



Diss Ahead

DISS TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Spring 2008

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Town Clerk: Mrs Deborah Sarson

Diss Town Council

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Diss Carnival 2008

The plans for the Diss Carnival to be held during the weekend of 21st & 22nd June are progressing well with many organisations and businesses offering help and wanting to get involved.

The main event is taking place on Sunday 22nd and the procession will include floats, walking groups, bands and various vehicles. The procession will start at Diss Town Football Club, Brewers Green Lane and progress along Roydon Road, passing through the town centre to Park Road and back to the Football Club via Denmark Street. It has been decided not to have a theme for the floats as this will allow groups to use their imaginations and there will be no charge for floats entering the procession.

Hales Personnel are providing 50 stewards for the event and they are also sending out letters to local businesses, clubs and organisations including a registration form to book places in either the procession or for a stall at the Football Club. The registration forms can also be obtained from the Town Council Offices and the Tourist Information Centre with a deadline for receipt of the forms of 25th April. Stalls will be charged at £10.00 for up to 10 feet, and fees for larger stalls will be determined by the Town Council on application. If you would like to enter a float and do not

have a vehicle to use, Jewsons may be able to provide up to 3 lorries, phone the Town Council on 01379 643848 for more information.

Other activities which are being planned include a demonstration by a dog rescue team in the Mere on the Saturday and children's races at the Football Ground. In addition, various aircraft societies are being contacted to see if they are willing to do a flypast of the carnival parade on Sunday June 22, including the world famous Red Arrows. Music on the day will include performances by the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band, a samba band, and the Sea Scouts' Band.

As part of the festivities, a **Carnival Queen** competition will be held in advance and details of how to apply will appear in the Diss Express shortly. Costumes for the carnival queen and her attendants are kindly being supplied by Mystique Bridal Gowns. To wind up proceedings, Diss Town Football Club are helping organise the evening's musical entertainment in association with rock star Rick Wakeman.



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Entry to the Football ground on the 22nd will be by programme priced at £2.00 for adults with children under 16 free. The Diss Express is putting together the official **Carnival Programme** on behalf of the carnival committee. Anyone wishing to advertise in it, should contact Ron Raisey, 01379 658006, for details. The deadline for inclusion is Friday 9th May.

Planning is still ongoing but there will be lots for the whole family to enjoy at Diss Carnival and there are still plenty

of opportunities to get involved in this exciting community event. Carnival committee meetings are held monthly at Diss Corn Hall, 7.15pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

For more details contact:

Jane Trippett-Jones, Telephone: 01379 652352
email: jtrippettjones@aol.com or

Diss Town Clerk: Deborah Sarson, Tel: 01379 643848
email: townCouncil@diss.gov.uk

Clean Up Diss Campaign

First impressions are very important and as a new visitor coming to Diss for the first time you would hope to be greeted with clean, litter-free streets, well presented shop fronts and regularly maintained street furniture.

Unfortunately this is not always the picture which is seen by the tourist or shopper when arriving in the centre of Diss. In fact, there are dirty roads and pavements, some shops in need of a lick of paint with grime and debris at their entrances, walls covered in graffiti and lamp posts and signs looking tired and neglected.

The Town Council in association with South Norfolk Council are organising a Clean up Diss Campaign, and are hoping to encourage residents and businesses to get involved to make Diss look cared for and spotless and to **inspire a sense of pride** in our unique and historic town.

Of course a great deal of the litter and mess in the town has been generated by vandals but that doesn't mean that we should stop caring about our environment or trying to put right the damage done by the mindless and destructive minority. There are those, such as our very hard working town cleaners, who work tirelessly to try and keep the town free from litter and grime and also some residents who take it upon themselves to pick up rubbish and sweep up leaves because they care about the town. If residents, owners of businesses and councils all made a combined effort, then **together we could make a big difference.**

Therefore, on **Monday 28th April a 'Big Clean Up Day'** has been arranged, when South Norfolk Council's environmental team will target Mere Street. The work will include power washing the fronts of buildings (with owners/tenant permissions); carrying out litter picking; and mechanical cleaning of the street.

The Town Council will promote the event; writing to all building owners and shop tenants encouraging the owners to smarten up their buildings and the tenants to keep their shop front areas clean and tidy. In addition businesses will be encouraged to sponsor cigarette bins (bulk bought in the same style); and BT, Royal Mail and Norfolk County Council will be approached to see if they are prepared to tidy up the telephone box, post boxes and street furniture in

the town centre.

Although it is the statutory duty of the District Council to keep our streets and pavements clean **we can all do our bit** by not dropping litter, cleaning up after our dogs and generally taking a pride in our surroundings. This in turn will make Diss a place that tourists and shoppers will want to come back to time and time again.



Diss Town Council has also decided to enter the town in the **EDP Pride in Norfolk Community Awards**, with judging taking place in the summer. So come on Diss, let's demonstrate that we care about our town.

If you want to get involved in the Clean up Diss campaign contact the Town Council on 01379 643848 for more details.

To report dog fouling, graffiti or fly tipping please contact the Environmental Crime Team on 0808 168 2999.

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Say 'No' To Plastic Bags Campaign



South Norfolk Council has recently launched a 'Say No to Plastic Bags' campaign starting with a successful summit meeting attended by most major retailers in the District including representative businesses from Diss.

The retailers who attended were part of a 50-strong audience, welcomed by campaign organiser, South Norfolk Council Chairman Joe Mooney.

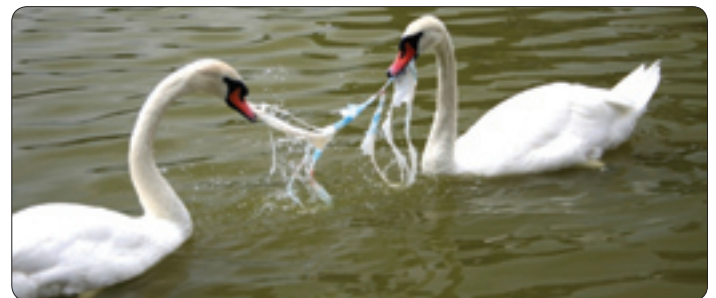
As a result of the meeting, Councillors in Diss and Harleston are also now planning to start 'Say No to Plastic Bags' campaigns, in addition to those already under way in Wymondham and Hethersett. Town and District Councillor Tony Palmer, Chairman of the Cittaslow Committee said 'this campaign fits in very well with Cittaslow principles and is an initiative the town should embrace, especially given the wonderful diversity of wildlife on the Mere and in other nature areas around the town such as Frenze Beck and the River Waveney'.

Councillor Mooney said 'It appears that the time is right for this 'Say No to Plastic Bags' campaign. I would urge all retailers and residents to do their bit for the environment by saying no to plastic bags. By working in partnership with retailers and residents, I am convinced that South Norfolk can become a plastic carrier bag free zone.'

David Osborne, the Council's head of Environmental Services, gave an introductory presentation on the huge scale of the challenge facing the Council in managing the community's 39,000 tonnes of refuse every year. He said that in this annual refuse mountain, there are tens of thousands of plastic bags. All of them go to landfill where each one can take up to 1,000 years to break down. On show at the meeting were a variety of reusable Hessian and jute bags, campaign posters and stickers, as well as the council advice toolkit on how to source alternatives to plastic carrier bags.

The initiative is part of a drive by the council to help minimise waste and to make South Norfolk a cleaner, greener and brighter place because:

- Every year over 10 billion plastic bags are issued in the UK; that's 167 for every person.
- Typically, a person only uses a plastic bag for 12 minutes and then throws it away.
- Over 200 million discarded plastic bags end up as litter in our streets, hedgerows and parks.
- A plastic bag can take 500 – 1000 years to break down in the environment.
- Many animals mistake discarded plastic bags for food or shelter, with painful and often fatal consequences.



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Summer Holiday Activities

The holiday activities organised by South Norfolk Council in partnership with the Town Council will take place again this year with all sessions being held at the Corn Hall.

Take advantage of this low cost opportunity to give your children a fun way to entertain them during the long summer holidays and put the following dates in your diary:

4th & 6th; 11th & 13th; 18th & 20th August

The sessions will include arts, crafts and sporting activities with three sessions each day. Children aged 8 and over will have the option to stay for the whole day, which may be useful for working parents.

Full details of all the activities will appear shortly on the South Norfolk Council website and a booking form will be available to download from www.south-norfolk.gov.uk Forms and programmes will also be available from the Council Information Centre, 11 Market Hill, Diss; Tel 01379 643848; email: towncouncil@diss.gov.uk; Diss Library, Diss Tourist Information Centre; Diss Swim & Fitness Centre and your local school.



Diss Christmas Lights 2008

Although Christmas seems a very long way off the Christmas Lights Committee has already started planning for this year's display.

A lot of positive feedback has already been received about the 2007 lights and consultation will be taking place to see where the priority for extending the display should be, given the financial constraints.

A serious amount of fundraising will be required and this has already started with Prize Bingo sessions at the Corn Hall. These sessions proved very popular when they were introduced in 2007 and are continuing throughout this year on Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.00pm on the following dates:

27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 26th June, 4th September, 26th September, 9th October, 30th October & 13th November.



In addition a Car Boot Sale will be held on the Park on 20th July and a cash prize lottery is also proposed. For more information about these fund raising events or to give your views about the extent of the 2008 display please contact:

Jackie Talbot. Tel: 01379 651513
email: uplandsway3@btinternet.com
or contact the Town Council at
11, Market Hill, Diss, email: towncouncil@diss.gov.uk

Teleclub Volunteer

Are you a sociable person who enjoys a chat on the phone? Would you like to volunteer but have limited time?

By giving a short amount of time you can volunteer for Teleclub, chatting to our members from the comfort of your own home at times which are convenient for you. Regular social contact helps to alleviate social isolation and depression and entertainment provides mental stimulation and increases mental wellbeing, to be a Teleclub volunteer you need to be a chatty sociable person with an empathy for older people if you think this is you then phone now on 01603 785 261 and make a real difference to someone's life.



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e-mail: info@rushall-dollhouse-miniatures.co.uk

Dates For Your Diaries

Annual Town Meeting of Local Electors - Wednesday 23rd April at 7.15pm in the Corn Hall.

A public meeting where the Town Mayor reports on the activities of the Council over the previous year and an opportunity for local residents to raise issues relating to any area of the Town Council's responsibilities.

Diss Book Festival - 19th May to 24th May.

A week of literary events in Diss including children's activities, poetry readings, craft demonstrations and a sale by Antiquarian Book Dealers in the Corn Hall on Saturday 24th May. Full details will appear soon in the local press and on our website www.diss.gov.uk

Corn Hall Regeneration Project Consultation - Thursday 17th April 2008 1pm – 5pm.

An Open Afternoon giving an opportunity for residents and interested parties to tour the whole building, view displays of concept drawings and interim questionnaire consultation results and have an opportunity to comment.

Continental Market - Saturday 17th May.

Come and experience the tastes and aromas of France whilst browsing the many stalls of the popular Continental Market held in the Market Place and Mere's Mouth.

It is very important that we have your views so please come and tell us what you think.

Council Information Centre News

As you will probably be aware the Council Information Centre at the Council Offices provides information on a wide range of services provided by the Town, District and County Councils and our trained staff will be happy to deal with your enquires either face to face or over the phone. However, in addition to council information, the centre can also provide advice on the many voluntary organisations operating in the area and in this newsletter are details of two ways in which you can help to make a difference in your community by volunteering.

The system of issuing bus passes is changing and it will still be possible to apply for them through the Council Information Centre but in future bus passes will be posted to the applicant. Please bear with us while the old system is phased out and the new one comes online.

Details at this stage are still sketchy but we will endeavour to do our best to assist you. If you have any queries please contact Amanda Knights at South Norfolk Council on: 01508 533880.

Call For Volunteers At The Denny Centre



An exciting new opportunity in Diss benefiting the local community and sponsored by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is planned.

Age Concern Norfolk is opening The Pabulum Café at The Denny Centre, Thomas Manning Road operating every second Wednesday of the month, 10.30am-12.30pm from May 2008. The café provides a welcoming and relaxed setting for reminiscence and carer support.

The centre needs enthusiastic volunteers to create fun and enjoyment for people living with dementia and their carers. You can help do this by using our period items and music from bygone eras to stimulate memories, conversation, and laughter. Or, you may want to help create a Life Story Book, a living history using pictures and words. Working in pairs you will assist a couple to put together photographs, letters, stories and other items that make up their personal story. Pabulum aims to focus on the individual, not their memory impairment and each person's personality contributes to the atmosphere and feeling of well-being.

Liz, a current volunteer, says "There is nothing complicated about talking about the past. When a memory is retrieved then an identity is regained. Seeing the real person,

opening doors to their memory, helping memories come to life the laughter and sadness all make such a remarkable change. Connecting with other people really is wonderful and it is so rewarding to be a part of the Pabulum project."

In addition the Pabulum Café will be offering opportunities for carers to meet with professionals such as community mental health nurses, social workers, information, advice and advocacy staff.

Help make this a success by joining this exciting new venture. Training will be provided during April.

For more details please

contact: Judith Head,
Day Centre Coordinator
at The Denny Centre.
Tel: 01379 640741. email:
denny@acnorfolk.org.uk

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Precept - How your Money will be Spent

It's that time of year again when council tax bills will be arriving through your letter boxes and many of you will be wondering why it has been necessary for the Town Council to increase its portion of the council tax bill this year.

After three meetings totalling more than six hours of often intense debate, Diss Town Council finally voted to increase its precept by a third, in order to finance projects and carry out several urgent one-off repairs to facilities it owns.

Town Clerk Deborah Sarson said 'Diss Town Council has a duty to maintain its buildings in good condition and ensure that all the properties it has responsibility for are safe and in good order for the public'.

What we have been doing?

In the last two years, Diss Town Council has developed a reputation for 'getting things done' and a number of improvements have been made around the town including upgrading existing paths in the Park, installing railings in Madgett's Walk and Mere's Mouth with plans for a perennial planting scheme already underway. The Corn Hall facade has been cleaned and the Assembly Hall redecorated and fencing installed around the athletics track to protect the facility, amongst many other things. In order to achieve all this and keep up with the day-to-day management of its facilities, it has been necessary to employ extra staff and this has also led to the increase in the precept.

What we need the money for?

Urgent works are required to re-surface The Entry, carry out repairs to the fabric of one of the chapel buildings at the Cemetery, repair the athletics track, provide a storage facility for the maintenance team and repair the roads at the cemetery, and have extensive tree works completed. In addition to this, there are a number of projects the Town Council is involved in to attract external funding including plans to enhance Fair Green, the Park Regeneration Project and the Corn Hall Project.

Following the success of the 2007 Christmas lights display,

£5,000 has been allocated in the next financial year for Christmas this year, and in response to popular demand the Town Council is in the process of reviving the Carnival. In addition, owing to Government legislation, the imposed Disability & Discrimination Act and Health and Safety Regulations are substantial costs which must be carried by the Council.

Our commitment

Diss Town Council remains committed to improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to the town and to improving facilities and services. It is building partnerships with other organisations such as South Norfolk Council and Diss Community Partnership to work together to achieve these aims. Many of the projects to be funded have been asked for by the people of Diss.

Town Mayor Simon Olander said 'The monies raised will be used to make Diss an attractive place to live which will attract more jobs and visitors alike. It's important as a Council to look to the future and endeavour to get the park and Corn Hall projects underway otherwise we will become a Council whose reputation is that of one that talks about things rather than getting things done. We are continuing with our aim for Quality Parish status which will attract more funding to assist with these and future projects.'



New Re-Cycling Bins in Diss

- South Norfolk Council are replacing the existing glass recycling bins with new larger capacity bins at recycling centres around the town as part of South Norfolk Council's drive to make recycling easier for residents.

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Merryfields Playschool

The Merryfields Playschool has been operating at the Corn Hall for 20 years. Manager Sue Dorman writes the following about the group:



'Merryfields Playschool has been established in Diss since 1989 and is a charity based group, run by a committee of volunteers. The playgroup is OFSTED approved and registered with local authorities.

We hold sessions five mornings a week in the Waveney room at the Corn Hall in Diss from 9.15am - 12.15pm with a maximum of nineteen children per session, for ages ranging from 2-5 years and an excellent staff-child ratio of 1-5.

The team of staff are all trained in NVQ 3 childcare, first aid, child protection, food hygiene and S.E.N.C.O (special educational needs coordinator), ensuring that they are able

to provide a high quality standard of care and education. Merryfields is an OFSTED approved group, which means that we are regularly inspected and have to maintain high standards of care and educational needs at all times. All children who are three and upwards are entitled to five free pre-school sessions a week, funded by the government.

At Merryfields we aim to offer all children, parents and carers a warm and friendly environment. All children are individuals and are treated on an equal basis. Through play and being part of a small friendly group we hope that all the children will grow in confidence to become well balanced individuals ready to go on to the next stage in their school life.'

If you would like more details please ring: 01379 642138 or 01379 783784.

What's On At The Corn Hall

APRIL - JUNE

Date	Time	Event	Contact
Every Monday	7.15 -9pm	Line Dancing Improvers Class	Mrs M Hawkes Tel: 01379 651773
Every Wednesday	7.15 – 10pm	Line Dancing Improvers/Intermediate Class	Mrs M Hawkes Tel: 01379 651773
Term time Monday – Friday	9.15 -12.15	Merryfields Playschool	Mrs S Dorman Tel: 01379 642138 or 01379 783784.
5th April, 3rd May, 7th June	7.30pm	Big Screen Saturday Cinema	Mr R Snowling Tel: 01379 676322 www.mobilemoviezone.co.uk
8th April, 22nd April, 6th May,	1-3.30pm & 4.30 – 7pm	Blood Donor Sessions	Tel: 0845 7711711
12th April	6.45pm	Town Mayor's Spring Ball	For ticket availability Tel: 01379 643848
17th April	1pm – 9pm	Public Consultation for Corn Hall Regeneration Scheme	Town Council Tel: 01379 643848
19th April	7.30pm	Choral Concert by Burgate Singers	Mrs D Walker Tel: 01379 642783 www.burgatesingers.org.uk
24th April, 29th May, 26th June	7.30pm	Bingo Nights - in aid of the Diss Christmas Lights Appeal	Jackie Talbot Tel: 07980 101442
25th April, 23rd May, 27th June	10am – 4pm	Antiques & Collectors Fair	Mr T Raven Tel: 01603 257996
26th April, 17th May, 14th June	Times TBC	Dance with Live Band, bar and refreshments	Laura Harding Tel: 01379 898640 www.poppickers.net
13th May	7.30pm	Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Community Tour of 'Art' by Yasmina Reza	Tel: 01284 769505 www.theatreroyal.org
24th May	10am	Diss Book Fair	Tel: 01379 641187 vivienne.weeks@virgin.net
30th & 31st May	10am – 4pm	Book Sale	Book Value Ltd Tel: 01780470059


Meetings Dates for the Town Council

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.

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Properties Committee (Meets at 7.15pm)	2 nd		4 th		6 th		1 st		3 rd
Project Development & Leisure Committee (Meets at 7.15pm)		7 th		2 nd		3 rd		5 th	
Amenities Committee (Meets at 7.15pm)		14 th		9 th		10 th		12 th	
Planning Committee (Meets at 6.30pm)	2 nd 16 th	7 th 21 st	4 th 18 th	2 nd 16 th	6 th	3 rd 17 th	1 st 15 th	5 th 19 th	3 rd 17 th
Highways Committee (Meets at 10.00am)		28 th		23 rd		24 th		26 th	
Citizens Committee (Meets at 4.30pm)		28 th		23 rd		24 th		26 th	
Full Council (Meets at 7.15pm)	16 th	21 st	18 th	16 th		17 th	15 th	19 th 26 th Precept	17 th

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.15pm

(Please note that the Town Council is currently restructuring its' committees and therefore the above dates and times are subject to change) 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	Tel.	Email
Auckland, Matthew	11 Thomas Manning Road, DISS, IP22 4HL	641347	mauckland@disscouncil.org.uk
Clark-Taylor, Brian	17 De Lucy Close, DISS, IP22 4YL	642085	bctaylor@disscouncil.org.uk
Dewhurst, Elizabeth	17 Riverside Maltings, DISS, IP22 4RA	641480	edewhurst@disscouncil.org.uk
Kitchen, Adrian	14 Roydon Road, DISS, IP22 4LW	642468	akitchen@disscouncil.org.uk
Maskell, John	5 Louies Lane, DISS, IP22 4LR	652576	jmaskell@disscouncil.org.uk
Minshull, Graham	13 Thomas Manning Road, DISS, IP22 4HL	640179	gminshull@disscouncil.org.uk
Olander, Simon	5 Sycamore Way, DISS, IP22 4ZD	641007	solander@disscouncil.org.uk
Palmer, Anthony	8 Gainsborough Avenue, DISS, IP22 4YR	640925	tpalmer@disscouncil.org.uk
Talbot, Jackie	3A Uplands Way, DISS IP22 4DE	651513	jalbot@disscouncil.org.uk
Thurston, Andrew	Priority Wall House, 1 Clarke Close, Palgrave IP22 1BE	640789	athurston@disscouncil.org.uk
Trippett-Jones, Jane	3 Orchard Grove, DISS IP22 4LX	652352	jjones@disscouncil.org.uk
Walden, Glyn	6 Walcot Rise, DISS, IP22 4PD	644013	gwalden@disscouncil.org.uk
Wenman, Trevor	2 Walcot Rise, DISS, IP22 4PD	641423	twenman@disscouncil.org.uk
District Councillors' Contact Details for Diss			
Clark-Taylor, Brian	17 De Lucy Close, DISS, Norfolk, IP22 4YL	642085	bctaylor@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Palmer, Tony	8 Gainsborough Ave, DISS, Norfolk IP22 4YL	640925	tpalmer@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Walden, Glyn	6 Walcot Rise, DISS, Norfolk IP22 4PD	644013	gwalden@s-norfolk.gov.uk
County Councillor's Contact Details for Diss			
Chamberlin, Jenny	4, The Old Coaching Place, Diss IP22 4NR	642740	jennifer.chamberlin@norfolk.gov.uk For up to date information about local issues dealt with by your County Councillor log on to: www.jennychamberlin.wordpress.com  Norfolk County Council @ your service

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.