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BROADSTAIRS & ST. PETER'S
TOWN COUNCIL



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Broadstairs & St. Peter's Town Council Newsletter



Danielle Dunn
Town Clerk

Once again, it has been an extremely busy three

months, with the 5th November Fireworks, the ongoing decorative lighting project and the continuing renovation work to both Pierremont Hall and Retort House. I personally can't wait for the New Year, when both venues will finally be opening to the public and we can show off all the hard work that has been undertaken to date.

On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to wish all the residents of Broadstairs & St. Peter's a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Danielle Dunn, Town Clerk

Christmas and Decorative lighting

The 7th December saw the Broadstairs & St. Peter's Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas light switch-on in Pierremont Park. This is always a great event in the annual calendar and provides a showcase for the Christmas lights that are funded by the Town Council. This year, new tree lights were purchased for Pierremont

Park, as the old ones could no longer be relied upon to turn on when the switch was pushed! We hope you like them and the effect that they provide to the park, High Street and the setting of Pierremont Hall.



We are still considering whether we turn on these lights though-out the year to mark events being held at Pierremont Hall, watch this space.

St. Peter's has also had some new braid lighting installed this year and these have extended the existing light coverage that had been paid for by the community in the past. The Town Council will continue to look at ways the decorative lighting can be improved in St. Peter's.

The festoon lighting continues to prove an ongoing challenge for the Town Council, mainly due to its location and the weather. However, our Viking Ward Councillor's will be reviewing and surveying it in the

spring, with the intention of finding a more long-term solution to the problem. This will be reported to the Leisure and Tourism sub-committee, with the aim of the festoon lighting being in-place for the summer.

5th November Fireworks

The fireworks were a great success, with a busy town and lots of great feedback. This year we took the decision to close Victoria Parade to ensure that crowd control could be more effectively managed and we also hired additional security personnel to oversee the event. We are pleased to report that the event went ahead without a hitch and we have already begun planning for the 5th November fireworks 2020.



Neighbourhood Development Plan

The delay in getting the Neighbourhood Plan to a referendum is continuing and this is a great disappointment to the Town Council and the community

members involved in producing the plan. November marked the first anniversary of submitting the Neighbourhood Plan to Thanet District Council, yet little progress has been made!

Since the last Newsletter, the plan has undergone another 6 weeks consultation, undertaken by Thanet District Council, which set out proposals to remove two Local Green Spaces contained within it.

These proposals were met with a lot of resistance from the local community and many comments were sent into the consultation. Thanet District Council will be considering the comments and their next steps at a Cabinet meeting scheduled for the 16th December 2019.

It is hoped that in 2020, we will finally have some positive news to bring to you regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

Pierremont Hall and Buildings

Phase I of the Pierremont Hall renovation project will be signed off before Christmas and I can confirm that we have now welcomed our first commercial tenant to the main building, with all other suites under offer and going through the conveyancing process.



Phase I has included replacement of the roof and flagpole, renovation of the existing office spaces and a complete overhaul of

the Council Chamber into a lettable, community and commercial space with high-end conference facilities. The old Mayor's Parlour, which was poorly utilised, has been transformed into a kitchen so that hirers can have refreshments and a new Mayor's Parlour meeting room has been provided which will be available to hire and will seat 12 people.



To manage the facilities effectively, the Town Council will be interviewing for a new Events and Bookings Manager next week. This new staff member will be the first point of contact for all bookings at Pierremont Hall. Look out for updates on our social media pages and an opening ceremony in the New Year.

If that wasn't enough, the Town Council will begin a tender for the Pierremont Phase II works in 2020. This will include the removal of the redundant fire escape, the provision of a disabled ramp and renovations of the current Town Council offices. In the January the Town Council will be moving into the main building for an initial period of 6 months whilst these works are ongoing.

Pierremont Hall trivia:

All of the office suites have been named after historical figures that mean something to the building; The Pierremont Suite, The

Princess Victoria Suite, The Forsyth Suite, The Cockerell Suite and the Dan Mason Suite.

Hopefully, you will agree that this is a great improvement on "Office Area A and Office Area B?!"

Retort House

The internal renovations of Retort House have now been completed and we are currently undertaking the risk and fire assessments to ensure that it is ready for the public.

The Town Council is currently waiting for a date from UK Power Networks to upgrade the electric supply to the building and then bookings will be taken. This work has been delayed due to issues with access across a third party owned piece of land, despite initially being booked in for April 2019. Once this upgrade has been undertaken, the building can open!

A commercial partner has now been chosen to manage the facilities on behalf of the Town Council. Once the paperwork and contracts have been signed the Town Council will make an announcement. We look forward to welcoming them to the team.

Retort House trivia:

Retort House will be available for sports and community hire including children's parties, events, badminton, basketball courts and 5 a side football.

Thanet District Council Asset Disposal

Many of you will have seen the asset disposal list on the Thanet District Council website.

It was resolved at the November Council meeting that a bid would be submitted to Thanet District Council for the shelters on the list and the Clock Tower, Bandstand

and Victoria Gardens. The Town Council is awaiting a response from Thanet District Council.

Remembrance Service

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Rev'd Jan Durrans from St. Peter's Church, delivered this year's service and it was well attended by residents and community groups from across the town. The service was a poignant tribute to all members of the armed forces who have served and lost their lives in the line of duty.



Defibrillators and Phone boxes

Despite reports in the previous Newsletter that the Town Council would be applying to BT to see if the Reading Street phone box could be adopted by the Town. Unfortunately, it has been

discovered that this phone box is on private land so does not form part of the scheme.

The Town Council is always happy to hear any suggestions for new defibrillator locations from residents.



Broadstairs in Bloom

During November, a public tender exercise was undertaken to choose a provider for the Broadstairs in Bloom project. This includes the provision of flowers and plants for the Town's hanging baskets and the planters, which are located throughout Broadstairs & St. Peter's. Young's Nurseries, the previous provider, has been selected again to provide the service for the next three years.

Mayor's News

The Mayor's diary has remained busy, especially during the Remembrance period and in the run-up to Christmas. Events that the Mayor has attended include 100th birthday parties, school presentation and awards evenings, Christmas fairs and civic services. The Mayor and Mayoress will also be judging this year's St. Peter's Church Christmas tree festival, held between the 13th and 15th of December 2019.

In addition to attending events, the Mayor has continued his active fundraising role for his chosen charities. The Mayor and

Mayoress' Quiz raised £762 on the 8th November and a Turkish Dinner was held at the Cardak Meze and Grill on the 1st December, raising a further £268. Not only did these events raise money for charity, but they were also well enjoyed by all those that were in attendance.



Due to a change in personal circumstances, our self-employed handy/odd-job person is no longer able to provide a service to the Town Council.

If you enjoy DIY, have a passion for Broadstairs & St. Peter's and would like to work on a self-employed basis for one day per week. Please email the Deputy Town Clerk for more information:

town.clerk@broadstairs.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

7th February Mayor's Quiz, Upton School

9th February Civic Service, St. Peter's Church

8th May 2020 VE Day Community Event, Pierremont Park