



VERWOOD VISTA

The Town Council Newsletter for *Verwood and Three Legged Cross*

Issue No. 76
SPRING 2024

28 Vicarage Road, Verwood, BH31 6DR
Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Monday - Friday

MAYOR'S REPORT

As I write this, Christmas already seems so long ago. However, we finished the season in style with a Twelfth Night Dinner and entertainment at Crane Valley which raised over £600 for my charities - thank you to all those who supported the event. Due to its success, the event will run again next year raising money for the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation.



It was lovely to see the Extravaganza well attended and the community supporting other events in the town. We want to make the Extravaganza even better next year, so please let us have any suggestions of what you would like to see.

Using funds from the Mayor's Charity we piloted a blister pack collection scheme. It has been so successful that we are now continuing it long term. Empty packs (we cannot accept any packs still containing medication) can be brought to the Town Council Offices Monday to Friday between 9am and 1pm.

Twining in Verwood has been very active for over 30 years, this year in May we are again welcoming our French friends from Champtoceaux. Local families are hosting and there is a programme of activities in hand. I am honoured to be welcoming them to Verwood. *Vivre l'entente cordiale!*

D Day 80th Anniversary is on 6th June 2024, and marks the largest Naval, Air and Land Operation in history; and Verwood will be taking part in the Lamp Light of Peace with a ceremony at Ferrett Green at 9:15pm to coincide with the national beacon lighting. The lamplight will represent the 'light of peace' that emerged from the darkness of war, with the lamp providing a very simple and safe way of taking part in this important 80th anniversary occasion. More details will be available nearer the time.

This year marks the end of the term of office of our Town Councillors as the local elections are being held in May. I would like to thank all of the Councillors for their commitment to our community over the last five years and wish those standing again good luck. If you are interested in serving our community, please contact the Town Clerk for further information.

This will also be my last report in the Vista as Mayor, as the next issue will be after the elections. I would like to take the opportunity not only to thank my colleague Councillors here in Verwood but also the 'Chain Gang' of other Mayors and Chairman in Dorset and most importantly, the staff in the Town Council offices - always ready to help with a smile and always professional in everything they do.

It has been an honour to serve our community as Mayor for a second time, thank you

Councillor Toni Coombs



Twelfth Night Celebration

COMMUNITY FORUM

Verwood's Dorset Councillors, Cllr Toni Coombs, Cllr Spencer Flower & Cllr Simon Gibson have launched a Community Forum for local residents to discuss matters affecting Verwood. A meeting on the 12th February, had guest speaker David Sidwick, the Police & Crime Commissioner, answering questions about the police response to crime in the Town as this is an issue that Town Councillors have raised concerns about.

The next forum is on Monday 15th April 7pm at the Verwood Hub

No booking is necessary - there is an open forum for anyone to ask a question.

DORSET COUNCIL'S VOLUNTEER DIGITAL CHAMPIONS AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT COMMUNITY GROUPS

Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions are friendly volunteers who can help people get online and increase their confidence with all things digital. They provide face-to-face support in libraries across the county and are now extending the service to community groups and organisations.

Community organisations can, on a one-off basis, book a digital champion to talk to their group. The digital champion can also carry out a troubleshooting session on any digital issues people might have.

Any community group that would like to book a digital champion, please go to:

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/book-a-digital-champion



More dates for your diary...

Thursday 2 May 2024

Parish & Town Council Elections, 7am to 10pm

Thursday 6th June

D-Day 80th Anniversary

9.15pm, Ferrett Green Memorial Stone



MAYOR'S FUND

The Mayor's Fund was set up last year by Cllr Simon Gibson to raise funds for local groups. Following a successful year fundraising, including monies raised at the Jubilee and Coronation events, several thousand pounds has already been distributed across the local area. Recipients include Verwood Guides, the Trussell Trust foodbank, Friends of Ringwood Forest and Verwood Friendship Club. Donations have also been made to protect bees in Verwood and to provide a ReFactory Box at the Council offices for the recycling of empty medical blister packs which are recycled into planters and garden furniture. Cllr Toni Coombs has continued raising funds for the Mayor's Fund this year.

One initiative that has proved very popular was a direct democracy event with local first schools. Pupils visited the Town Council office to hold a debate and vote on an item which would benefit their school. This was paid for by the Mayor's Fund. The Town Council is looking forward to repeating this again in the coming year.

Cllr Simon Gibson has some funds remaining and is keen to support local groups. If you would like to be considered for a small grant, typically for around £250, please contact Simon for further details: cll.gibson@hotmail.co.uk

Hillside School at the Town Council Chambers



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Over 65 members of the community came together to celebrate Christmas at Crane Valley Golf Club as part of the Community Christmas initiative run by Cllr Simon Gibson.

The event, now in its 11th year, was free for all guests thanks to kind donations from Verwood Rotary Club, Alan Frouds LTD and A W Andrews Butchers. The event is supported by the Golf Club who provide a wonderful meal and service.

Simon Gibson said "It was another great event. Christmas time can be lonely for many people, so we want to do something to bring people together. It wouldn't happen without the generosity of our local businesses, who always support our community. Thank you!"

If you would like to get involved with the Community Christmas initiative, please contact Simon Gibson: cll.gibson@hotmail.co.uk



Cllr. Simon Gibson - Community Christmas Lunch



Do you live in Three Legged Cross?

Do you have an idea for a project or a club that would benefit the community of Three Legged Cross?

If you can answer 'yes' to either of these questions then you could be eligible for some funding

*The Community Fund is sponsored by the **Homeland Solar Farm** and is for the benefit of the residents, community and environment of Three Legged Cross*

It's easy to apply:

To obtain an application form please contact **Jill** via email at 3lxcommunityfund2014@gmail.com

Verwood Solar Farm Fund



Grants awarded by Verwood Solar Farm Fund during 2023 include:

Forest FM, Verwood Friendship Club, Verwood Concert Brass, Verwood First School, Dementia Friendly Group, Verwood Youth Club, Emmanuel Middle School, Verwoodians on Waste, Verwood Community Group and the Pantomime Society.

The next meeting of the Committee will be end of May/early June.

Applications submitted by the middle of May.

Full details on the Town Council website



VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB...

...caters for all standards of lawn green bowlers who wish to join, including those wanting to learn the game. We offer a warm welcome to all for competitive and social Lawn Green Bowling at a friendly and well-established club. Come and give it a try at our taster sessions.

For more information and to book a place on our taster sessions, please telephone 07970 152926 or check out our website for dates and times plus more information about the club: www.verwoodbowlingclub.co.uk

VERWOOD CEMETERY MEMORIALS

Following statutory memorial testing at Verwood Cemetery, some of the headstones have been identified as unsafe; these have red & white banding around them.

Please could Cemetery Plot Owners kindly check memorials and arrange for repairs to be made by a BRAMM registered Stone Mason. Thank you.

VERWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

20th February – riSEN – Baking Heart Cookies & Talking About Relationships

22nd February – Baking Heart Cookies

27th February – riSEN – Just Dance Competition & Internet Safety

29th February – Glow in the Dark Manhunt

To enquire about Verwood Youth and Community Centre lettings email: youthandcommunitycentre@verwood.gov.uk

POLICE REPORT

Verwood Neighbourhood Policing Team: Sgt 1451 Jane MOORE works from Verwood Police Station with PC 1757 Julia RATCLIFFE and PC 2562 Lee LAWRENCE.

Julia is the officer who covers Verwood Town, Three Legged Cross and Alderholt whilst Lee covers East Dorset Rural. However, they work as a team dealing with issues across the section.

We also have the assistance of Special Constable 3572 Graziano DOBERSCU. The section is additionally covered by our patrol teams based at Ferndown Police Station.

The Youth Justice Team, Officers from the Incident Resolution Team, Police Community Support Investigators and our Neighbourhood



Engagement Officer also work from Verwood Police Station.

Please keep an eye on our Social Media Pages – East Dorset Police, for details of our engagement events which are opportunities for members of our communities to come and speak to us face-to-face about issues or concerns. Community Contact Points at The Hub, Brock Way, Verwood, BH31 7QE:

Wednesday 28th February 2024, 11.00 to 12.00

Thursday 28th March 2024, 11.00 to 12.00

Tuesday 30th April 2024, 15.30 to 16.30

The team will continue to conduct high visibility patrols in our ASB 'hot spots', support victims of crime and pursue the prosecution of offenders.

We rely on our communities to report concerns and incidents to us. This helps us to be in the right places at the right times.

Telephone: 101 for non-emergency/
999 in an emergency.

On-line at www.dorset.police.uk/contactus



Sgt 1451 Jane MOORE

VERWOODIANS ON WASTE

Verwoodians on Waste manage a series of recycling bins in the Potters Wheel Car Park. This waste is packaged up by volunteers and posted to Terracycle, who turn it into useful plastic products such as flowerpots, notice boards and garden furniture. Sadly, Terracycle have lost funding for some waste streams such as crisp packets and confectionery wrappers. These collection points have therefore been removed from the recycling bay. Soft plastic can still be recycled at most supermarkets and Verwoodians on Waste urge readers to consider buying fruit, vegetables and meat without packaging.

Verwoodians on Waste monthly pop-up recycling surgeries are held at the Heritage Centre on the first Saturday of each month between 9.30am and 10.30am

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Verwood & District Horticultural Society (VDH) have launched a 'Verwood Through The Lens' photography competition for amateur photographers to submit their entries for judging at the VDHS Spring Show on 16 March 2024.

Entrants can submit up to 2 images into each of the four categories, and it's FREE to enter!

The prize fund stands at £150 kindly donated by Verwood Town Council for this inclusive community competition. First prize is £100 Amazon voucher, second prize is £30 voucher and third prize is £20 voucher.

If anyone wants to take part please check the VDH website for further details plus terms and conditions. verwoodhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

IS YOUR PARTNER WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVE?

STAYING SAFE ONLINE
Free Guidance on Digital Stalking available from www.womensaid.org.uk/onlinesafety

women's aid
and women & children are safe
www.womensaid.org.uk

AVON
COUNCIL
ANTI-STALKING

LITTER PICKING

Monthly litter picks continue, on the final Saturday of each month at 10am and last for around an hour. All equipment is provided. Suitable for all ages but under 16s will require the supervision of a responsible adult.

Please come and support the litter picks and keep the town tidy!

Saturday 24th February at 10am

Meeting at the Skate Park, Potterne Park

Saturday 30th March 10am

Meeting in Morrisons Car Park at the entrance to Bugdens Copse

Saturday 27th April 10am

Meeting at the entrance to Verwood Recreation Ground

Saturday 25th May at 10am

Meeting outside Three Legged Cross First School, Church Road.

If you would like further information or to report areas which need litter picking, please contact Simon Gibson on cllr.gibson@hotmail.co.uk



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
 VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE
WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH
 THREE LEGGED CROSS VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 14TH MAY
 VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Dewlands North Ward

Cllr Martyn Hudson
 01202 974654
Cllr Carol Traves
 07799 891762

Dewlands South Ward

Cllr Toni Coombs (Mayor)
 01202 827376
Cllr Charmaine Crossley
 01202 826050
Cllr Spencer Flower
 01202 821231
Cllr Sandra Grove
 01202 826449
Cllr Elizabeth Ingram MBE
 01202 820880
Cllr Tony Smith
 07808 819762
Cllr Kate Stephens
 01202 940456

Stephens Castle Ward

Cllr Alan Biggs
 01202 821186
Cllr Lindsey Dedden
 01202 824473
Cllr Simon Gibson
 01202 820822
Cllr Rev'd Julian Macro
 01202 814270
Cllr Andy Maw
 07808 167949
Cllr Pat Morrow
 01202 814733
Cllr Matthew Parker (Deputy Mayor)
 07703 342039

Three Legged Cross

Cllr Jane Russell
 01202 822236



WARD BOUNDARY MAP

Verwood Town Council ward boundaries can be found on the Dorset Explorer website:

<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/explorer/>

Zoom in on Verwood and from the lefthand options, click the 3rd (layer control) then select:

- Administrative Boundaries
- Other Boundaries
- Parish Wards
- Left click on a street and the name of the Parish Ward will appear on the screen.



GRANT AID

Town Council Grant Aid funding is available for community organisations who can demonstrate a clear need for financial support.

The organisation must be either charitable or non-profit making, it must have clearly written aims and objectives, a constitution and membership rules. Each organisation can only make one application per year.

Deadlines for applications are 14th February and 14th August.

To apply for Grant Aid, download a form from the Verwood Town Council website:

<http://tinyurl.com/mwer8wwr>

and return it the Town Council via email at: towncouncil@verwood.gov.uk

or to the office at 28 Vicarage Road

GRANT AID AWARDED AUTUMN 2023:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Citizens Advice..... | £3,000 |
| Forest FM..... | £2,500 |
| Music for the Mind..... | £325 |
| Three Legged Cross Village Hall..... | £2,500 |
| Verwood & Three Legged Cross Dementia Friendly Community Assoc. | £500 |
| Verwood & District Rambling Club..... | £450 |
| Verwood Evening Townswomen's Guild..... | £150 |
| Verwood Pantomime Society..... | £2,000 |
| Verwood U3A..... | £1,500 |

Moors Valley
 Country park and forest



Unleash your inner adventurer at Moors Valley! Gruffalo birthday Trail

The Gruffalo is celebrating his 25th birthday and to celebrate, everyone is invited to take part in a brand-new forest adventure at Moors Valley. Head out on the Gruffalo Party Trail to find missing party items, pick a present for the Gruffalo and enjoy more fun woodland activities throughout the year.

At Moors Valley there is something for everyone whether you want to enjoy a peaceful walk or cycle through the forest, experience a ride on an authentic narrow-gauge steam train, Go Ape on a high wire adventure, take a Segway or visit the play trail.

Gates open from 8am every day

For more information contact: rangers@moors-valley.co.uk

Or call: 01425 470721

VERWOOD HUB
 COMMUNITY & LEISURE

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 24th Feb..... | KAPOW Wrestling |
| 1st Mar..... | Women in Rock |
| 2nd Mar..... | Sean Collins |
| 16th Mar..... | The Comedy Store |
| 21st Mar..... | Cinema - The Marvels |
| 22nd Mar..... | Oh! What A Night |
| 23rd Mar..... | Thought Control - Pink Floyd |
| 24th Mar..... | Cinema - The Great Escaper |
| 12th Apr... .. | Hometown Glory - Adele Tribute |
| 13th Apr..... | Grand Slam Wrestling |
| 20th Apr..... | Tina Live |
| 27th Apr..... | Not the Rolling Stones |
| 11th May..... | The Tulsa Time Band |
| 18th May..... | The Comedy Store |
| 24th May..... | And Finally Phil Collins |
| 31st May..... | The Ed Sheeran Experience |
| 1st June..... | D-Day Darlings |
| 6th June..... | The Rod Stewart Song Book |

For up-to-date information and to book tickets please contact Verwood Hub:

verwoodhub@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01202 828740