

# HERE AND NOW in HUNGERFORD

No. 34 in a series of regular briefings from the Council

MARCH 2016

## WBC BUDGET CUTS – ROUND 2

It was no surprise that Round 1 of the WBC Budget, was nodded through without drawing breath. But as the Bell goes for Round 2 on 24th March, we trust that despite the incredibly short consultation period and even shorter time for WBC officials to absorb the tidal wave of responses, these will be properly taken into account by the Executive Committee.

**[N.B. HTC Town meeting now 31<sup>st</sup> March]**

In the meantime, your Council has been digging deeper into the WBC data and believe that we have established that the annual running costs of our Library are circa £50k.

It is clear that to maintain this invaluable community hub, the operational status will have to change. HTC has submitted several constructive proposals but any of these, if approved, would require several months to put into place. We will be pressing hard to ensure that whatever decision is taken at the WBC meeting, there is sufficient time to implement our alternative plan on which further research continues in house to meet this challenge and defend our amenities.

## COMMONWEALTH DAY - MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

We were blessed with a quiet and sunny morning to gather on the Town Hall steps to raise the Commonwealth flag. We were delighted to welcome a team from John O'Gaunt school who then went on to meet the guests of Honour, Lt Col Faithful-Davies and General Sir Michael Jackson.

The international message from the Commonwealth Secretary General was read to the small crowd before the flag was to be raised at the stroke of 10am from the Town Hall clock.

Except that rather spookily, it failed to strike, hence the flag was actually raised at 10:04am

## HER MAJESTY'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Arrangements are being completed for the Beacon lighting at Triangle Field on the evening of Thursday 21

April as our link in the National Chain of Beacons.

Hungerford Rotary Club are organising a 90th Birthday party in the Corn Exchange on Saturday 11 June.

HTC believes that local communities will wish to hold their own neighbourhood "street party" for Sunday 12th June. However John Lawson Circus is scheduled to appear on the Triangle Field the next week and has offered the use of their BIG TOP for a town event on Saturday 18th June. We are working on plans to use this as our Royal Salute. Details will appear later.

## LITTER PICK

HTC is combining our Annual Litter Pick with the Clean for the Queen invitation. This will be held on Sunday 20th March –THIS SUNDAY- starting at 10am from the Town Hall, all necessary gear will be provided.

How is it that despite so many ways available to recycle items, so much litter appears on our streets and national roads?

If you need evidence of this anti-social behaviour, just look at the area behind Platform 1 at our Station – and this was after a major clear up by Network Rail last year!



- Cllr Martin Crane, OBE, Town Mayor of Hungerford