



## Wareham Town Council Newsletter – May 2011

### **New Lengthsman for Wareham Town**

Wareham Town Council has recruited a Lengthsman utilising part funding obtained from Dorset County Council. I am pleased to report that Mr Keith Burt was successful at interview and has been appointed from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Keith will take over various 'outdoor' duties currently carried out by the County Council and some tasks to augment the District Council's responsibilities. A prime task will be to carry out much needed weed killing in the town and follow up dead weeds to remove them from site at a later stage. This follows a meeting of the Amenities Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 when certain priorities were set. We hope that our Lengthsman will become a familiar sight in Wareham to local residents and I am sure that there will be plenty of work to keep him busy and ensure the town remains clean, tidy and free from certain eyesores that let us all down.

### **Clockwinder Retires – Thank You to Terry**

At the Council meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> April, retiring Town Hall Clockwinder Mr Terry Miles gave a presentation on Wareham's clock and his memories of winding and maintaining it, followed by a presentation from the Mayor of a gift and framed certificate to commemorate 21 years of loyal service as 'Master Clockwinder'. On behalf of the Council and all residents of Wareham, Terry, we wish you a happy retirement - you deserve it!



**Pic: Retired Clockwinder Terry Miles with Mayor Eric Osmond and photo of the Clock at the Town Hall**

## Wareham in Bloom Project – ‘The Sword in the Stone’ – North Causeway Roundabout

### LOVELY BUBBLY! WAREHAM’S SAXON ROUNDABOUT GETS CHAMPAGNE CHRISTENING

A Saxon town now has a Saxon Roundabout complete with replica town walls and a mini River Frome, King Arthur was nowhere to be seen and the ‘Ex.....’ word is now banned in Wareham.....!



On his last official duty on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 as Mayor of Wareham, Councillor Eric Osmond formally launched the new ‘Sword in the Stone’ Saxon Roundabout project at the A351 North Causeway. Councillor Osmond, a founder member and current Chairman of the Wareham in Bloom Committee, paid tribute to all those sponsors, volunteers, committee members and supporters of the project who had given so freely and willingly of their time, labour, landscaping material and plants to bring it to its conclusion during a month of unusually dry weather. A project that had taken just three months - from the arrival of the first digger to its

finish two days before, in a month of unusually dry weather when sponsor Peter Andrews Plant Hire stepped in with a water bowser, sometimes twice daily, to keep the grass and plants going.



At the end of his speech of thanks, sword-maker Roy Osmond, a Purbeck blacksmith and metal worker from East Lulworth, climbed onto the splendid mass of Purbeck stone and christened the sword in a special bottle of Hemsbach champagne presented to the town by the Burgermeister of Hemsbach, Wareham’s twin town in Germany. A rousing cheer went up as the sparkling liquid flowed down over the mighty blade. It seemed a fitting way to welcome it officially to the town, and to christen the roundabout as Wareham’s new ‘Saxon Roundabout.

Standing on the roundabout, one is impressed by how large the site is and the amount of sheer hard

labour that has obviously gone into the project. The sword idea by Wareham in Bloom's Dorothy Carr was inspired by a real Saxon sword dragged up from the River Frome in 1927 during rebuilding of the South Bridge. This sword is now in the Dorset County Museum. Further horticultural enhancements are already being planned. In his speech, Councillor Osmond said: "I am sure you will agree that the sword is magnificent, although a number of males of all ages have been tempted to remove it, foolishly thinking it had something to do with a certain character called King Arthur and that this would improve their prowess with the local ladies. They have NOT succeeded! This project will enhance Wareham's chances of winning top marks in the regional South and South East in Bloom and the national Britain in Bloom competitions this year. We hope it will be a major topic of interest and attract many visitors to Wareham to help the local economy."

**This is a major Wareham in Bloom Committee project** and a first attempt at upgrading a roundabout. Following Dorothy Carr's idea, landscape artist Jenny Waterhouse worked up a colour sketch of the design which features a large Saxon sword embedded in Purbeck Stone. This was selected as very appropriate for Wareham and it is *not intended to be King Arthur's 'Excalibur'*. King Arthur, largely a Medieval legend embellished from references to a Romano-Celtic leader, is not associated with Wareham. The Saxons, however, were here for hundreds of years and it seems fitting that we should remember our own recorded history. The major work is now complete, with an earthwork wall to represent the Saxon walled town and a blue Welsh slate River Frome all surrounded by newly laid turf.



The Wareham in Bloom Committee is deeply grateful to all the local sponsors and contractors who freely gave of their time and materials to build the new feature, all at no expense to the Wareham Town Council taxpayer, plus Viridor PR of Taunton who donated £1,000 towards the sword and other materials. The roundabout has now been officially christened the 'Saxon Roundabout' - and we do have a Saxon Close not too far away from it. Certainly beats 'Excalibur Roundabout' in my humble opinion!

### Local Elections May 2011

Wareham Town Council along with eight other local parish councils had elections with on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011, together with a referendum on AV (alternative voting system). The turn-out of voters at nearly 50% was excellent for a local election, which can only be good for local democracy. The Town Council had 18 candidates for 16 vacancies and official results are as follows (with four new councillors replacing four who stood down this time around):

# DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Purbeck District

## Election of Town Councillors for

Wareham Town Council  
on Thursday 5 May 2011

I, Steve Mackenzie, being the Returning Officer at the above election, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each Candidate at the said election is as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes*
ADKINS, Mary Catherine	Liberal Democrat	744 Elected
BUDD, David Anthony	Liberal Democrat	1191 Elected
CHRISTOPHER, Philip	Independent	658
CLEATON, Doreen Rosina	Liberal Democrat	831 Elected
CRANSHAW, Rochelle	Independent	599
CRITCHLEY, Daniel Paul Thomas	Liberal Democrat	795 Elected
CRITCHLEY, Keith William Thomas	Liberal Democrat	894 Elected
ELMES, Susan Diana	Liberal Democrat	981 Elected
GREEN, Keith John	Liberal Democrat	707 Elected
HUTTON, Dean Christopher	Conservative Party Candidate	690 Elected
KENYON, Linda Iris	Independent	705 Elected
OSMOND, Eric Llewelyn	Liberal Democrat	1101 Elected
RUSSELL, Malcolm Gregory	The Conservative Party Candidate	732 Elected
SELBY, May Ann	Independent	981 Elected
SPOONER, Maureen June	Conservative Party Candidate	716 Elected
TURNER, Carol Eileen	Independent	849 Elected
WIGGINS, Michael Francis	Conservative Party Candidate	906 Elected
WIGGINS, Nicola Ann	Conservative Party Candidate	768 Elected

\* If elected the word 'Elected' appears against the number of votes.

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of Ballot papers
A want of an official mark	
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	
E rejected in part	
Total	

Vacant Seats: 16 Electorate: 4568

Turnout: 49.43%

And I do hereby declare that the candidates marked elected are duly elected.

Dated 6th May 2011

Steve Mackenzie  
Returning Officer

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Most Wareham Town Council meetings are open to the public. These are publicised in the Purbeck Gazette and are also on the website so please do come along if you are interested in any issue. There is also a public participation time with a chance to speak on any topic under discussion or on any issue pertaining to Wareham Town.

***Wareham Town Council contact:*** Admin Office 01929 553006. Bookings taken for Corn Exchange, use of the Council Chamber for weddings/civil partnerships plus sports pitches at the Recreation Ground, Worgret Road.

*Rod Curtis, Town Clerk, Wareham Town Council May 2011  
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