## NEWS



THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL

www.thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

**SPRING 2019** 

Tel: 01603 701048









## ST GEORGE'S DAY

## **CELEBRATION**

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2019

#### FREE ADMISSION — FITZMAURICE PARK— 12.00PM TO 4.00PM

- **☼ MEET ST GEORGE**
- **MORRIS DANCERS**
- ☼ DOG SHOW
- **☼ FUNFAIR**
- **⇔ DONKEY RIDES**
- **⇔** PUNCH AND JUDY
- **⇔** FOOTBALL WITH ST ANDREWS FC
- **☼ DANCE DISPLAYS**

- AMERICAN FOOTBALL WITH NORWICH
  - DEVILS
  - CRICKET WITH
  - NORWICH

**\( \)** 

- **BYSTANDERS**
- **☼** FACE PAINTING
- **☼ COLOURING COMPETITION**

- REFRESHMENTS BY
- THE FAT CAT BAR
- **CLARIDGES CATERING**
- ☼ NANNY'S CAKES
- **⇔ DOUGHNUTS**
- **☼ CASTRO'S COFFEE**
- **☼** RONALDOS ICE-
  - **CREAM**

#### 'News'

#### from the Town Mayor

November always starts as a busy month with the Town Council firework display on the 5<sup>th</sup>. This year we were blessed with fine weather which drew in larger numbers and I believe contributed to the event being the best so far. I was on the Pound Lane gate as usual and after the fireworks it is always very satisfying to receive the many 'thank you, wonderful display' comments from people as they head home. I would like to thank all the people who helped, councillors, staff, volunteers and the American football team who helped marshal the crowds. To see families attending with children in pushchairs through to grandparents in their 80s is very satisfying. A big thank you to all residents who supported the event plus the local residents who live near Pound Lane for their understanding and tolerance.

The firework display was followed by the Armistice Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> year commemoration of the end of the First World War. The parade was moved to the morning which seemed to be favourable with record numbers attending and filling the church. Again it was wonderful to witness the full age range of those involved. I would like to extend my thanks to all the Cubs, Brownies, Guides and Scout troops that attended and to the many parents that help to make this possible. I admire the leaders as they supervise and tend to the younger members in the church and keep them in impeccable order throughout the parade and service.

I was very proud to be involved with the evening Beacon lighting and ringing of the church bells as part of the events across the Commonwealth, marking the Armistice centenary. Lighting the Beacon at the new 'centenary garden' to signify the 'Light of hope after the darkness of the war' was a poignant reminder of the importance Thorpe St Andrew played in World War One, with many residents involved with the hospital and treating thousands of soldiers injured in the war. I would like to thank Father James for his input and involvement with both events.

The highlight of December for me as Town Mayor was the switching-on of the Christmas Lights. This year the weather was excellent for December. For the Town Council staff a great deal of preparation goes on before the event especially from about 11am with decorating the stage, Santa's grotto, erecting sponsorship signs and organising spaces for the fair rides and craft stalls. I would like to personally convey my thanks to Jordan Rhodes, Norwich City footballer as the 'celebrity' who turned the lights on, all Councillors, Thomas and the Council Staff, for the setting up and taking down, to Mark and his team from 'Bishy Barney Boats' for transporting Father Christmas safely, Geoff and his team for the PA and co ordination of the events and to Father James and his team for allowing the use of church grounds and providing refreshments. The Church 'ruins' make an excellent Santa's Grotto and I also thank Simon and his boys for sorting the electrical supply. Feedback has been very positive especially from families whose children met Father Christmas without being charged for the privilege.

The December Council Meeting was put back a week to allow

more details and informal discussions to take place regarding the church wall. At the Council meeting, Council agreed unanimously to set up a joint working group with The PCC and Broadland Council. I will be one of the Council representatives and hopefully we can now make some positive progress if only initially ensuring the rest of the wall is made secure and the site cleared for a better assessment to take place. I am very positive that with cooperation from all parties we can ensure that a satisfactory solution is reached. Other issues at the December meeting included the approval of the 2019/20 budget. The recommendation by Finance and Staffing Committee for a zero increase in Council Tax was discussed and agreed.

I was pleased to be invited to represent the Council at the High School Carol Service, held at the Cathedral, a lovely event held in this magnificent building. Well done to Mr Clayton, his staff and the readers, orchestra and choir for this thoroughly enjoyable evening. The Town Carol Service at the Parish Church was equally splendid with an wonderful selection of traditional carols.

We had a small agenda for January Council meeting, but a couple of important decisions were agreed. Following a representation from a local resident offering free training on CPR, (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Council agreed to purchasing some equipment and providing venues. CPR is of course much in line with Council policy of providing defibrillators at strategic locations around the Town. It was agreed to make the equipment available to community groups, schools, scouts, guides etc. who wish to use it to train their own members in CPR. Further information will be circulated once the equipment has been purchased. Council also received requests for support from two local organisations, Frostbites and Yare Boat Club. Members agreed to support both requests so that opportunities can be pursued by the groups for lottery funding and to other grant aid bodies. Town Council also agreed to investigate funding opportunities. The clerk outlined the recent results of the SAM machine (Speed Awareness Message) which was situated in Pound Lane over the Christmas Period. Councillors were surprised to see that the average speed on Pound Lane is above 30mph and one vehicle registered a speed of 70mph. These details will be sent to the Highways Department and the police. The SAM machines are proving to be a good investment by the Council and are positioned at various locations showing drivers exactly what speed they are doing. Council also received a report outlining major work to the footpaths in Booty Road. The work had been requested and identified as necessary for a while so this is very welcome.

Council welcomed the decision by the planning inspector to dismiss the appeal on 185 Yarmouth Road, so the day the Town Council clerk and I spent at the hearing was justified.

A number of residents complimented the Council on our Christmas Lights this year, one specifically stating them to be bright, simple and effective. I would like to thank all residents for their positive support of the Council throughout the year, and I was very pleased to note that the new Mary Poppins film features lamps very similar to our new ones at River Green, although being gas are not so environmentally friendly.

Councillor John Fisher, Town Mayor.

## **Sound Financial Planning and Growing our Services**

The Town Council has enjoyed another successful year carefully managing its resources and services for the town. In 2018 we set out a two year financial plan, this has allowed us to invest in our amenities, services and plan for a council tax freeze in 2019. The Council carefully



manages every penny that in receives from both the precept and income from hired services. This income is used to maintain our community buildings and open spaces for all to enjoy. We not only maintain services and amenities, but grow new services where we can. With an annual revenue and capital budget of c.£500,000 we levy a precept of just £86 for a Band D property and we are by far a lower tax authority than comparable Town Councils, such as Aylsham at £159 for a Band D Property.

Over this period we have been able to employ two new members of our estates team to help maintain a greater number of verges and tree belts. The Town Council has been commended on the way it manages and maintains its open space and community buildings. We have been able to deliver a new running track at the Sir George Morse Park and new cricket facilities at the Fitzmaurice Park. We have converted the old pavilion into the Town Hall, saving both rental costs and offering new space for residents to use. Our refurbished Roxley Hall remains a very popular hire venue. The Council is also building a new café at the Sir George Morse Park.

The investment in Thorpe St Andrew over the last 12 months has been widely noticed by residents and visitors. Highlights include the World War One Centenary Garden on River Green, along with the new lamposts and flower containers. We led and continue to support our dementia café and luncheon club with new equipment and resources. Our events remain ever popular for all ages, we have installed new bus shelters, supported the library, installed new defibrillators, added new infrastructure at our allotments, taken on the ownership of the public toilets, planted new trees and allocated funding for a Youth Council.

The new housing developments planned in the area offer an opportunity to invest in community services. The Town Council stands ready to use developer contributions to complete the parks projects and support the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Ian Mackie, Chairman Finance and Staffing Committee

#### **Planning in Thorpe St Andrew**

The Town Council acts as a statutory consultee on all planning applications within Thorpe St Andrew from a small extension or even a porch to large developments such as Pinebanks or Brook Farm. In 2018, the Town Council Planning Committee looked at eighty-two Broadland District Council and eighteen Broads Authority planning applications. The majority were recommended to be passed with full approval and no issues. Although the Town Council do not make any final decisions on applications, comments from the committee are taken into account by Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority following our meetings.

Our Planning Committee meets on the second Monday of each month and local residents are welcome to attend to make representations about any application on the agenda. The Council endeavours to have a councillor visit the site of every application so that site conditions and impacts on neighbours can be considered and assessed and we aim to contact all neighbours or occupiers of properties on the boundary of the site of any planning application.

Most applications are 'normal' acceptable extensions or loft conversions, which are the most common in Thorpe St Andrew and they cause little controversy. We are noticing a trend occurring for larger extensions to the traditional Thorpe bungalow with gable ends to roofs and higher ridges rather than the original hipped roofs. Larger applications especially first floor extensions and balconies require more consideration with opinions and feedback from local residents always welcome. We advise everybody who is considering any form of development to always inform or consult your neighbour. This can save lots of time and prevent disagreements

The Town Council has been asked frequently about the current position regarding Pinebanks and we can report that the owners, Ocubis, are looking to sell the site to a recognised developer/house builder. We believe that once Pinebanks has been sold an application will then come forward for the Langley School site.

The Neighbourhood Plan is now in its first draft stage and has gone to Broadland District Council, the Broads Authority and other statutory bodies for comment. We would like to thank all the residents who have submitted comments, filled in questionnaires and talked to us at our St George's Day and church fete events. The Neighbourhood Plan's working body is made up of councillors and local residents whose input is greatly valued.



The Town Council emphasises that it is only one of many statutory consultees and Broadland DC is the planning authority and the final decision maker. Despite the normal statutory consultation period being twenty eight days for most planning applications, Broadland DC will accept and consider any comments which it receives up to the planning officer writing up his or her report. This can be anything from a few days to a number of weeks after the consultation period.

Councillor John Fisher, Chair of the Town Council Planning Committee

BDC POSCAFFOLDING 01603 928707

Proud sponsors of the Thorpe St Andrew Christmas Lights

### **SOCIAL CARE HELPAND SUPPORT**

**Provided with Norfolk Family Carers** If you would like a copy of the Carers Handbook please call 0800 083 1148 and Tel: they will be happy to send you one.

#### **Carers Matter**

Advice Line: The Carers Matter Norfolk Advice Line provides free, independent and confidential information, advice and guidance on a wide range of caringrelated topics and issues affecting you, the people you care for and your wider family. info@carersmatternorfolk.org.uk Tel: 0800 083 1148

#### **Carers Voice**

Carers Voice Norfolk & Waveney works to ensure that the voice of carers is heard and listened to, enabling support and services to be designed and delivered that reflect carers needs and interests. Join for free and receive information on the work of Carers Voice and for news and information on how you get can involved.

Email: info@carersvoice.org www.carersvoice.org

Norfolk County Carer's Assessment Tel: 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 <u>www.norfolk.gov.uk/care</u>1

To request a Carers Assessment, please contact Norfolk County Council or head to the Norfolk County Council website.

#### **Healthwatch Norfolk**

Health & Social Care Tel: 0808 168 9669

www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk



#### Additional Support: The British Red HelpUsHelpYou. Cross Tel: 01603 426361

www.redcross.org.uk

Provides help with practical tasks and to regain independence.

#### The Royal Voluntary Service

Offers support for older people going into hospital and coming home. 0845 0122

www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

#### **Norfolk County Council** Swift Response: Tel: 0344 800 8020 Lunch clubs and day centres

0344 8020 www.communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk

#### n-able

Mobility aids, advice and to purchase equipment. Tel: 01603 894 120

www.n-able.org.uk

The Community Transport Scheme: Norfolk County Council 0344 800 8020

#### Meal delivery services

Norfolk County Council operates the Trusted Trader website, voluntary organisations and even pubs and cafes provide meal delivery services. Trusted Trader www.norfolk.gov.uk/trustedtrader

Norfolk County Council 0344 800 8020

#### **Continence clinic**

If one of your household tasks involves help with continence issues for a person who is 18 or older, you might find a continence clinic at a hospital or community An independent consumer voice for health centre near you. If you wish to contact them, you can do so directly, without a referral from your GP. To find your nearest health centre, head to the community health and care website. www.norfolkcommunityhealthandcare.nhs.uk

#### Age UK

A free and confidential service that offers practical help and

NHS choices www.nhs.uk/Planners/endof-life-care

#### Care Act

As a carer you have the same rights to assessment and support as the person or people you're caring for. For information on the Care Act visit the website, or go to the government's webpage using the links below.

Government webpage: www.gov.uk/ government/ publications/care-act-2014part-1 factsheets/care-act-factsheets

#### Local Government and Social Care **Ombudsman**

Tel: 0300 061 0614 www.lgo.org.uk

Just a reminder from the NHS in Norfolk and Waveney about how to help us help you this winter. All of us should be making sure our medicine cabinets are stocked. It's also sensible to order any regular medicines you need in good time so you don't run out, taking care to only order what you need. But if you do feel poorly, seek advice from your local pharmacist before it gets worse.

#### If it's urgent, then a call to your GP or NHS111 is the next step, for advice on what to do.

Common sickness bugs -Suffering from norovirus or other common sickness bugs? Don't spread it around by visiting your GP or other public places. Stay at home and rest. #HelpUsHelpYou

#### HomeFirst - your bed is the best bed!

None of us want to go into hospital or a care bed, but if we do it's good to get home if we can. The NHS and social care across all of Norfolk and Waveney are stressing that if someone needs a hospital or temporary care bed they will get one, but our aim is always to help people get back home as soon as possible. This is because older people in particular can lose independence rapidly. Being back home can also help a speedier recovery. So if you know a friend or relative, particularly if they are older, who has to go into hospital it would be kind to make sure they have all they need to get back home, including checking the heating works and they will have food in the house, the washing is done and they feel

#### New Year, New You-

With the start of a New Year people's thoughts turn to getting fit and improving their health. To stay healthy or improve health, adults need to do two types of physical activity each week: aerobic and strength exercises. How much physical activity you need to do each week depends on your age. Adults aged 65 or older who are generally fit and have no health conditions that limit their

mobility should try to be active daily by doing at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity such as cycling or

walking, and strength exercises on two or more days a week.

Why not join a local walking group, go for a swim or join a local class. Your

library should have information about groups near you. There are many local services that can enable older people to be more active. A wealth of information can be found through the Norfolk Community Directory.



Making The Difference

#### 'News' from the Dementia Café

The Dementia Café continues to go from strength to strength and is strongly supported within the community. All carers have expressed how much they benefit from the sessions and that sharing their experiences is really helpful for their understanding and acceptance of this illness. Our cared-for clients clearly enjoy the activities, and our aim is to help them become a bit more active during the sessions.

So far, we have achieved:

- From an initial 6 regular couples we now have 13, as well as 4 single attendees
- We have a constitution and committee of dedicated volunteers named 'Thorpe Dementia Team'
- Support from local businesses including financial donations and involvement within café sessions. Some have also undertaken dementia training
- We have a regular team of excellent volunteers

- Games/activities have been purchased (skittles/bowls/connect/reminiscence)
  Use of our existing equipment has also been utilised- eg table tennis was introduced this month
- A summer outing was undertaken last year. More are planned for 2019
- Local doctors/chemists/post offices/dentists were all provided with leaflets/posters
- We supported dementia collections within Sainsburys.
  - Press releases have been in the EDP and Parish Life
- We are looking at further funding from Clarion Housing
- We had a very successful and enjoyable Christmas lunch,

Fiona Bass, Deputy Clerk for Committees and Events



#### Local Businesses give Christmas Cheer to Dementia Café

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December the Thorpe St Andrew Dementia Café, held at Roxley Hall, Yarmouth Road was attended by 50 people including members of the group, volunteers,

sponsors and the Domino Choir for an alternative Christmas meal of Fish & Chips! Clarion Futures Communities grant aided the meal provided by our local 'Thorpe Fish Bar' for members and volunteers. Leigh Reeves of 'Morton Reeves Estate Agents' provided mince pies & biscuits and soft drinks and crackers were kindly donated by Kate Raven of 'Nanny's Cakes'. Domino Singers supplied some wonderful festive songs and leader Mrs Brenda Binns, presented a donation to the group accepted by Mrs Fiona Bass. Mini Monkeys Gym and Sainsburys also made contributions. All of which were very gratefully received. If you would like to join us, or volunteer we meet on the third Wednesday of the month 10am-12.00.

Please call 01603 701048 for more information.





#### Luncheon Club 'News'

Since launching in January 2018 with fifteen attendees, the Thorpe Luncheon Club has grown to help up to thirty residents each month. Providing excellent quality freshly cooked hot food, the club holds regular activities including raffles and free games of bingo!

Three volunteers provide transport for up to nine attendees, assisting those with mobility difficulties to attend and be able to socialise and enjoy the activities. As the club continues to grow we are looking at proposals to increase the number of lunch days to two sessions per month in due course.

To find out more contact the Town Council on 01603 701048.



#### **Thorpe Dementia Team**

An estimated 212 local people have dementia (7.1% of our population aged 65+) additionally partners, family members and friends are also directly affected as carers. Sadly most people in Thorpe know a family affected by dementia and the numbers are increasing.

Thorpe Dementia Café held each month at Roxley Hall, was a 2017 Thorpe Town Council social care initiative and possible with the substantial initial funding received from the Ivy Child Charitable Trust. Since then our group of volunteers have started the Thorpe Dementia Team. The team has gained additional support from many generous individuals and local organisations, we are very grateful to all

The café is a free monthly 'drop-in' run by professionals and a volunteer team; open to everybody with dementia or memory problems (especially their carers).

Offering a friendly atmosphere where you can gain a wide range of support, assistance and guidance, from professionals or likeminded people. It's a friendly place where you can socialise and build new friendships, join in with activities, social events, plus occasional outings.

In short, the Dementia Café and its volunteers are there to help, to make a difference to anybody affected by dementia or memory problems.

Cllr Stuart Snelling Thorpe Dementia Team Chairman

#### Winter Events round-up

An update of the winter events from Councillor Sue Lawn (Chair of the Events and Media Committee) and Fiona Bass (Deputy Clerk for Committees and Events)

**Fireworks** -Thousands of residents turned out on a dry chilly night of 5th November. With a larger than previous years' fairground, the rides proved to be a huge success with families staying long after the fireworks had finished to still enjoy the fair. Titanium Fireworks did us proud as in previous years, with a spectacular display. Many residents have since commented they thought the best year yet! Food and drink stalls were in high demand as always. For 2019 we are seeking to arrange additional parking possibilities with Park & Ride sites in the area as we are aware of the car parking pressure on surrounding residential roads. Thank you also to Sainsburys at Pound Lane for the continued use of their parking facilities again this year.

**Christmas lights**– On Sunday 2nd December we welcomed not only Santa but Cawston Brass Band, the Rock Choir, Vineyard singers and church choirs along with our very own



Hillside School Choir. Santa arrived courtesy of Bishy Barny Boats and met on River Green by the Mayor-John Fisher and Jordon Rhodes from Norwich City Football Club. The Norwich Devils then proceeded to escort Santa to his grotto in the church grounds where his reindeers and donkeys awaited him. We had 24 craft stalls primarily allocated within The Rushcutters car park, our thanks to them again this year for allowing us to continue to use the frontage for stalls. Food and drink were plentiful, and the evening was finished with fireworks set off from Whitlingham Park.





#### **Dussindale Garage Sale**

Dussindale Garage Sale will be back in the summer, after three successful years the event has been amazingly popular and residents really enjoy the sense of community it offers. All money raised goes to support local Thorpe St Andrew projects.

The date for this year is Sunday 14th July, 10am to 3pm with maps being on sale from 9.30am.

Anyone wishing to register their house to appear on the map can contact Jonathan Emsell on 07717 362842 or j.emsell@hotmail.co.uk.

Registration costs £5 and all household entries will be entered into a prize draw.

A great opportunity to have a sort out, make some money and support a local community event that gives something back to the community.

#### Popular Boat Hire to return to River Green in 2019

Bishy Barney Boats are looking forward to returning this year to River Green, Thorpe St Andrew. We enjoyed last year very much and along with the positive feedback, we really felt a part of the Thorpe St Andrew community.

We should have a boat or two more within the fleet this year, and hope we will see a lot of returning faces from last year and many new ones ready to explore the beautiful waters of the Rivers Yare and Wensum.

Boats (Bishy's diesel day boats and picnic boats) are available from Freedom Boating Holidays from mid March, with the Bishy's returning to River Green part time in April (weekends), full time over school holidays and throughout the summer, exact dates and all announcements are posted on the Bishy Barney Boats Facebook page or call 07810 547779, likewise Facebook for Freedom Boating Holdays. Bring on the sun! *Mark Appell, Bishy Barney Boats* 



# Dexter grew the tallest

#### Sunflower Challenge returns to St George's Day

After the fantastic response last year, we will be relaunching the Mayor's Sunflower Challenge again this year at our St. George's Day Event on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Fitzmaurice Park. There will be prizes for the tallest and the most sunflowers grown over the summer, the winners will be announced sometime in September/October 2019. You will be able to get your FREE seeds at our St. George's Event from the Town Council stand.



#### Neighbourhood Plan 'News'

In January 2019, the Panel looked at the latest results from the most recent public consultation. The number of responses received was 89, compared to 50 at the previous meeting held in October 2018. After discussing the level of consultation with Broadland District Council in early 2018, it was felt that the Town Council was able to demonstrate strong evidence of public feedback. The Panel had proposed some interim changes in October and these were confirmed at the January 2019 meeting; after reading the feedback from those who responded. Although no significant changes or amendments had been put forward, a number of changes were made to ensure the policies were clear and well balanced. The proposed Whitlingham Lane car park was removed and areas for new residential mooring were suggested. All the proposed policies had the majority of support from those who undertook the survey. The Panel agreed to send the draft policies to Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority for feedback. There will be further chances to have your say and the decision to adopt the plan will be taken by you!

## **Queens Commonwealth Canopy**

Local Member of Parliament Chloe Smith chose Thorpe St. Andrew to host her Commonwealth Trees as part of the Woodland Trust sponsored Queens Commonwealth Canopy initiative, to mark Her Majesty's lifetime's service to the Commonwealth.

The initiative was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, in 2015. With each Member of Parliament receiving five trees to plant in their constituency. These included silver birch, rowan and a hazel.

These were planted in November by Chloe Smith MP, along with Town Mayor Cllr. John Fisher and Deputy Town Mayor Cllr. Sue Lawn. In support of the initiative the Town Council now plans to add more than 400 trees to the initiative, ranging from young whips, through to mature, instant impact trees.

At the tree planting, Cllr. Fisher said "It is a great honour for Thorpe St Andrew to be hosting these special trees given to our local MP, Chloe Smith, as part of the Queens Commonwealth Canopy.

Trees are vital for giving us oxygen, storing carbon and improving the natural environment. Within years, these trees will be home to diverse species of wildlife, and the colour they provide will further enhance the area. This planting is special as the first of many which will complete this canopy and ensure renewal of trees within the community

continues."



#### Thorpe St Andrew to the Andes

Nothing can be more different from the flat Norfolk countryside as the Peruvian Andes, mountain peaks and high plateaus with villages only reached by mountain paths. Bethany Emsell and Abby Tang two local girls that live on Dussindale and attend Thorpe St Andrew School are raising money to go on an expedition to Peru, where they will trek through a landscape totally different from home. The trip in the summer of 2020 is organised by Camps International and the girls will be part of a team that will be working to improve the lives of local families and children in these mountain villages. There are many projects that the team will be able to be involved in, like helping in school building projects that help improve children's education and their learning environment. Other projects focus on improving healthcare facilities or water supplies to improve the health of people in whole villages. The expedition will challenge their view of the world and the day-to-day challenges which these rural communities face, such as access to clean water, education and housing. For more information about the organisation running the expedition, visit their website www.campsinternational.com a group that has been chosen by the school because they are global leaders in ethical and sustainable school expeditions. Bethany and Abby will need all the help they can to fund the trip, to help those less fortunate, who are struggling to survive without basic services high in the mountains. The girls will have a stand at the Town Council St George's Day event to promote the expedition. If residents would like to donate or support their fund raising the girls can be contacted via the Town Council office or by email. office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

#### Work starts on Park Café

Work has started to create a new Café for Laundry Lane park. The building which is next to the Morse Pavilion was used as a football storage area. Given the drive towards income generation and the best use of Council assets it was decided that by creating a café and charging a commercial rent the café would generate a regular income stream while serving the public's request for a café on the park.

Local student Luke Seaman was asked to come up with the concept for the café and created a scale model for member's consideration and a feasibility assessment was also commissioned to present the options for conversion and hire of the building.

Visiting the builder on-site, Town Mayor Councillor John Fisher said "it is

great to see work progressing on this fantastic project. I regularly speak to park users who say how great it has been to have a café in the Morse Pavilion, and cannot wait for the new café to be completed to give longer opening hours and a greater selection of hot drinks and freshly cooked food".

Work began a few weeks ago and it is anticipated the official opening will be sometime in April. Local business, Nanny's Cakes are currently operating from Morse Pavilion and once the conversion is complete they will move into the new café.



## Saint Andrews - Canada appoints linking 'Ambassador'

In April 2018, both Town Councils agreed that our respective towns should be twinned. Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, is located in Charlotte County on a peninsula, from where whale watching trips are operated. Although over 3,000 miles separate us, there is a common link, as the Thorpe St. Andrew War Memorial records that a Private Wicks from the 44th New Brunswick Regiment, laid down his life during the Great War. The Thorpe Branch of the Royal British Legion raised the Canadian flag at the Town Hall on 26th April 2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of his death. With distance being no obstacle due to instant internet access, both towns look forward to forging contacts by sharing cultural links. To further these efforts, Saint Andrews have appointed a link Ambassador, Joyce Bryant to build links between our Commonwealth communities. Reciprocating this voluntary position, the Town Council has appointed Councillor Ian Mackie, who spearheaded the twinning process to act as our community Ambassador, acting as the main point of contact for our twinned town until after the May 2019 elections. We look forward to establishing a warm and productive relationship.

Councillor Peter Berry



