Thorpe St Andrew Town Council would like to invite all residents of Thorpe St Andrew with their families and friends to join them in celebrating England’s patron saint, St George. As in previous years we will hold this event at the Fitzmaurice Pavilion, Pound Lane and we plan an afternoon of fun and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

The afternoon will commence at noon with The Vineyard Church inviting one and all to join them in their Sunday open-air church service. A warm welcome will be given along with their famous tea and doughnuts. There will be lots of activities throughout the afternoon. It’s a warm welcome back to the Scratchy Donkeys, after the wonderful service the donkeys provided at the Christmas Lights Switch On we look forward to their return along. Another English traditional entertainment will be the ever popular Punch and Judy shows which will run at various times during the afternoon. Our Beer Tent will be provided by the Fat Cat & Tap Brewery. We will have various food stalls including Claridges Food, Ronaldo’s Ice Cream and Gastro Coffee. There will be charity and craft stalls offering gifts and treats and the chance to win prizes, plus a small fun fair for the younger children. The famous Fancy Dress Competition to find the best dressed princess, dragon and St George will win a cinema voucher.

As always it is the support shown and enthusiasm of residents attending our events that makes them so successful. Our Town Council stand will be manned by the Town Councillors and should you have any questions you would like to put to the Councillors they will be happy to help.

Councillor Sue Lawn, Chairperson of the Town Council Events Committee said “We always look forward to a very Traditional English Spring afternoon for all the family to enjoy. We have a wonderful community spirit in Thorpe St Andrew and we as councillors want to ensure that we continue to provide community events for our residents. Not only does it bring the community together but it gives the Councillors the chance to meet and chat with residents in a relaxed environment. We have a very dedicated team of Councillors and Volunteers along with Office and Ground Staff who work very hard to make these events come together and I am very grateful to everyone including residents who make all of our events the success they are”.

For more information or to book a stall please contact the Town Council Office on 01603 701048 or email office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Join our Picnic for a Triple Celebration!

As you will already be aware, this year sees Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth celebrate her 90th birthday. Also in 2016, the Parish Church of Thorpe St Andrew will be celebrating its 150th anniversary and this year too marks ten years since Thorpe St Andrew became a town.

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council is very proud of the hard work and achievements of the last ten years and the town continues to go from strength to strength. To mark this momentous year with a community event for all residents, the Town Council has joined with the Church to have a joint celebration...Cont. page 2...

“Thorpe St Andrew” in Top 10 places to live in East of England

The Sunday Times has just published its “10 Best Places to Live in the UK”, and we are delighted to say that Thorpe St Andrew was included in the East of England list. It stated that the area is increasing its numbers of buyers, offering “a high quality of life”. With a good range of properties to pick from, if you are quick, you can buy a grade II listed cottage. Full of fantastic amenities, supermarkets, “outstanding” rated school and Sixth Form, riverside pubs and Whittingham Country Park for water sports, the river Yare runs through the centre of the town and some original village features are still visible at the River Green.

Town Mayor Mr John Ward stated “We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of Norfolk with all the amenities you could ask for on your doorstep. We are only minutes away from the city centre, have the Norfolk Broads to enjoy and can be in the country side or coast in approx. 30 minutes”.

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council

Supporting Local Apprenticeships
Our most successful year yet - thousands of residents braved the chilly night for the Christmas market and lights switch on. We had 16 stalls this year with a lovely selection of crafts and Christmas gifts. Starting the proceedings was the Vineyard Church leading up to the arrival of Father Christmas, this year arriving on the Yare Ferry Co. boat to his grotto on the River Green. Donkeys this year were a new addition with free rides for the children, a great treat, so popular that we have booked them again for St Georges Day in April!

An array of food and our ever popular bar, run this year by The Fat Cat & Tap Brewery, was very much enjoyed by all. The evening ended with a fireworks display from Whitlingham Country Park which lit up the sky all over the river. Our thanks to all those involved, especially The Rushcutters and The Buck for allowing us to use their car parking facilities.

Cont. from front page...

...as well as officially wishing Her Majesty a very Happy Birthday – on Sunday 29th May.

The celebrations will commence with Councillors attending Sunday Morning Service at the Parish Church at 10.30am. The present building was consecrated on 31st May 1866, replacing the earlier building which was too small. The architect was Thomas Jekyll and the faculty permitting the building of the new church said the former one must be left "to form a picturesque ruin". Further details on the church service will be confirmed in the April issue of Parish Life and a warm welcome is extended to all residents.

Directly after the service at 12.00, celebrations will continue with a “Picnic on the River Green”! You are invited to bring your picnic blankets and baskets and help us make this an enjoyable event for everyone. The Town Council will be providing free tea and coffee and the celebrations will continue until 3.00pm. We hope as many residents, families and friends as possible will bring their picnics and join us in making this a memorable, community celebration.

For further information please contact the Town Council Office on 01603 701048 or email office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk or for Church details, Mr Victor Scrivens on victor.scrivens@btopenworld.com
**Update from the Town Clerk**

The last few months have certainly been busy at the Town Council. I have worked on my first fireworks and Christmas lights events. Both the staff and Councillors worked tirelessly to make these events possible and they have my thanks for their hard work in ensuring these events were a success. We also had great support from local voluntary groups and, of course, the residents who support the events (come rain or shine). Let’s hope for a dry night this year for the fireworks! These events will continue to get bigger and better.

A major project which is now complete is the refurbishment of the Roxley Hall, and is now open and a superb space for all to enjoy; we have lots of interest in hiring the hall for a variety of occasions. The Town Council has temporarily relocated to the Roxley Hall while work for the proposed new office at the Fitzmaurice Pavilion continues. More details about the office move are contained in this edition of the Thorpe St Andrew News.

There has been much publicity about the car parking difficulties on Vane Close outside Dussindale Primary School. People living in the area have reported incidents and ‘near misses’ with children and car parking becoming an increasing problem. We are continuing to work with the police, Sainsbury’s and the school to try and find a suitable solution for both residents and parents.

To be clear, both car parking and highway safety are matters for the District and County Councils. However the Town Council is concerned that without action an accident could occur. We are therefore asking other councils to consider proposals for traffic management and asking parents to walk their children to school or park at Sainsbury’s which is only a 4 minute walk from the school.

The Town Council continues to support local businesses. Currently we are working with Mr Mark Wakelin towards an exciting hire-boat operation project from River Green. Mr Wakelin operated the Yare Ferry Co. river service from River Green to Whittingham Park and Norwich City throughout last year. Entirely self-funded, Mr Wakelin has shown a commitment to provide a much needed service to the Town.

In the last issue I invited residents to send in a question to be answered. The most common question was asked “What makes Thorpe St Andrew a Town rather than Parish?” This is quite apt given the Town’s tenth anniversary this year. In legal terms, there is no difference between being a Town or a Parish Council. However there are significant community benefits when it comes to attracting investment, developing projects and also retaining Thorpe St Andrew’s unique character and identity. It also makes it less likely the Town will become a part of Norwich as the city continues to expand.

Anyone with a question to be answered in the next issue can email thomas.foreman@thorpeandrew-tc.gov.uk, call 01603 701048 or visit the Town Council office at Roxley Hall, Yarmouth Road.

Thomas Foreman
Town Clerk

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**Plans for New Trees on Fitzmaurice Park**

- **Giant Redwood (Wellingtonia):** holds the distinction of being the largest living thing on earth and can live for more than 3000 years. Planted for the Tenth Anniversary as a Town.
- **Dawn Redwood:** of great botanical interest, both very large and pyramidal in shape. This tree makes for a grand park specimen tree. Planting for the Opening of the new Town Hall.
- **Purple Beech:** A tree which provides great contrast within a park as it draws the eye through the landscape. Planted for HM The Queen’s 90th Birthday.
- **Tulip Tree:** large and fast-growing, it has a broad pyramidal crown. The tulip shaped flowers are a feature in June and July and are yellow-green with a band of orange. It is deep rooted and wind resistant. This tree is also popular with bees. Planted for the new Event Space.

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**News from John Ward Town Mayor**

The extension and refurbishment of the Roxley Hall is now complete and has been admired by everybody who has seen it and is a great asset for our Town. We were pleased to welcome Thorpe Players back with their February production of “Oh What a Lovely War”. A number of events are planned this year; St George’s Day Event, Lighting the Beacon for HM The Queen’s birthday, Guy Fawkes Night Fireworks and the Christmas Light Switch-On. And a new event this spring “Beating the Bounds” where I will walk the boundary of the Town with the Town Cryer, Councillors and any public who wish to join us.

Plans for improvements to both Dussindale and Laundry Lane Parks including a skate park, are coming to fruition. A memorial poppy garden at River Green surrounded by 5 oaks trees (one for each year of WW1) will be planted shortly. The move of our Town Council office from the Roxley Hall to the Fitzmaurice Pavilion is at an advanced stage.
In celebration of Thorpe St Andrews tenth Anniversary year as a town, the ancient tradition of ‘Beating the Bounds’ will be rekindled this year. Pioneering the event, Town Mayor John Ward explained “this tradition stems from a time before maps and has taken place for over 2000 years. During this period, knowledge of the physical boundaries of a community was important. By walking around the boundary and striking the boundary stones residents ensured there was no encroachment from neighbouring communities”.

Other traditions associated with the Beating of the Bounds included entering private property and whipping local youngsters on the walk with sticks. It is alleged that this ensured the memory of the boundaries remained in the minds of the next generation. Town Mayor John Ward continued “this event will be good fun for all who attend; we will be leaving some of the more archaic traditions in the past where they belong. We are hopeful that many members of the community will turn up and support this event”.

The walk around the Town boundaries, which will include River Green, Boundary Lane, Green Lane North and Harvey Lane, will allow participants to see some of the picturesque vistas of Thorpe St Andrew.

The ‘Beating of the Bounds’ is due to take place on Sunday 8th May 2016 at 2.00pm, starting at the Fitzmaurice Pavilion.

Following a review of our website, the Town Council requested a new website be developed with easier access to the information residents need the most. After examining ‘best practice’ websites, draft versions of the site were created. These drafts and the final design were done in-house by staff out of hours and so at no cost to the rate-payer. Some areas are still being improved, but if there is anything you would like to see on the website email office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Home Watch works by neighbours getting together to keep an eye on each other’s property. It brings the community together and it is not difficult to start up and run a scheme. Plenty of help is available, plus you will be kept up to date with crime and crime trends in your area.

Police in Thorpe St Andrew are asking people to make sure they secure their cycles after a number of cycles have been stolen across the District.

Cyclists are reminded to:
• Always lock you cycle, even if you’re only leaving it for a moment. We recommend a heavy D-lock is used.
• Where possible leave your cycle in a well-lit area where it may be overlooked or where there may be CCTV coverage.
• Lock your bike through the frame and secure removable parts.
• Make the lock or chain hard to manoeuvre when parked and face the lock towards the ground to make it difficult to pick.
• At home keep your bike out of public view, preferably in a shed, garage or inside your property.
• Secure your cycle to an immovable object for added security.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near a cycle storage area or an unattended cycle, call the police straight away.

A number of half plots are available for letting on the Hillside Allotment site.

Applicants need to live within Thorpe St Andrew and have sufficient time to ensure the plots are well cultivated and maintained to a good standard.

For more information on costs and locations, contact the Town Council Office

Tel: 01603 701048
Email: office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk
Business Start-Up Workshop

Is 2016 the year to start your own business?

Have you always dreamed about starting your own business but not sure where to start?

Maybe you want to turn your hobby into a business or just want to be your own boss?

A free programme is offered by Broadland District Council for all Broadland residents who want to find out more about self-employment. The three hour Business Start-Up Workshop is designed to introduce you to the basic principles of starting a business, where you are also provided with a Business Start-Up Toolkit.

After attending, the follow-on Business Essentials Programme delves deeper into what to expect in starting and running your own business. The course shares knowledge and signposts you to additional resources. Throughout and after each course, you will receive on-going support and advice from the Council’s Business Advisors as you decide whether running a business is right for you.

After completing the programme, you may have the option to take a series of further free courses as discussed with the Business Advisor. A new programme begins every month and courses take place at the Council’s training facility in Hellesdon.

For further information please contact: Broadland Council’s Business Support team
Tel: 01603 430449, e-mail: business@broadland.gov.uk
www.broadland.gov.uk/training

Join our Support Officers

The Town Council has started a voluntary ‘Support Officer’ scheme to provide ‘added value’ work to the community. Three local residents have successfully joined the scheme, including Melanie who runs a local ladies running club and keeps noticeboards up to date. Melanie said ‘I have found this form of advertising very effective over the last few years and in return for using the boards I would like to give something back by keeping them up dated.’ Duties of other Support Officers include working with the grounds team and working on local campaigns including the current priority on tackling dog fouling.

Would you be interested in becoming a ‘Support Officer’? Please submit your ideas to the Town Council Office for consideration. Tel: 01603 701048 or office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Publication of Local Debut Novel

Thorpe St Andrew Town Mayor, John Ward met with Thorpe St Andrew resident Phyllida Scrivens who has achieved a life-long ambition this year with her debut book, Escaping Hitler: A Jewish Boy’s Quest for Freedom and His Future. This biography traces the remarkable life of Joe Stirling, well-respected retired Norwich personality, who came to England from Nazi Germany in 1939 on a Kindertransport, subsequently settling in Norfolk.

At the local pre-launch of the book, before the official unveiling at Jarrold’s on 4th February, Cllr Ward said “This biography of 91 year-old Joe Stirling is recommended for anyone with an interest in both local and European history. I am consistently impressed with how high the bar is set for talent in the Town and this book demonstrates just how many interesting stories are still to be told”. Following his marriage in 1946 to a young woman from Attleborough, Joe settled in Norwich and has lived in the city for over sixty years. Phyllida says: ‘I particularly enjoyed researching the life and times of the City of Norwich throughout four decades, unearthing some wonderful stories in the Archant archives. I interviewed over thirty-five individuals and found some original documents including the report on young Günter Stern from a Jewish Association, documenting his progress as a schoolboy and young soldier in England’. The book is available from Jarrolds, Amazon.co.uk, Pen and Sword website or for a copy signed by both Phyllida Scrivens and Joe Stirling, buy direct from Phyllida. Full details on her author’s website at www.escapinghitler.com or you can call her on 01603 300212.

Monthly Marsh Walks led by Chris Durdin

All walks are free of charge and last about 2 hours at a slow pace. They start from the pedestrian railway bridge at the end of Whittingham Lane, though walks in Dec, Jan and Feb (and possibly March) will start at Bungalow Lane off Yarmouth Road because of bridge repairs.

Simply turn up and enjoy. Remember to bring binoculars and a camera if you have them.

Boots are often recommended as paths can be wet and muddy in places, even in summer, and wellies are best in winter.

Talks: we can offer a talk about NWT Thorpe St Andrew Marshes. For more information email chris@honeyguide.co.uk

Friday 29 April 10am
Leader: David North
Monday 23 May 10am
Monday 20 June 7pm
Friday 8 July 7pm
Thursday 4 August 10am
Friday 9 September 10am
Monday 24 October 10am
Friday 11 November 10am
Wednesday 14 December 10am
**Respect your Verges**

Residents and Councillors alike have been vocal in their concern for the grass verges throughout the Town. Many areas including Booty Road, Spinney Road, Thunder Lane, Yarmouth Road, Hillcrest Road and Eastern Road are affected. During winter months, the damage increases significantly through drivers of cars, commercial vehicles and buses churning up the grassed areas.

On Eastern Road, where significant improvements were undertaken last year by the Highways Department, parking resumed the same day the verges were finished. This meant the grass did not establish itself and further expense for reseeding and repair is required. Photos sent by residents illustrate the issue and the Town Council would ask all those who park on the verges to consider how they can minimise the damage during the winter months. We have also been contacted with requests for posts, rocks and other obstructions on the verges to prevent parking. All requests must go to Norfolk County Council, but it is important that only County Council approved items are installed or planned on verges. There have also been questions about tarmacking over the verges to make them tidier, the Highways Department have advised that the grass verges play an important role in drainage so it is unlikely that this is considered due to the likelihood of increasing road flooding.

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**Frostbite Sailing Club**

A good number of visitors came down to Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club for our Open Day on 1st November 2015. It was beautiful weather and the river looked at its best, the only thing lacking was wind! We did however, manage a short race and some people ventured out for a taster sail while others enjoyed watching and meeting club members.

If you are interested in finding out more about us you are very welcome to come along on a Sunday morning. The club is keen to recruit new members. Look out for our new sign on the Yarmouth Road, opposite the Oaklands Hotel. Our carpark is by the road but the clubhouse is over the level crossing at the end of Girlings Lane. We sail every Sunday morning between mid-October and the end of April and racing begins at 10.50 am. You can also look at our website; www.norwichfrostbitesailing.club

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**SAM 2 Sign Updates**

The Town Council’s SAM2 speed signs have been in use for nearly a year and the results have helped inform a range of organisations about the speeds travelled on roads in Thorpe St Andrew.

A recent survey on Plumstead Road East, near the new pedestrian island found drivers travelling routinely over the speed limit, including instances of more than 70 mph! As you will see from the chart opposite, vehicles routinely exceeded the 30mph limit, with many being upwards of 40mph. Following a review of the data, Deputy Mayor Cllr Iain Mackie explained “as part of our continued approach to tackling speeding in Thorpe St Andrew, the SAM2 signs have been a great addition and demonstrate that there have been instances of highly irresponsible driving. We use the signs in various locations to continue to reduce speeding in known target areas”.

The SAM2 signs will continue to be used throughout the Thorpe St Andrew and the results will be reviewed at public meetings on a regular basis. We will feature key results in future editions of Thorpe St Andrew News. To find out about locations for the sign contact the office.
Town Council Relocates to Roxley Hall

The Town Council Office has temporarily relocated to the Roxley Hall to save on rental costs while work continues on the proposed offices at the Fitzmaurice Park. Following a substantial extension and refurbishment the Roxley Village Hall reopened early in the new year. The facility now boasts a splendid hall and new kitchenette facilities for hire. The work on the Hall came in under budget and we are extremely pleased with the results. Many of our hirers have returned, we are also happy to welcome new hirers including Hester’s Yoga as well as other local Councils in the area.

If you would like to hire the hall please contact us on 01603 701048 or email office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

New Office Space Plans Passed

Many will have seen the plans for the proposed new Town Council offices at the Fitzmaurice Park. The plans were submitted in November and we are pleased to confirm that planning permission was granted in February. Consultees including Sport England were reassured that the transfer of the football pitch to the Laundry Lane park has meant there will be no loss to sports facilities. Both the cricket square and adult football pitch will remain on the Dussindale site with a changing room within the Fitzmaurice Pavilion.

We are temporarily relocating to the Roxley Hall while the project develops to ensure that we can save on our current rental costs and put this towards the refurbishment. The work to transform the changing rooms into the proposed office space would be funded through a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. The money currently spent on rent will be redirected to make the loan repayments, so no raise in precept will be needed to meet the costs. This will place the Town council in its own building, resulting in future savings year on year.

We will keep you updated as the project develops.
Norwich Vineyard Church

‘The place’ is our community drop in centre at 61 Spinney Road. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am-1pm. If you would like to talk to somebody, or are just in need of a bit of company, our volunteers are here to chat and listen. We would love to see you!

On the last Thursday of the month, 1.30-3pm, ‘the place’ is open as a Prayer Space for people to drop in for as little or as long as they like. There will be a quiet room for personal prayer and reflection, prayer stations to prompt you as you pray and somebody available to talk and pray with you if this is what you need. If there is any situation or person that you would like us to pray for, then please let us know and we will do so. The place’ is our community drop in centre at 61 Spinney Road. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am-1pm.

Weighed down by debt? On the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 10.30-12.30pm, at ‘the place’, we are joining with Christians Against Poverty to offer free debt advice. You may think your situation is impossible, but there is hope. Drop-in on a Thursday morning to find out more or to talk with a trained advisor.

Thorpe Pavilion Nursery gets a Good Ofsted rating

Thorpe Pavilion Nursery, based at the Fitzmaurice Pavilion on Dussindale Park, received a recent ‘Good’ rated Ofsted report. This came following the appointment of a new manager and additional placements for 2 year olds.

The report found that the new manager was both enthusiastic and ambitious in his vision for the Nursery and that the staff were committed to their professional development. Ofsted also commented on staff skills in following children’s interests.

It is clear that the Nursery has good foundations to build on in the coming years.

For more information about the Nursery contact Andrew Woodcock, Nursery Manager, 01603 701680 (8.30am-3.30pm) or email thorpepavilion@gmail.com

Dussindale Residents Support Top Dog Campaign

More than 60 Dussindale residents who are fed up of dodging piles of dog mess joined Broadland District Council to show their support for the council’s Broadland Top Dog campaign. Broadland District Council invited residents to this special event at the basketball court in Dalbier Close to highlight the problem of dog fouling in the area. The path that runs adjacent to the railway line in Dussindale has become a hotspot for dog fouling, some of which will now have to be cleaned weekly by the council's contractors.

The Broadland Top Dog campaign promotes responsible dog ownership in the district and also encourages dog owners to pledge to report those who are not picking up after their pets. Everyone who joins the campaign receives a free Top Dog pack which includes a Top Dog ribbon for their pet and the chance to win an iPad mini. Residents who attended Saturday’s event included dog owners, joggers, cyclists and young people who all wanted to show their support for the campaign.

Cllr John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence at Broadland District Council, said: "One of our key ambitions as a council is environmental excellence and we know how frustrating it is to see a few individuals spoiling public spaces, but we need your help to catch them."

For more information and to join the campaign, visit www.broadland.gov.uk/topdog or see the council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/BroadlandEvents

Probus seek New Members

Probus is an organisation for retired professional and business men which was set up just 50 years ago in order to provide continuing fellowship for it's members. In the Yare branch of Probus this takes the form of a luncheon meeting at the Oaklands Hotel on the second Thursday of the month. New members would be welcome and anyone interested is invited to come along to a meeting before applying for formal membership. Please contact a Yare Probus member or one of the following before attending.

For more information contact Stan Deeks, Club Secretary on 01508 538329