

Higham Times

News, Views & Town Events



Issue 43
May 2024



Welcome

Since our last Newsletter in February, it has been lovely to see our town bursting with colour as the spring flowers arrived.

We have celebrated the opening of the Community Library and Wellbeing Hub, the return of the 'Bee Squared' project, the Farmers Market's 22nd birthday and launching of the new Town App (more details of this are on the back page).

Our beautiful front cover and the images on this page have all been sent to us by a local resident, Kassi Bass, who has an eye for capturing wonderful photographs of our stunning market town. Thank you!



If you have any nice photographs of our town which you would like to be included in the Higham Times, please email them to donna@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk.

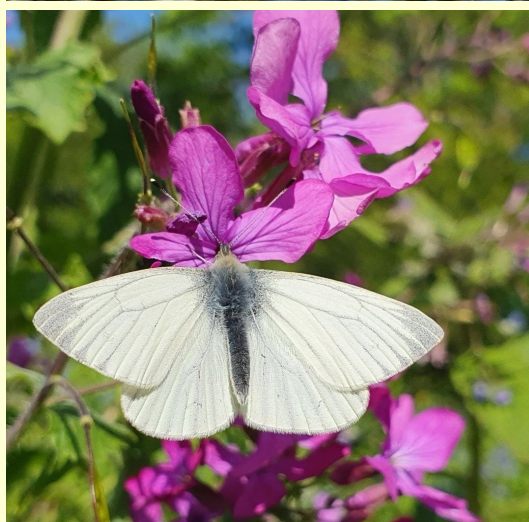
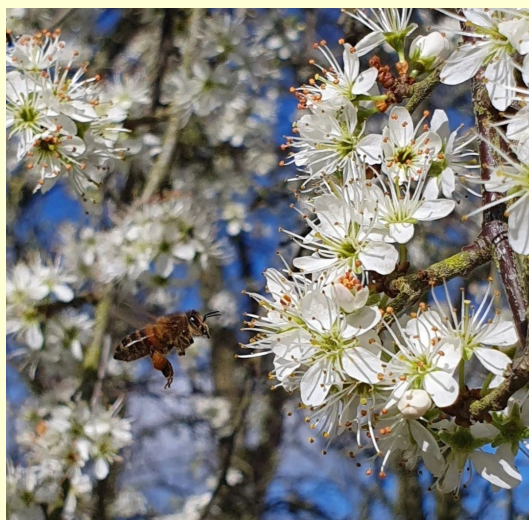
Our fabulous craft volunteers have been meeting each month and are also busy behind the scenes creating more amazing woolly decorations for the D-Day Anniversary in June, Remembrance and have even started on Christmas additions.

This newsletter is in three sections, Town Focus, Community News and Council News. Town Focus is a spotlight on our local businesses, landmarks and heritage. Community News has

updates from Higham Ferrers Tourism, local Churches, schools and community groups. Council News includes council events, contact information, farmers market information, a Mayor's report and a council update on current projects.

For the most current information about what is happening in the town, we encourage you to check the Town Council website (www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk) and social media pages for regular updates. There is also a new Town App with lots of useful local information.

If you have an article about local news or events which you would like to be included in the next edition of the Higham Times in August then please forward the information to; donna@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk no later than 2nd July 2024.



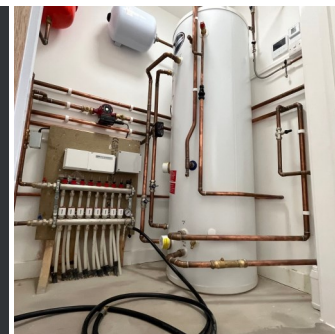
Thank you for your continued support.

Donna Anderson, Editor

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of Higham Ferrers Town Council.

Business Spotlight...

In this edition of the Higham Times we will be taking a look at two local businesses which are run by husband and wife, Dan and Jodie Smith.



Waterworks Services Ltd was established in 2009 by Dan Smith and has gone from strength to strength since then. Waterworks is a family run business with Dan's wife Jodie performing an active role in the office responsibilities. Over the years Waterworks has been able to provide numerous Plumbing and Heating Engineer jobs for our local tradesmen. It has provided apprenticeship opportunities for the younger generation wanting to learn a skilled trade and provides continual additional training to all engineers to ensure they are as qualified, confident and capable of performing their role giving the customers a quality service.

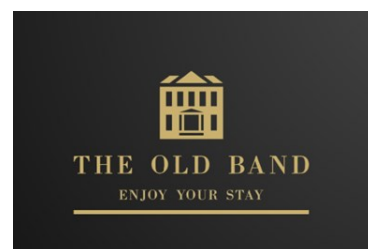
With the team of 5 engineers Waterworks currently employees, and the office staff manning the phones and emails, Waterworks is able to provide an efficient, friendly & cost effective service across the county and surrounding areas.

Plumbing & Heating Services include:

New Taps, Valves & General Plumbing Maintenance - Servicing & Boiler Breakdowns
New Bathrooms - Landlord Gas Safety Checks – New Gas or Oil Boiler Installations
Air Source Heat Pumps & Renewable Technologies – New Pipe Work for Extensions
Refurbishments – Gas Kitchen Appliances – Underfloor Heating
Larger scale projects for Companies: Flats, New Builds & Property Conversions
Domestic and Commercial installations.

The couple took on a new challenge in 2021...

The Band Club, located on Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers, was converted by Dan & Jodie Smith in 2021 with the vision of becoming The Old Band Accommodation.



By July 2022 that vision became a reality when the four bespoke furnished holiday let apartments came available on a short term basis for trades people, holiday makers and visitors alike. Featuring on Air BnB, Booking.com and their own website www.theoldband.co.uk the apartments have proven to be very popular bringing visitors to the area for short breaks, celebrations, weddings, family gatherings, training and work commitments .



Being local residents to Higham and growing up in the area, they wanted to restore the building and allow it to be used and enjoyed rather than be shut down and abandoned. Higham Ferrers always attracts a lot of visitors and hopefully will continue to in the future.



The Blue Plaque Trail

Higham Ferrers

**HIGHAM FERRERS
TOURISM**
BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



3. The Cemetery Chapel Vine Hill Drive

The Higham Ferrers Cemetery and Cemetery Chapel is situated at the broad junction of Cemetery Lane, Saffron Road and Vine Hill Drive. The site is approximately 3.5 acres in size and the main entrance – a wrought iron gate – is to the right of where the chapel stands. The chapel is a symmetrical brick building consisting of two rooms either side of a covered porch. It was built in 1896 under a contract to Mr. B Marriott of Wellingborough.



The building on the right-hand side of the porch houses a storeroom and a second room in which there is the original sink used by the person employed to lay out the deceased. This room is decorated in a functional way with little expense, to ensure that it did not detract from the fact that it was a working

room. The mortuary slab is currently housed in the Chapel which is on the Vine Hill Drive side of the building and is altogether more ornate internally, decorated with coving and architrave and it has a fireplace. The walls are currently painted a light yellow. This room was used once bodies had been made presentable for their families to see and the bier is still in this room. It may well be that this room was used to hold services prior to burial.



On 19 October 1896, the cemetery was formally and officially opened by the Mayor. The opening ceremony was to be held at the new chapel building however the British weather intervened. The inclement conditions and the necessity to keep the robes of the dignitaries dry resulted in the decision to hold the ceremony in the Town Hall.

DISCOVER the stories behind the plaques

In each edition of the Higham Times we will take a look at one of the steps along the Blue Plaque Heritage Trail. You can find out more at www.blueplaquetrail.com



Wild about hedgehogs rescue

A little note from the hedgehog lady

It's that time of year again when we become eager to get out our sharp shiny garden tools and start to strim, trim lawns, hedges and trees. But before you start, could you please spare a few moments to check that there are no hedgehogs tucked up asleep. When they hear a noise they do not run away, they curl up into a tight ball which is no defence against those sharp garden tools. I can't tell you how many times I have had injured hedgehogs come into the rescue and be told by the rescuer that they were unaware of hedgehogs and had never seen one in their garden.



Hedgehogs usually appear late at night eating slugs, snails and other creepy crawlies that we spend our lives trying to eradicate. They really are our little garden friends.

The last few summers have been unusually warm. This has created a number of problems for our little prickly pals and there has not been enough food or water to sustain them. Unusually, hedgehogs have been seen out in the day but before you rush them into a rescue, they may be exhibiting their normal behaviour which is snuffling around in the undergrowth. If they are, it might be they have hoglets (baby hedgehogs) and need even more food. If you have a cat or dog I'm sure you will have some poultry flavoured food (not bread or milk please) in your store. Putting the food and water in a shallow bowl such as cat bowls or plant pot dishes is perfect.



On the other hand, if you find the hedgehog wobbly on its feet or it looks like it is sunbathing, that is the time to give your local rescue a call. If you have any doubts, please give your local rescue a call as we are only too happy to help. It could be the difference between our prickly friends going on their merry way or a very stressful trip to the rescue (or worse still).

If you would like to help your local hedgehog population and need help or advice, please email hogmother@hotmail.com





Chichele Garden Fair

Saturday 25 May
9am - 3pm

Chichele College
Higham Ferrers

NEW
PLANTED
WHEELBARROW
COMPETITION

FREE
ENTRY

PLANTS | STALLS

REFRESHMENTS

WILLOW WEAVING

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

HIGHAM FERRERS
TOURISM

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Brought to you by Higham Ferrers Tourism

CHICHELE GARDEN FAIR

Saturday 25 May 9-3 | FREE ENTRY | Stalls | Refreshments | Entertainment | Art Exhibition by local schoolchildren | Wheelbarrow Competition

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

Saturday 8 – Sunday 16 June | See website for details www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk

SECRET GARDENS OF HIGHAM FERRERS

Sunday 16 June 12 noon to 5pm | Programmes £5 per adult (children under 16 free) on sale from the Market Square on the day

BRASS ON THE GRASS

Sunday 30 June 3–5pm | Raunds Temperance Band | St Mary's Churchyard | FREE ENTRY

COOL JAZZ COLLECTIVE LIVE AT CHICHELE COLLEGE

Friday 19 July 7.30pm | FREE ENTRY | Licenced Bar | Real Ale

SHANNONDORE IRISH BAND LIVE AT CHICHELE COLLEGE

Friday 2 August 7.30pm | FREE ENTRY | Licenced Bar | Real Ale

TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday 31 August from 9am | Maps £1 on sale from Market Square on the day

HIGHAM FERRERS HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Saturday 7 September 11am – 4pm | Free entry to view | See website for entry details www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk

FUN QUIZ NIGHT

October (date to be confirmed –see website or posters) 7.30pm | Bede House | £16 for table of 4 | Licenced Bar | Bring your own nibbles

SANTA'S GROTTTO

Saturday 23 November 10–4 | Chichele College | £5 per child

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 21 December 9–12 | FREE ENTRY

TICKETS on sale from Sidey Design, Market Square, Higham Ferrers unless stated otherwise. For latest information see our website www.highamferrerstourism.org.uk, local posters or our Facebook page.

Friends of St Mary's Higham Ferrers



Archbishop Chichele is the most well-known person born in Higham Ferrers. However, with less recognition but also playing a valuable role in national life were the Ladies of Higham. The first in our series is **Alice Maud Shipley**.

Alice Maud Shipley was born in Bunkers Hill in Higham in 1869. This was broadly where Westfields Street adjoined Northampton Road. Initially she became a dress maker like her mother, but by 1901 she was living in Scotland employed as a lady's maid ⁽¹⁾.



7	William M. S. Shipley	Head	Male	26	Shoe Maker	Widow	St. Barts. St. James
	Martha Do	Wife	Female	25	Shoe Maker	Widow	St. Barts. St. James
	Alice M. Do	Daughter	Female	1		Widow	St. Barts. St. James
	William M. Do	Son	Male	1		Widow	St. Barts. St. James
	William M. Smith	Servant	Male	23	Shoemaker	Widow	St. Barts. St. James

1884 Ordnance Survey Map and
1871 Census for Higham Ferrers

Alice had a passion for politics. She became a member of the Women's Social and Political Union, which was the militant wing of the British suffrage movement, having been founded in Manchester in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst. In November 1911 she and over two hundred other women from Edinburgh travelled to the House of Commons to protest against the failure of the Conciliation Bill becoming law. The proposed law would have extended the right of women to vote, provided they owned property. The Bill was scuppered by MPs machinations. Some did not want women to have the vote. The Liberals thought that enfranchised women might not vote correctly, i.e. not vote for them but for the Conservatives. The WSPU saw this as a betrayal of promises and their protest march became known as Black Friday. Alice was arrested and appeared before the Bow Street Magistrates Court where she was released without charge.

The following year she was an active member of the window-smashing campaign and this time the magistrates gave her a four-month prison sentence in Holloway Prison. The following is from The Sussex Archaeological Society ⁽²⁾ paper recording what Alice said at her trial:

She had been imprisoned in November, but at her trial in March she said; "More than half my life I have been doing what lies in me to help the poor & unfortunate. As a member of a Vigilance Society, & as a worker in connection with other societies, I know the condition of our women & girls, & the dangers that lie about them & that they have no power to protect themselves; & that knowledge has made me take up the attitude I have today. I feel our case is a most urgent one, & I feel that only a woman can understand a woman's needs, that women suffer for the want & care of men, & that their salvation lies in looking after their own needs & in demanding the vote". She refused to be bound over & was given a four month sentence. She went on hunger strike & was forcibly fed before being released at the end of June. She was forty-two years old.

Whilst in prison she and 67 other women embroidered a handkerchief creating a set of signatures. Most of the women who sewed their names had been forcibly fed. The Suffragette handkerchief is on display at the Priest House, West Hoathly, West Sussex. Alice Maud Shipley's name is the 7th one down in the middle column.



Alice died in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1951.

References

- (1) en.wikipedia.org
- (2) [West Sussex Archaeological Society](http://www.westsussexarchaeologicalsociety.org)

Interested in joining The Friends of St Mary's?

See our website for details.

www.friendsofstmaryshigham.org.uk



SUMMER FESTIVAL



**SAT 6TH
JULY 2024** | **11AM - 2PM**



**FREE
ENTRY**

BBQ * REFRESHMENTS
TOMBOLA * CRAFT STALLS
BOUNCY CASTLE * GLITTER TATTOOS
TUCK SHOP * ICE CREAM
FUN GAMES * CAKE STALL
RAFFLE



**JOIN US AT
HIGHAM FERRERS NURSERY &
INFANT SCHOOL**

**2nd Higham Ferrers
Rainbows have a fun
filled year taking part in
many activities such as**



**Harvest, Remembrance, Ferrers Disco and Christmas
events. We have a wonderful time at our unit meetings
and are proud to wear our uniform.**

**We do lots of activities including crafts, teddy bears picnics, games
and badge work which the rainbows enjoy receiving.**

**If anyone aged 4-7 years old would like to join us, we meet every
Thursday, term time, 6pm - 7.15pm in Higham Ferrers.**

Please call Carole - 07811516357 or Jennifer - 07817585108



HIGHAM CHICHELE SOCIETY

The Higham Chichele Society meets in the Bede House (in the grounds of the Parish Church) on the last Friday of each month at 9.15am. Admission is £3, including refreshments. The annual subscription is £5 (singles) £8 (couples) due at the May meeting. Check our website:

www.highamchichelesociety.co.uk

Speakers for 2024

May 31st - Elizabethan grammar schools, Elizabeth I to the present day.

June 28th - Rushden pot makers, the story of iron age potters.

July 26th - The history of Yelden, including the origins of the castle.

August 30th - Irthingborough's Waterloo. Archive film from before the first world war.

September 27th - The Incas of Peru. The speaker's personal memories.

October 25th - The Home Guard: Lest we forget our brave men of Northamptonshire.

November 29th - Stanwick handbell ringers: followed by seasonal refreshments to end the year.

**NEW MEMBERS VERY
WELCOME, PLEASE
COME ALONG.**

HIGHAM FERRERS BOOK EXCHANGE



At the Sports Pavilion, opposite the skate park, Vine Hill Drive

The Book Exchange started out as a conversation with lots of ideas! The aim was to create a place where books could be taken, read, and then exchanged with no limit on time or quantity, and with no cost.

The Book Exchange opened on 16th May 2023, with approximately 100 books. One year on, we now have enough books for a 3 week rotation due to your kind donations. The word keeps spreading with the help of local people and Facebook. We have regular visitors of all ages and it is a pleasure to see parents and carers bringing in their children to explore different books. This would not be possible without the support of Higham Ferrers Town Council, allowing us to use the Pavilion building at no cost.

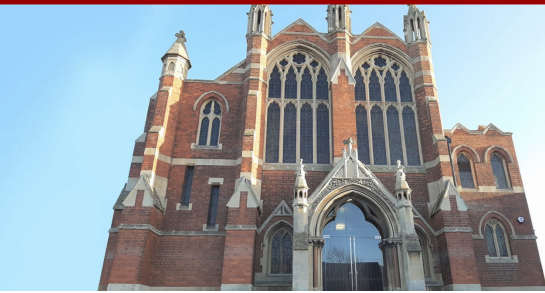
During our first year, the book exchange has celebrated Remembrance, with homemade poppies, Christmas and World Book Day, with a pirate! Pop in and see us for a free bookmark while stocks last!



Open Hours
Monday 10am-2pm
Thursday 3.15-6.15pm

Farmers Market
Saturdays 9am-1pm





Hope Methodist Church

Serving Higham Ferrers & Rushden

Linnetts Lane Higham Ferrers NN10 8DE
Nene Valley Circuit 23/23

www.hope-methodist.church



Pentecost, on 19th May this year, is always celebrated joyfully as a reminder of the gift of Holy Spirit to all people, everywhere, rather than to specific individuals.

Three of the main symbols of the Holy Spirit are

- a) The dove of peace, hence Hope's logo and naming the newly formed preschool group 'Little Doves'. This usually meets on 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of each month, 9.30 - 11.30am, and is open to all under 5's and their carers. It is a lively, yet surprisingly peaceful, relaxing time.
- b) Fire which includes a cleansing, purifying property and warmth. On 24th May 1738, John Wesley, Methodism's founder, used the phrase about his heart being 'strangely warmed' as he realised that he could fully trust in God's love, forgiveness, grace and guidance. It echoed the experience of the Emmaus disciples whose hearts burned within them as they listened to Jesus. Warmth of welcome and of fellowship are important. Sitting round a table, enjoying conversation is valued, hence the availability of a freshly cooked 2 course lunch for £8 at Hope to anyone, without booking, from 12.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays monthly.
- c) Wind with its sense of energy and movement, bringing order out of chaos, stirring up and guiding people. Methodism is also called the Methodist movement, indicating the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit transforming lives and prompting actions. Messy Church, on the 1st Friday of each month at 6pm, has plenty of movement and energy.

We are busy every day of the week, not just Fridays and Sundays, as we endeavour to serve our communities. We also make time for stillness, continuing to seek peace as we pray, being inspired as we reflect on God's word and being moved to act accordingly. You can now follow us on our new Facebook page.

One result of the gift of the Holy Spirit was that new members were added to the church. We rejoiced when another 2 new members were received at Hope on Easter Day.



There is a mammoth sale of jigsaws and books on Saturday 29th June from 10am.



Registered Charity Number 1111563
henryspta@outlook.com



SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 6th July 2024
From **12** to **3pm**

*traditional stalls,
ice cream, face painting
entertainment, bouncy castles
refreshments and much more*



Henry Chichele
Primary School

Henry Chichele Primary School, Higham Ferrers

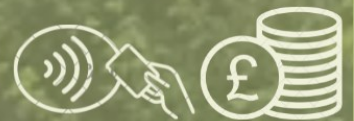
MAYOR'S GREEN TRAIL DAY

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024

STARTING FROM 10AM -

LAST ENTRY TIME 2PM

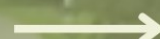
ENTRY FEE: DONATIONS



START AT



VIA



FINISH AT

THE GREEN DRAGON

STANWICK LAKES

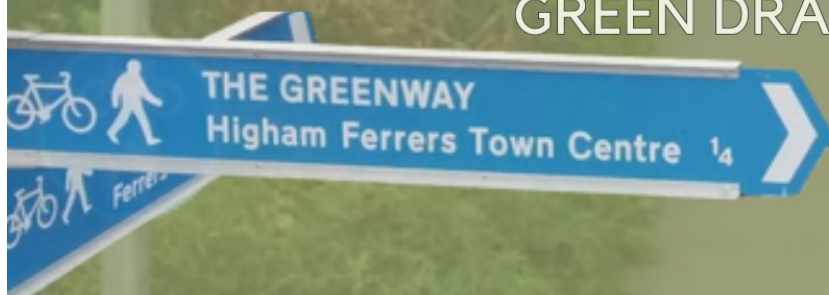
THE GREEN DRAGON

CHECKPOINT: GREEN LIVING FAIR AT STANWICK LAKES. WATER AND SNACKS AVAILABLE. LONGER ROUTE AVAILABLE TO WOODFORD LOCK.

MAPS WILL BE PROVIDED PRINTED AND DIGITALLY.
ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST CHECK IN WHEN FINISHED.

BIKE HIRE AVAILABLE FROM AJ CYCLES AT STANWICK LAKES

BAR AND SWEDISH KITCHEN WILL BE OPEN AT THE GREEN DRAGON.

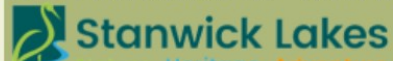


SUPPORTING:

MEN'S MINOS MATTER

Together we will end homelessness

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



AJ CYCLES

HIGH QUALITY BIKES & ACCESSORIES



BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP let's swap together for good

Bee Squared Project 2024 - Update

The 2024 "Bee Squared" Project has been a success. All of the Higham Ferrers Primary/Junior schools have received enough seed packets for each pupil and the Secondary school received the requested amount.

In addition, Cllr Gerald Kelly gave nearly a thousand packets of seeds to local businesses for distribution to their customers. Cllr Gerald Kelly was delighted that so many businesses were so happy to take part.



There are a small number of seed packets left in the Town Hall, which can be picked up; however, as they are in demand they may not be there for too long.

We are looking forward to receiving photos of all the lovely flowers, and the bees that are attracted to them. Please email your photos to: info@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

TENNIS COURTS *at Saffron Road Recreation Ground*

You can book the Tennis Courts for £5 per hour. Alternatively, purchase an annual pass for your household for £50, which enables 4 members of your household to play all year round.

TO PLAY TENNIS HERE:

VISIT:

lta.org.uk/book

OR SCAN:



And search:
Saffron Road
Recreation Ground

**SUMMER
SPECIAL
FREE HIRE!**
Every Thursday
throughout August
9am-1pm





Community Library and Wellbeing Hub Update



We have had good visitor support to the Hub since it has been open with a total of 166 visitors, 136 adults and 28 children. The number of children attending has increased and with more rhyme time events planned, this is expected to continue.

We had 8 volunteers when we opened in February, and since opening the volunteer recruitment process again we have received a further 7 applicants, 2 of which have already started, with the rest at varying stages of the recruitment process. We do need more volunteers if we are going to put on the number of groups we have planned; so if you have thought about volunteering and want to know more, have a chat with us, or look at our website for details of how to apply.

Volunteering opportunities are as follows:-

Library - Meet and greet people, help them choose a book if necessary, make drinks, sit and talk to visitors if that is what they need. Sort the books and clean the room as and when necessary.

Wellbeing - We will be running groups and require two people per session. One as a session facilitator to the group and the other to support the facilitator. Session Facilitator - gets the room ready for the group session, plans the session, organises any materials and equipment needed and leads the session.

Session Support Facilitator - supports the facilitator in running the group session, makes the drinks and helps with 1-1 support if required.

Thank you to everyone who has sent through their suggestions, please keep them coming as this Hub is for the residents of Higham Ferrers and we want to offer things that you want to see. Below is just a few of the ideas that have been put forward.

UNDER 5'S

Stay and Play, Construction Play, Rhyme Time, Story Time, Gardening

SOCIAL

Crafting sessions, Games sessions, Picnic Lunch Club, Singing Group

SUPPORT

Homework Club, Warm Space, IT/Tech support, Writers, Crafters, Artist Exhibitions

If you think you can help by volunteering please scan the QR code on the advert on this page or you can find an application form on our website www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk/volunteering

Higham Ferrers Community Library and Wellbeing Hub

Volunteer Recruitment

The Library and Wellbeing Hub have the following volunteer opportunities:

- Library Volunteer
- Session Facilitator
- Session Support

We are planning to start sessions in May. Please complete the online form via the QR code if you would like to suggest, facilitate or support a group.

Hub Opening Times

Tuesday: 1400-1600

Wednesday: 1000-1200 and 1400-1600

Thursday: 1000-1200

Summary of the Mayor's Annual Report of the Town Council activities in 2023-24

Events

This was a busy year for events as the country celebrated the **coronation of King Charles III**. The flags were flying along the High Street and the Market Square and yarnbombing creations decorated the street furniture. We hosted a 'Big Coronation Lunch' on Sunday 7th May and a Mayors Market with a coronation theme on Monday 8th May.

The annual **Remembrance Service** was held on Sunday 12th November. We welcomed a new parade marshal, Dave Averil, and it was the first Remembrance Service for Mother Louise from St Mary's Church.

Heritage Day was held on Sunday 17th September at Rushden Lakes, in partnership with Rushden Town Council. We spent the day promoting the local heritage and business of Higham Ferrers and Rushden and ran open top bus tours and lots of activities.

The ever popular annual **Sparkle** event was held on Saturday 18th November. This year it was just as successful as ever and very busy. There were activities and stalls at the Methodist Church, St Mary's Church, the Bede House Chichele College, the Duchy Barn Garden, Wilson Browne Solicitors and the Ashgrove Clinic. We also welcomed back the Christmas tree to the Market Square and were treated to a fantastic festive yarnbombing display from local crafters. We are already in planning mode for this year's Sparkle, so save the date as it's set for Saturday 23rd November 2024.

Staff and Councillors

John Algar joined the council in June 2023 as the **Parks, Open Spaces and Facilities Supervisor**. John assists the Park Warden, oversees repair and maintenance of council assets, supervises contractors, undertakes play area and asset inspections and has proven himself invaluable since his appointment.

We appointed a new **Community Connector**, Natasha Fountain at the start of 2024. Natasha is helping to set up and deliver the new Community Library and Wellbeing Hub at the Community Room in Midland Road and we are well on our way to this service becoming an important and significant local asset thanks to her hard work.

We sadly lost two past Mayors this year. In July 2023 former Mayor and Councillor **Margaret Tuffnail** passed away. Margaret served 24 years as a Town Councillor and was Mayor twice.

In August 2023 the town council was saddened to hear of the passing of **Derek Lawson MBE**. Derek had a long career in local government, serving as a Town Councillor for 57 years and as Mayor three times.

Both Derek and Margaret will be greatly missed.

Planning

The Town Council was consulted on 27 planning applications this year with our responses being submitted to the planning authority North Northants Council.

Planning cont.

The '**Rushden East Sustainable Urban Extension**' is still awaiting outline planning permission.

The application to deliver 300 houses on the **land to the east of the Ferrers School** was permitted in Spring 2023. The council has requested transfer and ownership of the proposed open spaces and allotments.

In May the Town Clerk made representation at the appeal against the NNC refusal decision for the construction of 133 houses on land off **Shirley Road, Rushden**. In June the Inspector's decision allowed the appeal and planning permission was granted, but the developers entered administration in June 2023 and development has not commenced.

General

The **Neighbourhood Plan Review** is well underway, with a Steering Group meeting regularly.

We held **Business Forum** meetings in March, June and December, offering support and networking opportunities. The council also joined the Wellingborough and East Northants Chamber of Commerce and the Town Clerk and Leader attend regular liaison meetings with Rushden Lakes Centre Management and the Chamber to better assist with supporting local business.

In conjunction with Rushden Town Council, the **Rushden and Higham Ferrers Wellbeing Bus** has now been running for over 12 months. The service is funded by both councils and run by Shire Community Services. It has been a popular addition to local transport services.

The **Community Library and Wellbeing Hub** officially opened in March 2024 and we are looking to continue to add services as we go.

A working party is now looking at all the options to renovate our **Sports Pavilion**, following a public consultation and council decision that we would not move ahead with a full Community Centre build.

We launched a **new access system for the tennis courts** in December. This system operates in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association and offers a much improved online booking system and the chance to purchase annual passes for a household.

It was with great sadness that the centuries-old **Walnut Tree** was felled in December. This was an incredibly difficult decision made after every potential option was considered, but ultimately the conclusion was reached that the tree had come to the end of its life.

The **new Town App** was launched in March, with a much improved and user-friendly interface. It will be used to update residents on town events, news and much more.

The **Bee Squared project** continued this year and in March seeds were distributed to the schools in Higham Ferrers, with more available from the Town Hall and local shops.

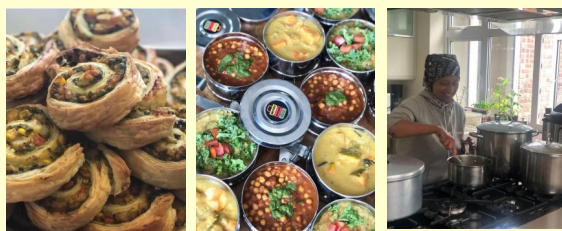
A **biodiversity survey of Riverside Park** was undertaken to better allow us to understand how to cultivate and promote existing and potential wildlife habitats. We hope to roll this out to all of our open spaces eventually.



On Saturday 27th April we Celebrated the 22nd birthday of our monthly Farmer Market.

We purchased some tasty treats from two of our regular market traders, an amazing cake from Cupalicious and delicious biscuits from Ab's Bakes. The Mayor and several of the councillors attended to cut the cake and we enjoyed sharing it with our traders and customers throughout the morning.

We were also joined by the Northamptonshire Police Beat Bus, this is a great opportunity for residents to meet the neighbourhood policing team and discuss any concerns about crime in the area.



We welcomed a new trader 'Mistrys Kitchen' to the market in March. They sell a great range of plant based curries and samosa puffs so come down and try some of their quality produce.



Dates for 2024



<p><i>A wonderful range of produce from many award winning local traders including, cakes, bread, cheese, pies, poultry, eggs, fishcakes, meat, honey, jam, chilli sauces, dog food, plants, hot food and drinks, soaps, accessories, fruit and vegetables.</i></p>		JULY	27th
		AUGUST	31st
		SEPTEMBER	28th
		OCTOBER	26th
APRIL	27th	NOVEMBER	30th
MAY	25th	DECEMBER	21st
JUNE	29th		

Market Square, Higham Ferrers, NN10 8BT
Tel: 01933 312075

9am - 1pm



@HIGHAMFERRERSTC



HIGHAMFERRERSFARMERSMARKET





Join us as Higham Ferrers takes part
in the commemoration of the 80th
anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Along with many other town councils
and organisations we will be lighting
a small beacon on the 6th June 2024,
representing the 'light of peace' that
emerged from the darkness of war.

Thursday 6th June 2024

Beacon will be lit at 9.15pm

(to coincide with the beacon lighting taking place across the UK)

War Memorial, Market Square, Higham Ferrers



mayor's report



Since the last edition in February, I have attended Civic Services in Wellingborough and Northampton and a Valentines Dinner in Rushden. It's always a pleasure to socialise with the Mayor's from neighbouring areas.

At the January Farmers Market we were joined by Todd, pictured below, and his team from Titan Fitness, who were raising money for a fantastic cause against knife crime.

In March I hosted my Quiz Night at the Working Mens Club. It was a wonderful evening with lovely food and lots of laughs. Thank you to those who attended. Well done to Irthlingborough Town Council for getting the highest score!

It was truly an honour, being the Mayor of Higham Ferrers. I have been raising money for community groups within the Town and I have now received applications for these funds and will be distributing them at the end of May.

I would like to thank my wife Jackie for being a very proactive Mayoress, all my fellow councillors and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Vijay Paul, who I'm sure will do a fantastic job during his time as Mayor. A final thank you to the businesses and people of Higham Ferrers, for all of your support.



Cllr Nigel Brown

YOUR MAYOR FOR 2024-25

I am honoured to be your Mayor for 2024/25. I would like to thank Cllr Nigel Brown for his dedicated service as Mayor for the last 2 years.

Hailing from a background in international finance, I repatriated to England in 2016 having left in 2002.

Being successfully elected to the Council in 2018, I have been actively involved in the Council activities and services.

In particular, I greatly enjoyed being Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee for 2 years. I gained a tremendous insight into developments and decisions that directly shape the aesthetic and character of our beautiful town.

I am very much looking forward to the challenge of being Mayor of Higham Ferrers and representing our town to the best of my abilities.



There are various fund raising social events planned throughout my year. My chosen charities will be the “Crisis” homelessness charity, and “Men’s Minds Matter”. In addition, I will also be supporting local Higham Ferrers initiatives and raising money for all ability access play equipment.

Cllr Vijay Pant



Higham Ferrers



@HighamFerrersTC



Facebook/HighamFerrersTownCouncil



www.instagram.com/highamferrerstc

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

DATE	TYPE OF MEETING	TIME
14 th May 2024	Planning and Development Committee	6.45pm
	Environment and Recreation Committee	7.30pm
28 th May 2024	Council	7.30pm
11 th June 2024	Planning and Development Committee	6.45pm
	Policy and Resources Committee	7.30pm
25 th June 2024	Council	7.30pm
9 th July 2024	Planning and Development Committee	6.45pm
	Environment and Recreation Committee	7.30pm
30 th July 2024	Council	7.30pm
13 th August 2024	Planning and Development Committee	6.45pm
	Policy and Resources Committee	7.30pm
27 th August 2024	Statutory Council	7.30pm

All meetings are held in the Town Hall unless otherwise notified. The public are welcome to attend Town Council meetings.

There is a stairlift available if required for access to the Town Hall Chambers which are upstairs.

Higham Ferrers Town Council

Town Hall, Market Square, NN10 8BT

Telephone: 01933 312075

Email: info@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk



HIGHAM FERRERS' SAVE THE DATES 2024

Sunday
22
September

Heritage Day

Rushden Lakes, 10am-4pm



Sunday
10
November

Remembrance Service

Market Sq, Higham Ferrers, 10.45am



Saturday
23
November

Christmas Sparkle

Higham Ferrers, 11am-6pm.



Who to contact...



Town Council deal with;

- Cemeteries/Burials.
- Local Open Spaces/
Parks & Recreation
Grounds.
- Public Conveniences.
- Markets.
- Off Street Car Parking.
- Grants to Voluntary
Bodies.
- Civic Events /
Local Tourism.
- Closed Churchyards.



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

The Unitary Council deal with:

- Environment - Refuse Collection, Dog waste, Recycling, Food Safety, Pest Control and Noise Nuisance.
- Education.
- Highways/Transport/Street Doctor.
- Social Services.
- Libraries & Information Services.
- Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths.
- Trading Standards.
- Building Control.
- Electoral Registration/Elections.
- Housing Register.
- Council Tax & Business Rates Collection.

Telephone: 0300 1263000 Website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

* Cllr Bert Jackson Email: bertjackson@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	* Cllr Jennie Bone Email: jenniebone@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Barry Prigmore Email: barryprigmore@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Tony Reading Email: tonyreading@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk
Cllr Gary Salmon Email: garysalmon@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Peter Tomas Email: petertomas@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Pam Whiting Email: pamwhiting@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Tina Reavey Email: tinareavey@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk
Cllr Chris O'Rourke Email: chrisorourke@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Angela Gardner Email: angelagardner@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Nigel Brown Email: nigelbrown@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Barry Spencer Email: barryspencer@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk
Cllr Vijay Paul Email: vijaypaul@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Paul McCann Email: paulmccann@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Gerald Kelly Email: geraldkelly@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk	Cllr Sean Prosser Email: seanprosser@ highamferrers-tc.gov.uk

* North Northamptonshire Councillors

HIGHAM FERRERS

-TOWN APP-

**BRAND NEW AND
IMPROVED FOR 2024!**

Download today to:

- Support local business
- Access special offers and promotions
- Keep up to date with local events and information

Available to download now on Google Play and the App Store,
scan the QR codes below



Do you own or run a Higham Ferrers based business or service that's
not already listed on the app? Let us know so we can add you!