



# 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 details are given below.

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Spring  
2013

*May will mark the end of my year in office as Mayor. The Mayoress, Kerry, and I have had a wonderful year representing Carterton across the County and getting to know so many interesting and caring people in the town, and it has been a real honour and a privilege to have held this office. Highlights include the Jubilee celebrations in 2012 including a Jubilee Royal Garden Party at Henley-on-Thames which was hosted by The Queen & Duke of Edinburgh, an Evening at Dorchester Abbey, and an Olympic Torch Reception at Blenheim Palace, as well as all the many and varied local events.*

*One of my last events as Mayor will be the St George's Day Celebration on 20 April 2013 and I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend and support my nominated charity, the MS Society (Witney branch).*

*Details overleaf. I would also encourage you to attend the **Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 8th May at 7.00 p.m. at St John's Church.** This is your opportunity to find out what is going on in the town and to ask questions, so please do come along. I would like to close by paying tribute to The Mayoress, Kerry, for her unwavering support during my term of office.*

Adrian Coomber  
Town Mayor



### Town Hall Extension

Work will start on extending the Town Hall in April. The extension will be to the south of the building, where the old garages are now. One will be taken away and the new one relocated. The extension will provide a ground floor reception (no more climbing the stairs!), a permanent home for the Job Club and a small meeting room which could be used to provide 'surgeries' for local residents on topics such as benefits. At present we are only able to operate the Job Club once a fortnight but when we have the space, job hunters will be able to come into the Town Hall at any time and receive help with searching for jobs online.



The second part of the extension will provide a small retail unit which the council will be letting out. This will give us a rental stream which we can use to support other activities in the town.

### **M**orrison's

At the time of writing, we are told that work on the construction of the new Morrison's food store will start in April and that they are aiming to be open before Christmas. We will have a display

of the plans available at the Town Hall, so if you are interested to learn about what is going on, please call in. The District Council will also be carrying out some improvements to the car park which they own to the rear of the Factory Shop, and the Town Council will be creating a new market square where the vets building currently stands. This will provide a new home for the Thursday market.



### **R**epatriations

Those of you who attend repatriations will know that the pavilion on Monahan Way is used as a centre to host the families of the fallen servicemen and women. Thanks to a number of generous donations and a number of successful grant applications, we have secured funding which will allow us to turn the storeroom into a comfortable families room. When not in use on Repatriation days, this room will be available for hire.

You may also have noticed that two handsome oak benches have been installed opposite the memorial garden.



These have been paid for by Cllr Jim Couchman using his Big Society fund.

### **T**own Centre Design

Following our award of funding to work with urban planners to develop a strategy to improve the design of the town centre, around 30 members of the community signed up to take part in some of the 4 workshops and one site visit. At the time of writing the final report is not available (it will be posted on the Town Council website), but it is expected to provide a strategy to improve the design of the town centre, both in the short and longer term. It means that when any new development takes place, we are in a stronger position to insist it is to a high standard, and it will also help with designing the new market square.

The site visit to Tidworth was very informative and gave the group some interesting ideas about 'shared surfaces', where cars are encouraged to slow right down as they enter 'gateways' into the town, and the removal of signs. Traffic lights are removed and replaced by roundabouts, which has been proved to reduce congestion and accidents.

**T**he old NAAFI store at Stanmore Crescent is due to be demolished soon. We hear that the area will be landscaped while thought is given to what community facility might take its place.

A new play area has recently been built on the open space at **Blackthorn Avenue**. This has been paid for by developer funding but will be maintained by Carterton Town Council.



After a full competitive tendering exercise, the Council has let the Grass Cutting tender to McCracken & Son and the Litter Picking contract to West Oxfordshire District Council. McCracken & Son will also be looking after the Cemetery at Black Bourton. For the first time we have let a contract to cut the hedges in our ownership, and you will see a regular cycle of hedge cutting once the bird nesting season is over.

### Carterton Community Centre Events

**Table Top & Car Boot Sale** to be held from 9am - 12noon on Saturday 13th April. Please call Gill on 01993 842807 to book a table /pitch. Free admission & Cafe will be open.

**Future Dates:** 11th May, 13th July, 10th August, 14th September, and 12th October.

**French Market-** France at Home- to be held on Saturday 11th May on Marigold Square from 9am - 5pm. with the Table Top Sale inside the Community Centre as normal.

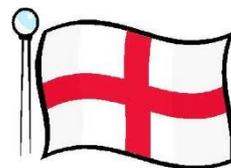
**Summer Craft & Gift Fair** to be held on Saturday 29th June 10.00am - 4pm. Fantastic variety of local stalls selling beautiful and unique handcrafted items & other gifts. Free admission & the cafe will be open.

### BANDSTAND CONCERTS

There will be a series of Bandstand Concerts on the Alvescot Recreation Ground on May 12th & 19th, June 16th, July 14th & September 15th. All approx. 1.00-3.00pm, refreshments will be on sale, and please bring your own seating! See Town Council website for further details.

### St George's Day Celebration

**Saturday 20th April 2013, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m., at the Carterton Community Centre, Marigold Square, which will include a Bangers & Mash Supper, Pay Bar, Live Entertainment, Auction and Raffle. Tickets £15 each from Carterton Town Hall, Tel 01993 842156, email: scatt@carterton-tc.gov.uk. All proceeds to the MS Society (Witney Branch).**



## New Market Square

The Public Meeting held last November to consult on plans for a new Market Square in front of the Town Hall was well attended. Members of the public were generally very supportive of the overall plans, but with some concerns about increased traffic and potential parking problems. We understand that part of the increased congestion at the crossroads was due to a malfunction of the lights, which has now been rectified. The Town Centre Design Teams have been looking at more radical ways of improving the roads in the centre.

Detailed plans are being developed for the Market Square, and it is hoped to start work as soon as the vets have relocated and their existing premises removed. It is proposed that the War Memorial will be re-sited nearer to the Town Hall, giving an opportunity to enhance its setting. We are having discussions with the Market traders about their precise requirements and with the District Council about the alleyway that runs along the side of the Factory Store, which they currently control.

Work to install a zebra crossing near Aldis has already started, and the bus shelter is expected to be moved to outside Peaches as part of the scheme.

We will consult on detailed plans for the Market Square as soon as they are available. We are working closely with the District Council to ensure our work on the market square is integrated with the plans for the Morrisons car park and with alterations needed to the District Council's car park

Town Councillors	Ward	Phone Numbers
Clr A Coomber—Mayor	Upavon	07989 142850
Clr Mrs L Little – Deputy Mayor	Shillbrook	842269
<b>Clr M Brennan* (New)</b>	<b>Gateway</b>	<b>212863</b>
Clr Mrs D V Bulley	Shillbrook	842427
Clr R W Crapper	Milestone	843236
Clr Mrs M Crossland*	Shillbrook	212654
Clr A Farmer	Milestone	842430
<b>Clr H Howard* (New)</b>	<b>Rock Farm</b>	<b>844631</b>
Clr H M Jobs	Upavon	842156
Clr Mrs C MacRae	Upavon	842156
Clr N MacRae MBE*	Upavon	842156
<b>Clr M McBride (New)</b>	<b>Gateway</b>	<b>845169</b>
Clr P Madden	Milestone	843163
Clr Mrs N J Miah	Rock Farm	837567
Clr P Scott	Upavon	842638
Clr M Steward	Rock Farm	07891 957148

\* Also West Oxfordshire District Councillors.

County Councillors: Jim Couchman & Peter Handley