wealth of this site was confirmed on the first day of the excavation with the find of a gilded buckle during the machine stripping of the topsoil. However the status of the site could have more to do with its proximity to the Minster at Bampton than to its inhabitants social position. The other pottery recovered in 2002 dated from the early to middle Saxon period 450-850AD indicating a possibly long-lived community in the area. The excavation in 2006 located key information to back up this theory. An early Saxon sunken feature building had obviously been abandoned and allowed to fill with soil. This had later been dug through while people worked on a well to serve the community during the middle Saxon period.

Three sunken feature buildings were revealed during the excavation with the possibility of two others being present, although not in such a good state of preservation. Associated finds from these buildings included animal bone and pottery. Once considered the ubiquitous Anglo-Saxon house these sunken buildings are now generally thought to be workshops and stores. Usually they contain a pair of postholes for the gables. Other buildings were post built and are small simple versions of the later larger rectangular halls. The evidence for such buildings is hard to retrieve as later activity, such as ploughing, can destroy the shallow foundation beds for the timber beams.

Numerous postholes were found across the site including a row which would once have been a fence line. Such plot boundaries are rarely apparent on sites of this date and it is of considerable interest that one should appear at Black Bourton. The area to the south of this fence line was situated the well and a separate sunken-feature building, noted for its finds of worked bone pins and needles, and a pit containing metal working debris. On the other side of the fence were other pits and buildings that appeared more domestic in nature, one containing an intricately worked bone hair-comb. It is possible that this fence formed a boundary between the living area and the "industrial" working area. In fact it may also have formed a safety barrier to prevent people and animal from falling down the well.

What we have at Black Bourton is probably a long-lived rural farming community with the true wealth and power of the region lying at Bampton Minster. This community appears to have increased in size, status and wealth over the years, but especially in the 9th century with the decline of the Minsters influence.

CARTERTON 10K ROAD RACE SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2006

The race was jointly organised by RAF Brize Norton and the Town Council and 216 runners turned up on the day. Medals and prizes were awarded at the end of the race with all participants receiving a T-shirt and a medal. Many complimentary comments were received about the organisation of the event and it is hoped to repeat it next year. Our thanks go to all the runners and helpers and particularly to Carterton Co-op for their support in providing bottled water and fruit for all the runners.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Mon 10 July** - Schools Swimming Gala at the Carterton Leisure Centre.
- ◆ **Sat 15 July** - Carterton Family Festival at Alvescot Road Recreation Ground 1-4 p.m.
- ◆ **Sat 12 August** - The third Annual 'Xtreme Wheels Day at the Dell Skateboard Park

Contact Details	Ward	Tel. No.
Cllr P.L. Scott (Mayor)	Upavon	842638
Cllr P.J. Handley (Deputy)	Shillbrook	842147
Cllr Mrs. D.V. Bulley	Shillbrook	842427
Cllr R.W.L. Crapper	Milestone	843236
Cllr B. Crossland	Shillbrook	212654
Cllr Mrs. M. Crossland	Shillbrook	212654
Cllr L.H. Giles	Upavon	842736
Cllr D. King	Rock farm	212380
Cllr Mrs. A. Madden	Milestone	843163
Cllr P. Madden	Milestone	843163
Cllr K.W. Stone	Upavon	841165
Cllr M.A. Townsend	Rock farm	213490
Cllr N. Tully	Upavon	844488
Cllr Mrs. L. Walcott	Gateway	842156
Councillor W.O. Walcott	Gateway	842156
Councillor P.G. Wesson	Rock farm	840452

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Applications will next be considered by the Town Council in October 2006. Please write to the Town Hall, by the middle of September, with details of your request.