



Ware Town Council

Annual Report 2012/13



A Message from the Mayor, Cllr Phyllis Ballam

The twelve months during which I have served as Mayor of Ware have, in some respects, been somewhat unusual. We have celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Town Council sent loyal greetings. The Olympics took place in London and we were one of the towns to welcome Olympic torchbearers. On a sad note, the year has seen the death of two former Mayors of Ware, David Albinson and Peter Sedgwick, both of whom will be remembered by many of you.

Despite this being a "special" year, much has continued as usual. As you will see elsewhere in this report, the Council owns the Priory Estate and, as the Trustee of the Priory Charity, is responsible for the care of The Priory building which is a Grade I Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and for all the facilities within the Priory grounds, including the Lido and the Skatepark. The Council also cares for the cemetery and the allotments. There has been a resurgence of interest in allotment gardening in recent years and there is a waiting list for allotments on both our sites. For some time concern has been expressed regarding the condition of our War Memorial and I am pleased to say that the Town Council and the Royal British Legion are now involved in plans to refurbish this important monument in time for the 100th Anniversary of the start of the First World War in 1914.

In addition to its inescapable duties, the Council provides or supports many things which, in my opinion, go towards making our town a better and happier place in which to live. Ware Festival, with Carnival Day and a month of activities, is a wonderful way in which the town shows itself to itself and provides a platform which enables local organisations to raise their profile in the town and add to their funds. Rock in the Priory – derided by some as a teenage event – attracts entire families from babies to senior citizens. Our Christmas lights brighten up the High Street and adjacent streets.

We have continued to support Ware in Bloom, which is run by the Town Partnership and makes Ware look so beautiful throughout the summer and achieved a Silver Gilt Award in the 2012 Anglia in Bloom Competition. The Council also supports Dickensian Evening, which goes from strength to strength.

The Council is extremely happy to support Ware Museum, based in the Priory Lodge, and which is to be congratulated on their Trustees' achievement of securing the loan of the Great Bed of Ware from the V & A and showing it to some 30,000 people during the last twelve months. This has been another special event during my year as Mayor. Whilst the Museum Trustees were responsible for this unique event I am sure the vast number of visitors has benefitted our town and its traders. Perhaps I should point out that all these hard working folk are volunteers, as indeed are your Town Councillors.

The Town Twinning Association is also supported by the Town Council and in September I was happy to visit our French Twin Town, Cormeilles-en-Parisis to renew the Pledge of Friendship, originally signed in 2001. Town Twinning provides opportunities for school exchanges and work experience.

On a smaller scale during my year the Council has continued to organise events for young and old. For some years children's cinema shows have been held in Fletcher's Lea during half term and school holidays and, more recently, we have added cinema shows for our older residents. Every year there is an



Easter Egg decorating competition - this year over 100 children competed in this – and an Easter Egg Hunt in the Priory grounds. As part of Ware Festival there is the “Bus Pass Party” for Senior citizens and a Teddy Bears’ Picnic.

I have been personally involved in many of the events referred to above and also have endeavoured to be a good ambassador for the Town when representing it in other towns. I am grateful to my fellow Councillors for giving me the opportunity to be Mayor of Ware during this very special year. I should like to thank them for their support and my thanks also to the Town Clerk and all the Council staff.

Support to Local Organisations in 2012/13

Each year the Town Council allocates a budget for grants to support local organisations. In 2012/13 the grants awarded were:-

Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust	£500.00	New fire alarm Place House Hall
Ware Bowling Club	£150.00	Scout & Guide Gala
Ware & District Photographic Society	£307.50	Towards cost of Annual Exhibition
Riding for the Disabled	£750.00	Towards running costs
Rotary Club of Ware	£600.00	Equipment for Age Concern lunch club
Community First Responder	£1,020.00	Defibrillator
Total awarded 2012/13	£3,177.50	

The Town Council supports the following organisations with annual grants:-

Ware Museum General Grant £5,000

Ware Museum Tourist Information Point £2,000

Ware Town Partnership Dickensian Evening £500 – this has been increased to £1,000 for 2013/14

Ware Town Partnership Ware in Bloom £500 – this has been increased to £1,000 for 2013/14

Ware Youth Town Council – from 2013/14 has been awarded a grant of £500

Additional one-off grants awarded during the year were:

Ware Museum for the Great Bed of Ware - £10,000 spread over 2011/12 and 2012/13

Ware Football Club - £2,500 pledged towards business rates dependent on support from East Herts Council.

Report on the Accounts for 2012/13 and the Budget for 2013/14

In last year’s report the Council undertook to review the format and data presented at the Annual Town Meeting in response to requests from a number of members of the public. You will see the result of this change if you turn to the budgets page of the report. The first three columns of figures are the forecast of where we closed the last financial year, which can be compared with the second three columns, which show the budget for last year, so giving you a chance to see how well (or not) we performed. The last three columns are the budget for this new financial year. These figures are a synopsis of the full set of accounts that run to 11 pages and can be seen here at the Priory or in the library.

My presentation at the meeting will highlight some of the features of these figures in detail.

Ware Allotment and Leisure Garden Society continues to play its part in the life of the Town, and with demand exceeding supply the Council are continuing to explore opportunities to increase the number of plots. The Council would like to thank the Society’s Chairman and Committee for their hard work throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Jill Rowlinson, Town Clerk and Chief Finance Officer, and her team for their contribution to the civic life of the town.

	Forecast Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure		
	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14
	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
As Trustee of the Priory Building									
Priory Building	172,067	212,328	-40,261	191,614	240,129	-48,515	162,711	223,398	-60,687
Priory Grounds, incl Public Conven-	1,985	60,428	-58,443	900	64,118	-63,218	900	67,040	-66,140
Priory Lido	31,736	82,811	-51,075	25,565	65,900	-40,335	31,015	77,560	-46,545
Fletcher's Lea	39,700	68,104	-28,404	39,793	75,891	-36,098	42,044	76,482	-34,438
Charity Audit Fee		8,600	-8,600		7,000	-7,000		7,000	-7,000
Miscellaneous income and costs	4,007	1,471	2,536		3,150	-3,150	2,000	340	1,660
Loan payment Fletcher's Lea		93,280	-93,280		93,280	-93,280		93,280	-93,280
Total for Priory Charity	249,495	527,022	-277,527	257,872	549,468	-291,596	238,670	545,100	-306,430

	Forecast Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure			Budget Income and Expenditure		
	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2013/14
	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ware Town Council Services									
Allotments	5,170	6,757	-1,587	4,250	7,530	-3,280	5,000	7,192	-2,192
Closed Churchyard, War Memorial & Clock		5,007	-5,007		3,635	-3,635		4,670	-4,670
Cemetery	57,000	69,101	-12,101	50,000	78,850	-28,850	55,000	78,812	-23,812
Tourism, Leisure & Amenities	9,883	54,667	-44,784	8,500	49,895	-41,395	65,870	119,160	-53,290
Town Twinning	227	1,100	-873		1,500	-1,500		1,500	-1,500
Town Centre CCTV		9,100	-9,100		10,600	-10,600		10,600	-10,600
Ware Festival	8,164	15,480	-7,316	7,130	14,850	-7,720	4,700	12,850	-8,150
Administration	2,010	188,804	-186,794	1,400	159,320	-157,920	1,900	168,554	-166,654
New Homes Bonus	23,024		23,024	23,024		23,024	23,024		23,024
Neighbourhood Plan			0		10,375	-10,375		5,000	-5,000
Subsidy to Priory Charity as above	249,495	527,022	-277,527	257,872	549,468	-291,596	238,670	545,100	-306,430
Precept Income	531,847		531,847	533,847		533,847	531,847		531,847
Grant from East Hert Council 2013/14			0			0	42,047		42,047
Total for Ware Town Council	886,820	877,038	9,782 0	886,023	886,023	0	968,058	953,438	14,620

Council Services

Ware Town Council provides:

- Management of Ware Cemetery
- Management of two Allotment Sites
- Maintenance of the War Memorial, Church Clock and Churchyards at St. Mary's Church.
- Litter bins and public seats.
- Ware Festival, Rock in the Priory, free band concerts, Town Tours, Winter Talks
- Support and encouragement of Town Twinning with Wülfrath, Germany and Cormeilles-en-Parisis, France
- Support for Ware Youth Town Council
- as the Trustee of the Priory Charity, management of the Priory, Fletcher's Lea, Children's Play Area, Skatepark, Lido (heated open air swimming pool), Public Conveniences and Priory Grounds
- Grants to local organisations
- The Town Council is the first tier of Local Government and represents views and opinions of the people of Ware

How To Contact Your Councillors

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