Pershore Town Council Newsletter

A summer packed full of events and festivals!

Town Hall Opening Hours
Monday - Thursday:  10:00am - 4:00pm
Friday:            10:00am - 1:00pm

Visitor Information Centre now situated in Pershore Library, Church Street.
Open Monday to Saturday inclusive.
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If you are looking for an alternative to residential care or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we’re here to help - from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.

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PTC0214
Welcome...

Welcome to the summer newsletter which has information about the events taking place in the town over the coming months including more regular Bands in the Park, Midsummer Brass, Plum Festival and a visit from our friends in Bad Neustadt.

Bands in the Park will take place every Sunday this year throughout July and August starting on 6th July and continuing until Plum Fair Sunday on 24th August. Why not take an hour or two on a pleasant Sunday afternoon to sit in the park with a picnic and listen to a band; what better way could there be to while away a summer afternoon? Bands play from 2.30pm until 4.30pm with a short break in the middle.

Our friends from Bad Neustadt are coming to Pershore for the Plum Fair. If you are interested in becoming involved with Twinning, not just our German friends but also Plouay in northern France, please contact the Town Hall and let us know. We expect to have a visit from Plouay next year and also to travel to Bad Neustadt and many long lasting friendships have been formed with people in both towns. Why not join in?

Ann Dobbins, Town Clerk

A Message from the Town Mayor...

This is my first message in the Newsletter as Mayor of Pershore. It is a great honour and privilege for myself and Debby to be chosen as Mayor and Mayoress and we look forward to serving the Town during the year. I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Charles and Liz Tucker, the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress. During their term much has been achieved in Pershore – not least the opening of our new Library and Information Centre in Church Street. The legacy from the past two years is clear to see in the Town and it will be a difficult act to follow.

The Mayoress and I are looking forward to working with The Stroke Association and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, which we have chosen as our charities. Stroke is the third largest cause of death in the UK but lingers way behind the top two causes in terms of financial support for research and aftercare. There is a recently opened “Life After Stroke Centre” in Bromsgrove which we hope to visit shortly.

Like many charities Guide Dogs receives no government funding. The charity deals with many activities including “Buddy” dogs for those individuals with varying health and social difficulties, other aids for the visually impaired and guide dogs for children and young people under the age of 16.

At the start of its term the Town Council identified a number of priorities for Pershore. Some of these key projects have been completed such as the Library and Information Centre and the Cemetery Chapel. Other priorities are continuing and I hope to bring an update of the progress of various projects in future publications of the Newsletter.

Tony and Debby Rowley, Town Mayor and Mayoress of Pershore
Residents will be pleased to know that further work is to be done to help keep the chapel in good condition following its restoration. The ground level around the outside of the chapel is to be lowered to prevent damp and the stonework on the outside of the chapel is to be repointed.

Please remember that the chapel is now available for funerals of 60 — 80 mourners and if you would like to see the inside of the building please phone the Town Hall and arrangements can be made to meet you there and show you around.

New projects for the cemetery are the extension to the cemetery to include a car park and the change of use of the lodge to a family history research centre. Planning applications have been submitted and decisions awaited from Wychavon District Council. Funds have been set aside from New Homes Bonus to enable the car park to be created providing a much needed facility for those attending funerals at the cemetery.

Who are your Councillors?

**St Andrews Ward**
- Cllr D Annis 561561
- Cllr P Colloby 561561
- Cllr C Parsons MBE 561561
- Cllr R Speight 556772
- Cllr C Tucker 462441
- Cllr D Watt 550532
- Cllr M Winfield 561561

**Holy Cross Ward**
- Cllr G Amphlett-Hawkins 553215
- Cllr R Gillmor (Deputy Mayor) 561561
- Cllr J Grantham MBE 553369
- Cllr R Grantham 553369
- Cllr J Palfrey 561561
- Cllr G Price 561561
- Cllr T Rowley (Mayor) 561561
- Cllr V Wood 554235
Next Litter-pick:
4th October 2014
Meet at the Town Hall, 10am
Volunteers Needed!

We are hoping to compile a list of all those people who are happy to volunteer to do litter picking on a regular basis. If you would be happy to provide us with your details so that we might contact you, please email townclerk@pershore-tc.gov.uk or call 01386 561561.

Meetings of the Town Council & Committees

June
19th  Planning Committee
19th  Town Council

July
1st   Planning Committee
1st   Amenities and Environment Committee
2nd   Youth Council (Venue TBA)
17th  Planning Committee
17th  Town Council

Aug
4th   Twinning and Tourism Committee
6th   Cemetery Committee
7th   Planning Committee
7th   Finance & Property Committee

Sept
2nd  Planning Committee
2nd  Amenities & Environment Committee
11th Planning Committee
11th Town Council

NB. Youth Council meetings commence at 2pm. Planning and Cemetery Committee meetings normally at 7.00pm, all other meetings at 7.30pm.
It is with pleasure that we introduce PCSO Lucy Morris to the Pershore Town Safer Neighbourhood Team. Lucy joins us from Worcester and has been a PCSO for 8 years and we would like to wish her a warm welcome to the team and patch.

One of the things Lucy and the team are currently looking at is the use of Shop Watch in Pershore town by encouraging usage of the radios to help with the prevention of theft and assist us with Anti-social Behaviour. A meeting was arranged for end of May, updates to follow in next newsletter.
Summer is here

With the weather finally improving it’s a sign that summer is here! That means BBQs and alcohol whilst sat in the sunshine… It is also the start of West Mercia Police summer drink drive campaign, so don’t drink and drive! Get a taxi, have a designated driver or walk home.

There is going to be a Community Safety day at Pitchcroft Racecourse in Worcester on the 12th July from 11am till 3pm, we’re going to be there along with the Fire Service and Ambulance Service. This is open to the public, so come along.

PC 3062 John Hunter

Got an issue?
Communities can play an active role in the fight against crime by providing valuable information about what is happening in your area. We hold regular meetings, details of which can be found at:

www.westmercia.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/
If you have any concerns you can contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Police Surgeries
Pershore Police are now running Surgeries in Pershore Library:

Every 1st Tuesday of the month from 11am to 1pm
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5pm to 7pm

Please note: Should a PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting fall on the same day as a surgery, the evening PACT meeting will run in place of the Surgery.

You can now follow us on Twitter: @PershoreCops
Report of the Town Mayor May 2014
Once again, the year has been very busy, full of issues and achievements by the Town Council. As before, I'll concentrate on the major items and the Council Priorities.

Library - The prime achievement of this past year has been the completion and successful renewal of the town’s Library and Information Centre. Its opening on 30th September 2013 was one of the proudest of my days as Mayor – and a day that showed Pershore Town Council was recognised and respected across Worcestershire as a forward-looking council, capable of delivering a substantial project within budget and to a high standard. It also showed that it is a council that works hard to respond to the needs and views of the Pershore community.

Cemetery - Another signature project was the restoration of the Cemetery Chapel and creation of an informal reception room in the unused southern chapel. The restoration has given it a new lease of life, ensuring it will be once more a venue for smaller funerals and a sanctuary for peaceful contemplation for many years to come. In my view it ranks with much grander projects elsewhere for the quality of achievement. My thanks to the Cemetery Committee and its Chairman Chris Parsons in particular for the months of effort and dedication to detail they showed in completing this for the town.

Additionally, the Council has applied for a Lottery Grant during the year to restore the Cemetery Lodge and turn it into a Visitor and History centre and plans have also progressed to extend the Cemetery, using the field to the south.

Northern Link - We continue to enjoy strong public support from the parishes around Pershore, from the Pershore Market Towns Partnership, Pershore High School and from both our local MPs Peter Luff and Harriet Baldwin, the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Pershore Chamber of Trade for this important link road to be built.

The campaign received a big boost when the results of last year’s feasibility study showed the cost at between £4 and £5 million – hugely less than the £20 million originally quoted and again when we learned that construction of the Northern Link is included in the Strategic Economic Plan with a target for construction in 2016/17.

Housing - Towns throughout Worcestershire are faced with plans for major development and house-building. Pershore is no exception. Currently we have opposed the Planning Applications because of the lack of a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure, particularly drainage and highways. Significant concerns remain over the impact of traffic on Station Road and its junction with Worcester Road.

New Homes Bonus and Section 106 Payments - The Council has been allocated a total of £97,785 in New Homes Bonus for 2012/13 and 2013/14. A public meeting was held last July to see what people felt about how these funds should be spent and this produced the following list:

- Northern Link
- Cemetery extension
- Sports Hub
The council has now allocated a total of £20k of New Homes Bonus money towards exploratory works for the Northern Link and £60k for the cemetery extension.

**Land off Holloway** - The Council has bought just under 3 acres of land situated between the Abbey Springs development and Tiddesley Wood, for recreational and amenity use. A management plan has been agreed, designed to maintain it as open grassland and increase bio-diversity, while encouraging public access and informal recreation.

**Youth Council** - Again, I have enjoyed working with Pershore Community Youth Council and the Youth Mayor Luke Bessant. They bring a different view to local issues, that is often refreshing. I congratulate them on the new Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) that they got built in the Abbey Park.

**Bus Services** - Last Autumn the County Council announced that they planned to remove all bus subsidies. This would hit Pershore particularly hard, as two of our main services – the local Plumline service and the Village Hopper – require subsidy. Without it, they could not survive and many people would lose their primary means of transport. The Council held two public meetings and launched a petition to test public reaction to the plan. The petition reached 1600 signatures and I presented it on behalf of the Town Council to the County Council at their meeting on 16th January. We have since learned that the County Council are seeking ways to retain some services and we will support them in doing so.

I’d like to thank Amy and all the Town Council staff for their help to me during the year, town councillors for their dedication to the town and council business and all the people and organisations I have worked with for their support. I’d also like to thank my Chaplain, Mark Jennings for his generous help and gentle support during the year. Finally, I’d not have been able to do any of this without my wife Liz, her love and unfailing advice, assistance and support throughout.

*Councillor Charles Tucker, Mayor of Pershore May 2012-2014*

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**Town Council Finances**

Please see overleaf charts showing how the Council has spent your money during the year to 31st March 2014. If you would like more detailed information, or a set of the accounts, please contact the Town Clerk.

The precept was increased in 2013 by 5%, as agreed at the public meeting, to help with repaying the loan for the library refurbishment. This has been taken out over a 10 year period and the first repayment has already been made. An additional item of income this year was the support grant for the precept transferred to the Town Council from Wychavon as part of the new method of Council Tax support implemented by the Government. Please also note that 0% indicates income or expenditure of less than £3,000.
Total Income £458,554

- Hire of Town Hall: 2%
- Allotment Rents: 1%
- Investment Income: 10%
- Library income: 7%
- Council tax grant: 5%
- Precept: 31%
- Library income: 7%
- Council tax grant: 5%
- Precept: 31%

Total Expenditure £980,090

- Library: 56%
- Civic Expenses: 1%
- Staff Costs: 10%
- Grants: 1%
- Christmas Lights: 1%
- Grounds and allotments: 1%
- Cemetery: 13%
- Running Costs: 6%
- Loan repayments: 6%
- Elections: 0%
WHAT THE COUNCIL DOES

The Town Council owns and manages:

- Riverside land at King George’s Field and Avon Meadows
- Grassed play area at Cherry Orchard
- Allotments in Defford Road
- Pershore Cemetery
- Town Hall and walkway
- Pershore Library and Visitor Information centre
- Land off Holloway – available to walkers for picnics and a rest area
- White Railings moorings (leased to A.N.T.)

The Town Council controls and manages:

- St Andrews Gardens

The Town Council provides:

- Street lighting in residential areas
- Bus Shelters
- Town Clock on the Town Hall
- Benches and litter bins
- Flower tubs, hanging baskets and floral displays
- Christmas lights
- Grants to local organisations including helping to fund Pershore Carnival, Pershore Plum Fayre, Pershore Jazz Festival and Midsummer Brass
- Free accommodation and a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau, reviewed annually
- Rooms in the Town Hall and the library for hire to local groups in the town
- Exchanges, through the Twinning and Tourism Committee, to our twin towns
- The Visitor Information Centre at the Library
- The land for the Riverside Youth Centre on a lease
- The land for the Leisure Centre on a lease
- Some of land occupied by the Avon Meadows wetlands
- Free accommodation for the Heritage Centre
Past, present and future have come together in Malvern after an exciting turn of events. As newly appointed Writer in Residence at Malvern Theatres, Cheltenham-born Nick Wilkes has a tough act to follow, but with a bit of Time-Lord talent and a motor-car classic, he may just have cracked it! There hasn’t been a resident playwright at Malvern since the 1930’s when George Bernard Shaw put Malvern on the map, and alongside Sir Barry Jackson created the famous Festival’s of theatre history, but in a bold move amidst nationwide cutbacks in arts funding, Malvern is once again producing new and original theatrical works for the first time in decades.

Wilkes, raised near Tewkesbury, has been neck deep in theatre for twenty years, and famously brought screen legend Charlton Heston to the Roses Theatre, whilst still a student at the Prestigious Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Leap forward a decade, and not only has he trodden the boards in over seventy plays up and down the country, but he’s also been successfully pressing pen to paper with a stream of new plays to his name (many of which are now published works). Autumn 2013 saw his inaugural play at Malvern, *Elysian Fields*. A play with a script so poignant that it attracted the dulcet tones of stage luminary Simon Callow to lend his vocal support to the piece. Now Wilkes’ new play, just announced in the theatres Spring brochure, is set to bring audiences flocking back to the venue in July. *MOG BRIDGES* is masterwork of time and place; set in Malvern itself it stars Colin Baker of *Dr Who* fame alongside a classic 1968 Morgan Plus-8 Motor car. The cast also includes some locally-based professional actors, with Cirencester based Adrian Ross-Jones and Cheltenham based Murray Andrews also in the company.

Wilkes expands:

“Written in Malvern, and set in Malvern, the car is a metaphor for a broken family. Initially bought as a fix-up project with a thought that it could one day become his daughter’s wedding car, it now lies in pieces, rusty and dusty, trying to be forgotten in an old man’s garage. Jim, is suffering a mostly solitary seventieth birthday, until his son (who he has not seen for years) arrives to tell him that his daughter is getting married… There will be laughter amongst the tears, but you’ll have to come along to find out what happens to both car and daughter.”

More information of this unique and ground-breaking production can be found here:
www.malvernbard.com/MalvernBard/Coming_soon_Malvern
www.malvern-theatres.co.uk/events/event/mog-bridges-starring-colin-baker/
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Staff and students at Pershore High School are celebrating the news that they have been awarded over £3.4 million from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund for 2014 – 2016. Head teacher Clive Corbett commented “this award offers a wonderful opportunity to further improve the school’s facilities, notably in the areas of Art and Design, Humanities and Modern Languages. The new buildings will allow students to learn in even more exciting and interesting ways. I must pay particular tribute to Russell Dalton, our Finance and Business Director, for putting so much hard work into writing the successful bid. I am also hugely grateful to Harriett Baldwin M.P. for her unstinting support for our project.”

Harriett lobbied Education Minister David Laws to urge the department to back plans to improve the schools facilities, some of which were built in the 1970s and were due for upgrade more than two decades ago. The project, which will overhaul two teaching blocks, will be carried out over the next two years. Harriett commented “the new blocks will make a huge difference to the school and add impressive new buildings to the campus. I was more than willing to make the case for this funding and I wrote to both the Minister and the funding department’s Chief Executive to press for some long-overdue investment in classrooms”.

She also added “Pershore High School pulls out all the stops to give their students the best possible education and investing in our children’s education is fundamental to the Government’s long term economic plan.”
Bands in the Park
Abbey Park, Pershore

July 6th
Bewdley Concert Band

July 13th
Pillowell Silver Band

July 20th
The Band of the Gloucestershire Constabulary

July 27th
Occasional Brass

August 3rd
Dene River Jazzmen

August 10th
Celebration Reed & Brass Band

August 17th
Alcester Victoria Silver Band

August 24th
Pershore Midsummer Brass
A Sizzling Summer at Number 8

Summer is on the way and Number 8 in Pershore have plenty to keep audiences occupied over the next few months.

Highlights of the Summer season include top quality productions beamed in via satellite from the Royal Opera House, West End Theatres, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and Shakespeare’s Globe. Andre Rieu’s 2014 Maastricht Concert will be screened on 19 July followed the next day by Monty Python Live (Mostly) beamed in live from the O2. Live shows include Rock Anthems - a tribute to some of the greatest rock songs of all time on 21st June and Chris Packham’s Wild Night Out on 1st July. The film programme ranges from new releases like Grace of Monaco (PG) and Jimmy’s Hall to favourites such as Captain Phillips (12A) and Gravity (12A) in 3D, back by popular demand.

For families we have Family Film screenings, kicking off with a special screening of Muppets Most Wanted on Friday 25th July with tickets for just £1 and creative workshops for children including Medieval Madness Play in a Day on 30th July, a Plum Craft Workshop on 14th August and the This is Me! Drama Project for young people with learning difficulties from 18th to 22nd August.

Further details can be found on the recently revamped website www.number8.org or from Number 8’s Box Office on: 01386 555488
Events Diary

Vale Walkers - Every Friday
meet at the Pershore Leisure Centre 10.30am

June
20th- 22nd Evesham National Morris Weekend – Fri: 7pm onwards Sat: 10 - 5 Sun: 10 - 4
21 – 22nd Eckington Open Gardens 11 - 5pm
22nd Bishampton Open Gardens 1 – 5pm
27th – 29th Upton Jazz Festival
28th Transition Pershore - Open Kitchen Gardens 2pm - 5pm
28th – 29th Relay for Life! Evesham High School 12noon – 12 noon (24 hour)

July
5th Pershore Midsummer Brass 10am – 10pm
11th -13th Evesham River Festival – Workman Gardens Sat: 11am – 11pm Sun: 10am – 1pm
12th Tiddesley Wood Introduction to Longhorn Beetles (free) 10am to 3pm
12th & 13th Fladbury Festival & Walkabout 11am to 5pm
27th Plum Princess Garden Party – The Angel Hotel
29th Pershore Plum Festival Family Race Night – Worcester Racecourse

August
2nd Pershore Plum Festival Launch Plum Alley Chapman Court
15th – 17th Pershore Jazz Festival – Pershore College Fri: 7.30pm-11pm Sat/Sun:11.45-10.45pm
16th Bishampton open Summer Show 2pm – 4.30pm
23rd Great Comberton Flower Show 2pm – 6pm
23rd – 25th The Big Plum, Beer, Food & Music Festival Pershore
23rd – 25th Pershore Plum Festival Weekend
25th PLUM FAYRE DAY !!!!!
29th – 31st Festival of Ale & Cider - The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

September
6th Wick Fete 1.30pm – 5pm
13th Pershore Heritage open Day 10am – 5pm

Visit: www.visitpershore.co.uk for full listings of events or call Pershore Visitor Information Centre on 01386 556591
Allotments

The growing season is now well under way and allotment holders have a wide variety of crops planted or waiting to go in.

The Town Council currently has a very short waiting list for allotments and anyone who may be interested in taking one on is asked to contact the Town Hall. You shouldn’t have to wait long to be allocated a plot and start growing your own fruit and vegetables. Contact the Town Hall on 01386 561561 or email admin@pershore-tc.gov.uk.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank existing tenants, particularly those who use the Beards entrance to the allotments, for their patience whilst the Environment Agency has been carrying out remedial work to the allotment track over the bund. The work has taken longer than was anticipated and we are aware that vehicular access has been very limited. Thank you all for your understanding and we hope that it will be some considerable time before it has to be repaired again.

Useful Numbers

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<tr>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>01386 561561</td>
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<td>Visitor Information Centre</td>
<td>01386 556591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavements and Potholes</td>
<td>01905 768342</td>
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<td>Wychavon District Council</td>
<td>01386 565000</td>
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<td>Wychavon Planning Enquires</td>
<td>01386 565565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill &amp; Moor Waste Site</td>
<td>01386 861434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Light report line</td>
<td>0800 137 352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog Fouling/Dog Warden</td>
<td>01386 565015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Centre</td>
<td>01386 554299</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershore Library</td>
<td>01905 822722</td>
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<td>Pershore Hospital</td>
<td>01386 502070</td>
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