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DISS AHEAD is published quarterly by

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**Corn Hall gets a Face Lift**

The Assembly Hall at the Corn Hall has recently been redecorated and the outside stone work cleaned and restored in time for the Christmas period. New chairs have been purchased and together with the tiered seating this makes the Corn Hall an attractive venue for organisations, theatre groups and individuals to put on concerts and theatrical productions, particularly as there are no other premises in the Diss area that can seat audiences of up to 400 people.

The Town Council is also looking to promote the Corn Hall as a venue for weddings, private parties, sales and trade events to try and increase revenue and offset the financial burden of running this historic building.

If you would like to hire the Corn Hall please contact the Council Offices and we will be happy to discuss your requirements and provide a quote.



*The newly decorated Assembly Hall at Diss Corn Hall*

**Town Council Vacancies**

There are two vacancies on the Town Council following the recent resignations of Councillors David Cooper and Paula Henderson-Gray so we are looking for two people who are interested in joining the Town Council. Both vacancies can be filled by co-option by members. Whilst being a Town Councillor does require some time commitment it can be an interesting and rewarding task being involved in contributing to the well being of our Town. If you would like more information please contact the Town Clerk or why not speak to one of our existing Councillors listed on the back of Diss Ahead?

**Schools Vote for Play equipment in the Park**

The results of the questionnaire which appeared in the last edition of Diss Ahead and was also available from the Park Kiosk during the summer showed a large majority in favour of removing the old equipment, apart from the new swings, basketball area and aerial runway and replacing them with a new scheme to cater for all age groups. This prompted the Council's Amenities Committee to send invitations for tender to five different companies with a brief to design an exciting scheme for Diss Park. In an effort to ensure that the best scheme was chosen for the children of Diss, Town Clerk, Deborah Sarson has taken the designs to the Diss schools inviting feedback from the children.

The results from this consultation helped the Committee choose Monster Play Systems as the successful company and we hope to publish details of the winning design in the near future, with installation, if possible, before the start of next summer.



*Children at Diss Junior School with Town Clerk, Deborah Sarson*



*The Town Council outdoor team with Town Clerk Deborah Sarson*

## New uniforms for Town Council staff

The Town Council's outdoor staff will be much easier to recognise whilst they are working at the various Council properties around the Town, thanks to new uniforms introduced in October incorporating the Town Council logo. The uniform also includes high visibility jackets which will improve safety for workers especially during the darker winter months.

The uniforms have already proved popular with the outdoor team and will hopefully help to give staff a more professional and corporate image.

## Mayor Goes Back to School

In line with the youth theme for his Mayoral year Town Mayor, Brian Clark-Taylor has spent a morning at Diss High School talking to a group of year 7 students who will be studying a politics unit as part of their Citizenship course. The visit was organised by Janine Oxley Head of Citizenship at the School who said "I feel it is important for students to meet someone who is actually involved in local politics as this will help them to understand the way in which politics can affect their lives".

Diss High School students Alex Dimminger and Jasmine Rivett also attended the October Meeting of the Town Council during which they talked to Councillors about the School Council and their way in which it helps students to learn about the democratic process, and how it benefits their daily school life of all the students. In addition Alice Baillie gave details of her role as Youth Parliament Member for South Norfolk and made her suggestions for setting up a Youth Town Council for Diss.

Following the talk the Town Mayor thanked the students for their excellent contribution to the meeting and offered the use of the Council Chamber for a future School Council Meeting.



*Diss High School students Jasmine Rivett, Alice Baillie & Alex Dimminger with Town Mayor Brian Clark-Taylor*

## Music Festival

Members of the Policy Development & Leisure Committee heard suggestions for a Music Festival in Diss for 2007 at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Local musician Pete Cunningham who has had a great deal of experience of music festivals spoke to Councillors about the possibility of holding a three day Music Festival in October 2007 over a weekend, with events including a big band playing in the Corn Hall, a Ceilidh and session music and also including local pubs in the event if they have bands booked. He gave examples of the towns of Cheltenham and Fylde who had both held successful Festivals in the past supported by the Town Council and Councillors asked the Town Clerk to contact these Town Councils for more information on how the Festivals were run and the advantages they brought to their towns. It was also felt that the opinions of Diss residents should be sought to gauge whether people would be in favour of holding a Music Festival and what they would like included in such an event. Please contact the offices to let us know your opinions for a Festival in 2007 which would be self-financing and could help to attract more visitors into the Town.

## South Norfolk Home Watch



Are you fed up with crime and nuisance makers in your area and want to do something about it? Why not join the largest voluntary group in the country and help make your town a safer and more caring community? Home Watch is simply a number of residents coming together to form a Home Watch group which is run by the members and supported by the Police. The Home Watch Groups can vary in size from a few houses to whole towns or villages. Each group elects a Co-ordinator who acts as the point of contact through which the police communicate giving timely and accurate information which is passed on to members.

The information not only helps to protect residents but the feedback from members to the police has resulted in many criminals being arrested. Crime reports in Police records show that members of Home Watch groups are less likely to be victims of crime and at present there are about 5000 Home Watch groups across the country with a total membership of over 70,000.

If you want more information on how you can make a real difference in your neighbourhood contact John Broughton on 01379 650773.

## Meet our New Town Councillor

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Marion Robbins has now been filled by Jackie Talbot who was co-opted by Town Council Members at their meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Jackie says:

"I have been a resident of Diss and the surrounding villages for the best part of 35 years. I married a local man and we have three sons and five grandchildren, who all live in Diss and Roydon. I was educated at Long Stratton High School and have GCE passes in English, Maths, Music and distinction passes in History, Art and Domestic Science.

I have worked throughout my married life and came through the ranks from the bottom and learnt through hands on experience. I am at present employed as a Payroll and Personnel Officer for a local company. The reason I wanted to become a Town Councillor is because I feel the need to give something back to the community as a whole and for that reason I also took on the role of Chairman of the Diss Christmas Lights Appeal Committee.

Diss is a charming market town, the people are friendly and most know each other and there is a good community spirit. It is my hope that I may, in some way, contribute to the banning of the consumption of alcohol on the streets of Diss, that anti social behaviour is brought to a nil tolerance level and that the drug scene is eradicated from Diss altogether. In addition I would like to help with attracting more tourism to the town and to make Diss once again safer for people to enjoy.

When I have the time my hobbies are gardening, touring and my grandchildren



## Countdown to Christmas



The Festive season is upon us once again and as usual there's plenty going on in Diss to suit all age groups.

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Lights Switch-on event 2pm – 6pm

A family event organised by the Christmas Lights Appeal Committee to be held in the Market Place featuring stalls, games, fancy dress competition for children, with Santa's Grotto in Reductions, carol singing by St Mary's Church Choir and official switch on at 5pm by Rick Wakeman.

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Burgate Singers Concert 7.30pm at the Corn Hall

A performance of The Magnificat by Bach & Hymn to the Nativity by Respighi with orchestra & soloists and conducted by Alain Judd. Tickets £10.00 available from Diss Antiques, Judith Sykes Dental Surgery or call 01379 783422.

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Diss Town Council's Christmas Carol Concert 7.00pm at the Corn Hall

This popular annual event will include music from the Waveney Choir and the choirs of Diss Junior and Diss High Schools accompanied by the Diss Salvation Army Band with guest presenter Louise Priest. Tickets are available at the Council Offices or on the door, priced £3.00 adults, £2.00 concessions & £10.00 for a family ticket.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December Late Night Christmas Party 4.30pm – 8.00pm

Come and enjoy late night shopping with a party atmosphere, entertainment at the Market Place and Mere's Mouth will be provided by Radio Broadland and the Black Thunder Team. Other attractions include fairground rides, stalls, competitions and a grand raffle with the first prize of a balloon ride courtesy of Wizard Balloons. The evening will be officially opened at 4.30 by the Town Mayor.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December Charity Concert with The Searchers 7.30pm at the Corn Hall

The return of the 60s favourites to Diss in aid of East Anglian Children's Hospices. Tickets are available from Tourist Information Centre and Glyn Henry Productions on 01379 644013

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 'Fifth Christmas Jam' – Rock Concert at the Corn Hall, 7.30pm.

Tickets available from The Railway Tavern Mellis Tel: 01379 783416

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December Cinema at the Corn Hall – Eight Below starring Paul Walker

Tickets £4.00 & £3.00 concessions, available at the door.

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Concert with the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band at the Corn Hall 7.30pm

A festive evening with the talented young musicians of the Band led by musical director Mike Booty. Tickets £4.00 available in advance from the Tourist Information Centre by calling 01379 854600 or on the door at £5.00 if available.



*The Town Mayor, staff and members of Diss Town Council would like to wish all readers of Diss Ahead a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year*

All members of the public are welcome to attend all Meetings of the Town Council which are held at Diss Corn Hall.. Because the Council Chamber is not yet fully accessible, we will be happy to move the venue of a meeting to accommodate the needs of those with mobility problems. Full details of meetings and agendas for discussion are available from the Town Clerk and are published on the public notice board outside the Council Offices five days in advance of the meeting.

	DEC 2006	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR.	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Properties Committee</b> (Meets at 7:15pm)	6 <sup>th</sup>	-	7 <sup>th</sup>	-	4 <sup>th</sup>	-	6 <sup>th</sup>	-	1 <sup>st</sup>	-	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Project Development &amp; Leisure Committee</b> (Meets at 7:15pm)	-	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	7 <sup>th</sup>	-	2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	4 <sup>th</sup>	-	5 <sup>th</sup>	-	7 <sup>th</sup>	-
<b>Amenities Committee</b> (Meets at 7:15pm)	-	10 <sup>th</sup>	-	14 <sup>th</sup>	-	9 <sup>th</sup>	-	11 <sup>th</sup>	-	12 <sup>th</sup>	-	14 <sup>th</sup>	-
<b>Planning Committee</b> (Meets at 6:30pm)	6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Highways Committee</b> (Meets at 10:00am)	-	24 <sup>th</sup>		28 <sup>th</sup>		23 <sup>rd</sup>		25 <sup>th</sup>		26 <sup>th</sup>		28 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Cittaslow Committee</b> (Meets at 7.15pm)	-	24 <sup>th</sup>		28 <sup>th</sup>		23 <sup>rd</sup>		25 <sup>th</sup>		26 <sup>th</sup>		28 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Full Council</b> (Meets at 7:15pm)	13 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>		19 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>

If you have any issues that you would like raised at a meeting of the Town Council or one of its Committees, please contact one of your local Town Councillors (details below). For matters relating to South Norfolk District Council (based at Long Stratton), please contact your local District Councillor and for County Council matters (based at County Hall, Norwich), please contact your local County Councillor. If you need assistance, the staff at the Town Council Offices will be happy to direct you to the appropriate elected Councillor.

#### Town Councillors' Contact Details

Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Clark-Taylor, Brian	17 De Lucy Close, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YL.	642085	elaineandbrian@sherland.freereserve.co.uk
Dewhurst, Elizabeth	17 Riverside Maltings, Rose Lane, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4RA	641480	
Kitchen, Adrian	14 Roydon Road, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4LW.	642468	adrian_kitchen@hotmail.com
Maskell, John	12 Louies Lane, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4LR.	652576	-
Olander, Simon	5 Sycamore Way, DISS. Norfolk, IP22 4ZD.	641007	olander007@aol.com
Oxley, Richard	c/o Town Council Offices	643848	towncouncil@diss.gov.uk
Palmer, Anthony	8 Gainsborough Avenue, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YR.	640925	tonybettypalmer@aol.com
Talbot, Jackie	3A Uplands Way, Diss IP22 4DE	651513	jtalbot@fsmail.net
Thurston, Andrew	Priory Wall House, 1 Clarke Close, Palgrave, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 1BE.	640789	thurston@priorywallhouse.freereserve.co.uk
Trippett-Jones, Jane	3 Orchard Grove, Diss IP22 4LX	652352	jtrippettjones@aol.com
Walden, Glyn	6 Walcot Rise, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4PD.	644013	glyn@teachpe.com
Wenman Trevor	2 Walcot Rise, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4PD.	641423	trevorwenman@btinternet.com
Vacancy			

#### District Councillors' Contact Details for Diss

Clark-Taylor, Brian	17 De Lucy Close, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YL.	642085	bctaylor@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Proudlove, John	2 Millway Avenue, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4QL	650756	jproudlove@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Palmer, Tony	8 Gainsborough Ave, Diss, Norfolk IP22 4YL	640925	tpalmer@s-norfolk.gov.uk

#### County Councillor's Contact Details for Diss

Chamberlin, Jenny	Flat 3 Chapel Street, Diss IP22 4AN.	642740	jennifer.chamberlin@norfolk.gov.uk
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#### Diss Farmers' Market

**ALL YOUR FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE AT THE DISS FARMERS' MARKET SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 9.00AM TILL 1:00PM IN THE MARKET PLACE**

Operated by Diss Town Council in association with local producers  
For further information contact the Town Council Offices.

#### Diss Friday Markets

**Every Friday in the Market Place and Market Hill  
Established for over 500 years**

For Further information contact the Town Council Offices.