



Wareham Town Council
Working for Wareham

Wareham Town Council
Town Hall
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Wareham
Dorset
BH20 4NS

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WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT

FOR CIVIC YEAR 2008/09

The Annual Report of Wareham Town Council for Civic Year May 2008 to end April 2009, featuring its achievements over the past year, is presented herewith. The Council's website – www.wareham-tc.gov.uk - also includes information on the Town Council, its committees and functions, minutes of meetings and other useful details including a pdf version of the Wareham Town Guide and links to the community of Wareham and District.

In addition, the report contains a contact list of Wareham Town Councillors and a simplified summary of the Town Council's accounts for Financial Year 2008/2009, further details of which may be obtained on request from the Town Council offices.

Rodney Curtis

Town Clerk

WAREHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS 2007- 2011 - CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Address	Tel:
BOWYER-DAVIS Mrs PJW	10 East Street, Wareham BH20 4NP	551681
BUDD Mr D A	25 Bestwall Road, Wareham BH20 4HY	552017
BURNS Mr L P	20 Monmouth Road, Wareham BH20 4QP	556435
CLEATON Mrs D R	1 Avon Drive, Wareham BH20 4EL	553149
COTTON Miss M	11 Trent Drive, Northmoor, BH20 4DF	554529
CRITCHLEY Mr D	Flat 5, 27 Sandringham Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8 TH	01202 749248
CRITCHLEY Mr K	4 Carey Approach, Wareham BH20 4BD	552651
ELMES Mrs S D	Back to Basics, Northport, BH20 4AT	552603
GREEN Mr K	20 Stockley Road, Wareham BH20 4EZ	556010
OSMOND Mr E L	3 Causeway Close, Wareham BH20 4BE	551000
RUSSELL Mr M G	106 Northmoor Way, Wareham BH20 4ET	553648
SELBY Mrs M A	10 Mistover Road, Wareham BH20 4BY	556527
TIGHE Mrs A	Pear Tree Cottage, 2D St. Martins Lane Wareham BH20 4HP	556384
TURNER Mrs C E	7 Bestwall Crescent, Wareham BH20 4JB	556761
WAINWRIGHT Mrs M	38A North Street, Wareham BH20 4AQ	555288
WILLIAMS Mr T	61 Sandford Road, Wareham, BH20 4DQ	550190

WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

(figures are subject to audit and are exclusive of VAT and adjusted for journals)

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
Balance in hand as at 1 April 2008	120,544	
Precept 2008/9	96,371	
Policy Resources & Finance		
Salaries incl. N.I. and Pensions		90,883
Grants incl Donations (S137)	11,923	2,225
Lease & Rent	35,022	
Interest on Deposit/Savings Accounts	4,787	
CCTV		2,401
Other Income/Expenditure	4,607	38,972
Amenities		
Howards Lane Car Park	53,149	9,196
Recreation Ground	1,913	3,176
Mistover Road Redevelopment	40,285	40,285
Other Income/Expenditure		34,390
Council & Civic Matters		
Other Income/Expenditure		3,290
Wareham in Bloom		
Income/Expenditure	4,954	5,452
Museum		
Donations	1,036	
Grants	0	
Items sold in Museum	744	702
New Equipment		81
Other Income/Expenditure	0	2,642
Capital Receipts/Expenditure		22,232
TOTALS	375,335	255,926
Less Expenditure	255,926	
Closing Balance as at 31 March 2009	119,409	

Wareham Town Council – Achievements 2008/09

Wareham Town Council

The full Wareham Town Council met on 8 occasions during the year and the following highlights are reported:

- Following the resignation of two councillors, two new councillors were returned unopposed following the calling of a by-election: we welcomed Councillors Tony Williams and Daniel Critchley at the beginning of the Civic Year in May 2008.
- The Town Council is working towards increased co-operation with Purbeck District Council and Dorset County Council plus other parishes under the new 'Dorset Pathfinder' scheme. During the year, the Town Clerk and Mayor attended evening liaison meetings at the District Council's offices and there are current initiatives for joint working with parish councils on environmental services, planning services and economic development which we await with interest. We await the final outcome of this government-sponsored initiative to increase co-operation and community empowerment of local councils nationally.
- During the year, the Town Council fully supported the new Conches Twinning initiative to strengthen links between the two towns after the folding of the existing Conches twinning association in 2007. A party of interested townsfolk, including Cllr Mrs S Elmes as Mayor, visited Conches over the weekend of 8th to 11th May 2008 and a reciprocal visit by the Deputy Mayor of Conche's party to Wareham followed.
- A Standing Orders Working Party was appointed and, following several meetings and many amendments, newly revised Standing Orders have now been accepted by the Council and are in force since 7th April 2009.
- Public toilets in Wareham – this issue was first raised at Town Council following an enquiry to Purbeck District Council by the Town Clerk acting on a visitor's letter. The Town Council is happy to see current progress at the Quay toilets as a result of various meetings with the District Council's Head of Environmental Services.
- A presentation was received from the Purbeck Environmental Action Team (PEAT) which promotes environmental awareness and the Town Council fully supported a PEAT 'In Town Without My Car Day' on Saturday 20th September 2008.
- A further presentation was given by the Partners and Communities Together team (PACT) in October 2008. PACT is a government sponsored initiative and it was good to hear that this initiative is helping to solve many problems in the town as a result of close co-operation with community representatives.

- A presentation from the Purbeck Film Charitable Trust outlining plans to purchase the Rex Cinema in perpetuity for the people of Wareham and District was received and a request for a donation was made. The Town Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Russell, donated £5,000 from the John Turton Norman Bequest Fund (which is solely in the power of the Town Mayor to donate) on behalf of the elderly of Wareham who regularly visit the cinema, and this was fully supported by the Town Council. The Town Council is delighted that the Rex Cinema has now been purchased by the Trust for the benefit of all age groups in the Town for many years to come.
- The Town Council adopted a new Model Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act at the December 2008 meeting.
- Following a motion deploring the lack of press coverage of Wareham news in the local press, the news editor of the Bournemouth Echo attended the September 2008 meeting to address these concerns. We heard of the changing role of newspapers in society, problems faced as a result of falling sales and competition from the internet and loss of advertising revenue. The news editor promised to do better and reflect more Wareham news in the future, space permitting, and to return to a future meeting if thought necessary.
- Review of County Education – the Council was consulted on ‘Future School Provision in the Purbeck Area’, a document proposing changes by Dorset County Council. There was majority agreement to disagree with the proposal to change from a 3 tier system to a 2 tier system but agreement that the area of Northport should become part of the catchment area of Lady St Mary First School.
- A Mayors Handbook Working Party was formed and met on several occasions during the year. A valuable document detailing what is expected of all incoming Town Mayors, with advice on civic, ceremonial and many other aspects, is now available to incoming Mayors.
- Provisional agreement to assist Dorset County Council in reminding local householders of their responsibilities regarding overhanging hedges which may obstruct pedestrians has been given.
- During the year, the Council received a free laptop, screen and printer under Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council’s IT ‘Connecting Dorset’ scheme. This is now placed in the Council Chamber and is proving very useful. The District Council’s online display of all Purbeck planning applications is awaited, which will make it even more useful for our Planning and Transport Committee meetings.
- The Town Council is aiming to work towards increased co-operation with Purbeck District Council and Dorset County Council plus other parishes under the new ‘Dorset

- Annual Budget - revenue expenditure is set to increase by over £53,000 in the coming year, mainly due to the urgent refurbishment of the Town Hall and its Annexe, including major fire and electrical safety works to be undertaken. These will, however, be funded by property reserves and it is intended to borrow the remainder, some £22,000, from earmarked reserves not required in the short term, to be replaced over a number of years commencing in 2010/11. A final Council budget was also achieved that will allow the Council to maintain services whilst keeping its share of the Council Tax down to an acceptable level.
- The Council agreed its Precept (its share of the Council tax) in January 2009 for submission to the District Council, a total of £103,897.00 - an increase of just over £7,500 on the previous year, equating to a sum of less than 1p per household per day for a Band D Council tax household.

Amenities Committee Achievements 2008/2009

The Amenities Committee met on 7 occasions during the past Year. During the year:

- A professional fire survey report was requested and received – Council is now acting upon the various recommendations for the Town Hall and Annexe, the premises at 2 Mill Lane and the Sports Pavilion.
- Play in the Park Scheme – Committee agreed the use of the Recreation Ground to Swanage and Wareham Childrens Centre for a Play Scheme for toddlers during August 2008. This has also been agreed again for August 2009 school holidays.
- Use of Recreation Ground – Carnival Events – conditions for annual fairground were imposed following some damage to the playing field surface the previous year.
- The Committee continued to grant free use of Recreation Ground to Wareham and Purbeck MS for its annual 'Wakky Races' charity event in August, subject to certain conditions.
- A policy was brought in regarding driving of vehicles onto the Recreation Ground playing fields, and safe parking, following concerns over safety at public events.
- One recycling bin from St Johns Hill was re-located at Abbots Quay next to litter bin.
- Phase II works at Town Hall – roof works at the Town Hall got under way, the east gable end was strengthened and 2 chimneys taken down, plus some minor repairs to stonework.
- The Committee authorised the purchase of a specialist repair kit for the artificial cricket pitch.
- Permission was given for the visit of the Jay Miller Circus from 17 – 19 July 2008. Very useful income for the Town Council was generated, and it is hoped to repeat this event in the future. A fairground visit is again planned for 2009.

- A number of improvements were noted for Hauses Field public open space/community parkland following a Committee site meeting.
- Funding from 'developer contribution' - £11000 was received via Purbeck District Council specifically for recreation/leisure purposes in the Recreation Ground. A new rebound football/basketball net facility in the old tennis courts was purchased and is already proving a big hit with local children. The remainder of this funding has been banked for consideration of other areas such as play feature/seats/sports pavilion refurbishment in the current Financial Year.
- Safety works at footbridge in Hauses Field were undertaken by the Council's caretakers, with new enclosed railings to prevent a potential drop hazard into the stream.
- A new Premises Working Party was formed – consisting of Chairman of Amenities, Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance and the Town Clerk - which considered a priority list of projects before the budget setting series of meetings. Priority is Town Hall/Sports Pavilion following the Fire Survey report – and this was delegated to the Premises Working Party to decide on an action plan, priorities and costs. They have also met with District Council officers concerning the state of the public toilets in Wareham, notably those at the Quay. We are pleased to report that action has now been taken to install hot water and soap facilities at the Quay toilets - maintained by the District Council - and re-decoration will shortly take place, pending a decision on the long term maintenance of both public toilets in the town.
- A hedge cutting policy was set out – approx 10 ft height adopted for the hedge at Recreation ground (Monmouth Road side). Hedge cutting was then carried out at that site in January 2009 by Dorset Works (Dorset County Council).
- Two very useful visits of Councillors to Town Council properties and two allotment sites at Bestwall and Northmoor were organised leading to various follow up actions. A very good liaison with our allotment tenant committees - who self manage both sites on behalf of the Council - was also achieved.
- Some urgent electrical safety works at Town Hall Annexe were carried out, together with re-wiring works at the Town Hall.
- Mistover Road Play Area – the Committee was delighted to achieve full grant funding for this project from Viridor landfill community fund and Dorset Strategic Partnership. A brand new, fully upgraded play area was officially opened on 27th March 2009 following a public consultation exercise which asked the local community what they wanted to see, following the consultation, provision was made for a disabled friendly roundabout.
- Wareham's first ever Music Festival is planned in September 2009. Full support was given for this event which will take place at various pubs and venues around the town, including the Quay. The use of the Corn Exchange as a venue and operating base over three days was agreed in return for a small fee to compensate for loss of Council income on the Saturday morning. The Festival will take place from Friday 4th

September to Sunday 6th September inclusive and if successful it is hoped that it will become an annual event. See www.wareham-music.org for full details of events planned.

- An intended Review of Charges for hire of the Corn Exchange/Recreation Ground and Council Chamber was postponed. It was agreed that no charge be made for next 6 months - to be reviewed in September - owing to the current financial climate.
- A new 3 year Grounds Maintenance Contract was agreed with Dorset Works for grass cutting at the Recreation Ground, the grass verge at Carey Hall (Mistover Road) and Hauses Field, following receipt of several quotations.
- Phase Three exterior works at the Town Hall are to be undertaken in the coming months. Scaffolding is to be erected on East Street and North Street frontages with due consideration for pedestrian traffic. The Committee is currently awaiting a specification before going out to tender for this major item of expenditure, for which funds have been earmarked – however, the Council will endeavour to pursue grant funding to help alleviate the cost to the taxpayer.
- Dog fouling at Hauses Field – the legal position was investigated, and a District Council Environmental Services Officer attended an Amenities meeting. As a result, we are considering ways of educating the public, providing dog waste bags at the site, the presence of a Dog Warden on occasions and enforcement measures if all else fails, to include an on the spot fine if necessary. It is hoped that this is not necessary, however the Committee is determined to improve Hauses Field for all responsible users.
- Lighting of County Council's public footpath at Hauses Field – the costs of bollard type lighting to light up this gloomy spot at night for public safety reasons, following a PACT recommendation, are currently being investigated and will be the subject of a site meeting in the near future.
- Farmers Market traders are back in the Corn Exchange in the near future, following their withdrawal to another venue in October 2008. A new basis of hire agreement has been worked out, following an approach from the Wareham Chamber of Trade, and plans are being made for fortnightly rather than monthly Farmers Markets.
- The Committee is pleased to report that, in addition to the Farmers Market returning, further income has also been generated by two regular weekly karate and kung fu classes in the Corn Exchange.
- The Corn Exchange was re-decorated in early January 2009, the first time for many years and the curtains have been taken down for cleaning. Further funds have been set aside - by the end of the summer, the stairwell, upstairs lobby, council administration office and the Council Chamber will all have been freshly painted.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee Achievements 2008 – 2009

The Committee met on 11 occasions during the past year. Highlights were as follows:

- Rent review – Swanage and Wareham Rugby club rent was reviewed and increased thus generating more valuable income from this Council owned site.
- The Museum Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed and amendments were agreed following a recommendation to Town Council.
- CCTV at Sandford Lane – following very expensive quotations for a further camera requested by business premises owners at Sandford Lane Business Park, it was decided not to go ahead with this option due to the cost being unjustified in terms of benefit to the vast majority of Wareham council taxpayers.
- Donations - a total for the year of £1225.00 was agreed. Recipients included Purbeck Environmental Action Team (PEAT), Royal British Legion, Wareham Carnival Committee, Father Christmas Committee, Wareham Music Festival, Grapevine, Dorset Blind Association and Age Concern – all under the Council's power to grant funds under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 (the 'Free Resource').
- Internal audits – three audits were considered during the year with only minor matters notified for attention by the internal auditor.
- The Annual Return of Accounts and Governance Statement was approved and returned to the External Auditor, also with minor comments to address.
- Attracting future bookings at Corn Exchange was high on the agenda this year – a lower hiring rate was agreed for Sundays to Fridays inclusive compared to Saturday bookings. Karate and kung fu classes are now taking place in the Corn Exchange, possibly as a direct result.
- Following a request, no financial support was however given from Wareham Town Council resources for the Swanage to Sandbanks ferry service, which faced an extended outage for essential maintenance in the winter months.
- Electricity supply to the Town Hall - a 3 Year fixed rate business tariff was adopted to save funds over the long term.
- The Committee also agreed that there be no change to current financial arrangements between Northmoor Allotments Management Committee and the Town Council following a very successful site visit.
- The Committee agreed to fund exceptionally urgent electrical safety works to the Town Hall Annexe following an electrical survey report.
- A review of the Council's Financial Regulations was undertaken, the result being submitted to Council and approved in September 2008.

- The Annual Risk Assessment for 2008/09 was revised and approved by Council.
- A Policy on Flying of Flags and Banners from the Town Hall was agreed.
- A Review of the Volunteer of the Year scheme was undertaken on two occasions in the year; there is ongoing action to improve the scheme for future occasions which are due to be considered by the Committee.
- Street furniture – the donation of the superb Guppy family bench to its new riverside location was agreed, since taken up by the Wareham in Bloom Committee as a project, and it is now installed ready for official ‘opening’ by the Mayor with Guppy family attendees on the south bank of the River Frome, in full agreement with Arne Parish Council and the landowner, Mrs Turner.
- CCTV – a new annual maintenance contract was agreed with a Wareham based company, saving significant amounts compared to the Coventry based company formerly used.
- A suggestion for a new Wareham Town Criers Competition was agreed and this will take place at the south bank of the River Frome on Saturday 11th July 2009.
- The Council’s van lease expired during the year and funding was found to purchase this 3 year old diesel vehicle, hopefully to give good service for many years.
- Past Mayors Badges – it was agreed to award badges to past Mayors and to refund Mayors who had paid for badges in the past, if they so wished, as a token of appreciation for their service to the community during their years of office.
- Two lighting sensors in the Town Hall clock tower were replaced to ensure the tower was lit up at night.
- Budget deliberations – a series of long meetings in November and December stringently scrutinised all committee budgets and a final Precept was agreed for submission to Council, at its December meeting, where it was approved for submission to Council. This has now been submitted to Purbeck District Council in January 2009.
- A new Protocol for Standing Committee Chairmen was agreed in March, giving the Chairman of PRF Committee the authority to deal with minor matters between Committee meetings, working closely with the Town Clerk.
- A new procedure for handling complaints was also adopted in March at a Town Council, meeting, following a recommendation by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.
- Wareham in Bloom Committee Terms of Reference were also considered and are currently being drawn up for the next meeting of the Committee.

Planning and Transport Committee – Achievements 2008 – 2009

The Planning and Transport Committee met on 18 occasions during the year.

- The Committee considered 58 planning applications during the Civic Year, including many minor applications e.g. loft conversions, extensions and conservatories. There were no major applications for new developments in the past year.
- Enforcement - the Committee expressed great concern over change of use of land from a public amenity to private use at 25 and 26 Sherford Close, Wareham which has now become an enforcement issue and at the present time is pending appeal.
- Members have supported a request for additional double yellow lines at Connegar Lane, Wareham to prevent cars parking adjacent to the Cemetery wall and preventing access to the Cemetery.
- Transportation and Planning Issues – Town and District Councillor K Critchley attended a meeting to discuss several traffic issues raised by members of the public in Wareham. The following issues were considered:
 - Corner of West Mill Crescent with Carey Road – suggestion of double yellow lines at junction – Committee supported this request.
 - Bere Road – suggestion of 30 mph roundels and possibility of Speed Indicator Device (SID). The Committee discussed various options including the provision of a permanent SID, a roundabout at the entrance to Northmoor Park, intermittent speed reduction devices and the possibility of a pedestrian crossing. The Committee requested further information regarding the criteria for a pedestrian crossing.
 - Sandford Road – suggestion of 30 mph roundels. Problems had been reported with regard to vehicles parking at the Railway Station end of Sandford Road. The Committee requested that 30 mph roundels be painted on the road.
 - Ropers Lane and Mill Lane – suggestion of restricted parking and possible residents parking. The Committee suggested a consultation exercise.
 - All lanes in Wareham to have a 20 mph speed limit. The Committee discussed options to control speeding in all lanes in Wareham Town Centre and expressed a wish to investigate further, particularly with regard to traffic calming legislation and signage.
 - Wessex Oval – suggestion of double yellow lines on east end of inner circles. The Committee discussed problems experienced in the vicinity of one household and supported the option of double yellow lines.
 - Vehicles parking outside the Natwest Bank, North Street and Lloyds TSB Bank, South Street, Wareham to use the Cashpoint facility. The Committee discussed problems experienced with customers parking on the pavements whilst using the Cashpoint facility and suggested that small cycle racks or bollards be positioned outside both banks on the pavement to prevent cars parking on the pavement. The intention is to prevent cars parking on the pavement whilst using the

cashpoint machines, this being a serious danger to oncoming traffic and to pedestrians who are obstructed.

- North Street, Wareham. To reduce parking at the northern end of North Street by one parking bay to improve visibility. The Committee supported this request.
- Removal of the sign on the Wall of Connells Estate Agents indicating Swanage and Wareham Rugby Football Club. The Committee requested that this sign be removed as soon as possible since confusion over the sign means drivers travelling down East Street may believe that this is the way to Swanage. Sign has been removed by the Town Council.
- The Committee requested that repainting of various yellow and white lines be carried out.

It was finally **RESOLVED** that the above observations be forwarded to Dorset County Council for these matters to be being addressed by that local authority - which has sole responsibility for Highways issues. A meeting has since taken place with an Officer from the Traffic Management Unit and many issues resolved at that meeting. The County Council is now seriously investigating the proposal for bollards on pavements to prevent parking near cashpoint machines.

- Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation – The Western Extension In North East Purbeck. The Committee had been circulated with copies of the Core Strategy Issues and Option Consultation. Following discussion, a joint response was formulated to be returned to Planning Services, Purbeck District.
- Members had been circulated with copies of correspondence from the Technical Officer, Traffic Management Unit, Dorset County Council, who was investigating the the possibility of creating a disabled bay and a length of no loading/unloading in Bere Road adjacent to the Bus Stop outside Wareham Station. It was decided to support the provision of a disabled person's parking bay and no loading/unloading bay.
- Parking problems, Wellstead Road – request for white lines. The Chairman reported to members on correspondence, a draft plan and photographs relating to a parking problem at Wellstead Road, and requesting that white lines be painted to identify and provide more parking bays. The Committee decided to support this request and a letter was sent to the Highways Department, Dorset County Council advising that white lines be painted to identify and provide more parking bays at this location.

Wareham in Bloom Committee Achievements 2008 – 2009

The Committee met on 5 occasions during the year and there were several operational meetings of Chairman/Vice Chairman and Clerk. Main achievements:

- Wareham in Bloom was entered for two competitions – the regional South and South East in Bloom Competition and the National Britain in Bloom Finals, having achieved best in Small Town category, winning **GOLD** in South and South East in Bloom in 2007.
- Unannounced Judging for Britain in Bloom took place in mid-April and months of preparations culminated in the judging of South/South East in Bloom in July and Britain in Bloom in August.
- The Chairman and Town Clerk attended both awards ceremonies – results: an impressive second **GOLD** for South/South East in Bloom and an excellent **SILVER** at the national Britain in Bloom awards in Chester.
- It is very hard to enter two major competitions in one year: congratulations are extended to the Wareham in Bloom Committee plus all sponsors, waterers and volunteers for this achievement and for all their hard work.
- The Committee is looking forward to competing in the regional competition again in 2009 and is going all out for a third consecutive GOLD award.

Highlights of the year:

- Two successful fundraising events were organised in the Corn Exchange – 31st May 2008 and 31st January 2009, bringing valuable extra income in addition to sponsorship.
- The local Wareham in Bloom competition again produced many worthy winners and awards were held in conjunction with winners of the Town Council's Best Kept Allotment Competition in October at the Corn Exchange.
- Various untidy and weedy 'hot spots' around the town were tackled including St Johns Hill and the Quay, and Committee members again took part in a litter pick on the Wareham Walls with members of the Town Trust.
- The railings at the War Memorial were painted, graffiti at the underpass was tackled and the ceiling painted, all thanks to engaging the Wareham-based Community Payback Unit.
- A new automatic watering system was installed at the Town Hall for its many wall baskets and some replacement baskets were also purchased.
- Community involvement continued with involvement of local schools in a garden project at Wareham Middle School and a photographic competition on the theme of 'flowers' at the January fundraising event.

- In addition to trees planted at the Recreation Ground earlier in the year, further planting was undertaken at Hauses Field, where a corner area by the electricity pylons was planted up with a swathe of daffodils.
- Publicity for In Bloom was excellent with many window displays organised by the Committee together with articles in the Wareham Directory and Advertiser. A Wareham in Bloom fundraising Calendar is being planned for sale in the Autumn.
- Arrangements to site a superb bench donated by the Guppy family were made and supported by Wareham in Bloom; it is now in a riverside setting, as they wished, south of the River Frome.
- Street furniture maintenance is an integral part of the In Bloom Competitions: two benches at Barclays were restored during the year with missing slats replaced and the Committee is liaising closely with Purbeck District Council in refurbishing many public seats in the town.

2009 Season:

- Plans to include the public library rear garden (known as the Secret Garden Project) have been made following the donation of a tree and seat around that tree by Rotary Club and Holme Nurseries in memory of Jim Goldsack of East Holme Nurseries, well known to Wareham in Bloom over many years.
- Priory Meadow is being totally revamped by the Wareham and District Development Trust and Wareham in Bloom is arranging for pupils from Purbeck School to take part in this work.
- A scarecrow window display using empty shop windows is planned, an 'adopt a raised bed' scheme at Hauses Field has been successful and plans are being made for a Wareham Town Open Garden scheme.
- A local nurseryman, Mr Jorge Annaheim, was once again pleased to receive the contract for providing Wareham in Bloom flower displays in the form of hanging baskets and planter stands. An even better display is planned for the town centre in summer 2009 and for the major entrances to the town. We were pleased to learn that Mr Annaheim's floral displays were judged to be in the top four at the national Britain in Bloom finals in September, an impressive accolade for a nurseryman in Dorset who produces all his plants, with no assistance, from his home in Wareham.
- The Committee's deep appreciation is expressed to all the sponsors of Wareham in Bloom. Without their contribution, however large or small it may be, the town could not achieve what it does every summer in providing stunning flower displays to impress our visitors and residents alike.

Museum Committee Achievements - 2008/9

The Museum Committee met on four occasions during the year and the following achievements are reported:

- Following success of the Family History Day in January 2008, a Family History Research Area was made in the Museum for the 2009/10 season. A further Family History Day is planned for 23rd May 2009.
- A new Museum sign was fitted onto the East Street side entrance.
- New curtains for the T E Lawrence display were fitted.
- New Jurassic Coast display boards were installed and a Touch Computer Display was funded by Dorset County Council together with a Heritage Grant
- New Terms of Reference were agreed by the Town Council and adopted in July 2008.
- The T E Lawrence Digital Photographic Display was finalised.
- The Committee is pleased to report that five new Volunteers were added to Regular and Standby List.
- An ancient skull in the ownership of the Museum was measured at Bournemouth University.
- Two oil filled radiators purchased for background heating during the winter period, pending major improvements to the Town Hall central heating system in 2009/10.
- A Town Museum Thank You Lunch for Volunteers was held on Tuesday 25th November 2008.
- Items relating to the 'Union Workhouse' and various slides were donated to the Dorset History Centre.
- The Museum joined the Purbeck Museums Group.
- A second digital photo frame was obtained and is to be used for displaying old photographs and documents of Wareham – a Winter 2009/10 project.
- The Museum received **6204** visitors during the year. Sales figures of £879.30p, Donations figure: £1,031.10p. Website hits increased to 11,456 in total (with 2887 this last year).
- Ongoing projects for 2009/10 include the setting up of an audio guide.
- The Museum's second stage of Accreditation is due to be completed by December 2009.
- Displays for Museum and Family History Day in Neville Jones Window in North Street will be pursued.

Human Resources Panel Achievements 2008 – 2009

The Panel met on six occasions during the year and the following achievements are reported:

- Annual review of staff pay and working conditions
- Staff working hours reviewed and implemented following a trial period
- The following policies were reviewed and successfully recommended for implementation:
 - a. Lone Working Policy
 - b. Health and Safety Policy
 - c. Disability Equality Policy
 - d. Equal Opportunities Policy
 - e. Racial Equality
 - f. Child Protection Policy
- Annual Staff Appraisals (PADs i.e. Personal Achievement and Development Scheme) were held following introduction the previous year and results considered.
- New Terms of Reference for the Wareham Town Crier were formulated and agreed for implementation.
- A Review of Job Descriptions and Contracts was undertaken for two members of the Admin Staff.
- A new Office Manager role for the Finance Assistant was considered for implementation and a new Job Description approved, effective from 1st Jan 2009.

Report compiled by: Rodney Curtis, Town Clerk, 30th May 2009

(Please contact: R M Curtis, Town Clerk, Wareham Town Council, tel: 01929 553006 for any further details on this Annual Report.)