



# Ware Town Council Annual Report 2014/15



## A Message from the Mayor, Cllr Rosalie Standley

My second term as Mayor has certainly been a very busy and enjoyable time. In September last year I was delighted to host the Mayor of Cormeilles en Paris, France, his fellow councillors and town twinning when the bi-annual pledge of friendship was renewed. Later this year, we are due to host the renewal of the Pledge of Friendship with our German twin town of Wülfrath and the date has not yet been agreed.

I would like to thank our Town Clerk and her staff for their continued support throughout the year and the Friends of Ware Priory who work so very hard to keep the buildings and grounds in such wonderful condition. Funding has now been raised by them to replace the bridge and work will begin very soon.

Recognition and thanks must go to Rosalyn Montgomery, our Events Organiser and the Ware Festival Committee for their hard work and innovative ideas. They organise so many successful events during Ware Festival month which make our Town so very special.

Now that spring is here, Ware is beginning to blossom. I would like to thank our team of grounds men for working so very hard throughout all seasons to keep the park looking interesting and colourful. The beauty of our Town is all around us and the Ware in Bloom volunteers play an important role supplying magnificent floral displays all around the town. I was so very proud to attend the 'Anglia in Bloom' awards ceremony in Gorleston last year when we struck gold and gained many other commendations. Our Town is back on top and now to reach for the sky with an entry into the very prestigious 'Britain in Bloom' event. We wish them every success, they certainly deserve it.

Casting our minds back to last summer I am sure you cannot forget the magnificent display on St Mary's Church wall provided by the Ware in Bloom Team. With precision timing the flowers came out in all their glory to join the re-dedication of our renovated War Memorial. I had the honour to receive on behalf of Ware Town Council the prestigious Ware Society award acknowledging the renovation work on the memorial and I hope the plaque will be displayed shortly on the church wall close to the Memorial.

The Ware Town Council Planning Committee meets regularly to consider local planning applications. We cannot grant or reject applications but are happy to listen to the views of our community and take on board their concerns when making our recommendations to East Herts District Council. Ware Town Council continue to work with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who hope to influence and work alongside the District Plan once it is adopted some time this year.

Tudor Square, please be patient, we are continually meeting with East Herts District Council to agree a cost effective design which will be acceptable to both parties. An agreement has almost been reached and we are looking forward to starting work in the very near future.

The Southern Maltings in Kibes Lane is currently registered as a Community Asset by WTC. The 6 months time limit expired and an extension of a further 4 months was sought and subsequently granted by East Herts District Council to allow more time for the Southern Maltings Community Group to come up with a viable business plan for the future of this building. Over 200 members of the community turned out to the public meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March, chaired by myself and unanimously voted in favour of the exciting plans put forward to enlarge the existing Arts Centre.

Finally, I would like to thank our Town Clerk, the Town, District, and County Councillors for their continued support throughout the year. Our Committees meet on a regular basis and their time, commitment and dedication is a valuable asset to our Town.



## Support to Local Organisations in 2014/15

Each year the Town Council allocates a budget for grants to support local organisations.

In 2014/15 the grants awarded were:-

Victim Support	£65.00	Training
East Herts District Council	£250.00	Diversionary Activities Group
Royal British Legion Ware Branch	£500.00	Restore Memorial Tablet
Samaritans at Ware	£500.00	Towards cost of air conditioning
Ware & District Photographic Society	£321.00	Towards cost of Annual Exhibition
Herts Air Ambulance	£500.00	Towards Operational & Medical costs
Ware Choral Society	£250.00	Towards performance costs
Ware Brass	£500.00	Towards cost of visit to Corneilles
The Listening Place	£114.00	Towards cost of chairs
<b>Total awarded 2014/15</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	

[The Town Council supports the following organisations with annual grants:-](#)

Ware Museum General Grant £5,000

Ware Museum Tourist Information Point £2,100

Ware Town Partnership Dickensian Evening £1,050

Ware Town Partnership Ware in Bloom £1,050

## Report on the Accounts for 2014/15 and the Budget for 2015/16

I mentioned in my report last year that we were addressing declining levels of income to the Priory Charity. This action improved the situation, but not as much as we had hoped. After further consideration, we felt that further action was required and we have recently engaged a new caterer, Seasoned Events, part of the Crown Group, on an initial 9 month contract. It is early days in this new relationship, but we are encouraged by both the quality of the food and also the professionalism and commitment shown by our new caterer.

I would like to thank the Friends of Ware Lido for their continued assistance with marketing and improvements to the Lido. The Town Council is committed to keeping it open and is currently working on plans to improve this unique and well-loved facility in the town. Last year, despite slightly disappointing weather, the running costs for the Lido were kept down to c. £40,000.

The net effect of these and other factors is that we are forecasting a modest surplus of £4,000 for the year which we believe is a satisfactory result.

We have worked hard to manage the Council's finances responsibly. Following last year's sub-inflation increase, we have not increased the precept at all this year (based on the level of precept that would apply to a Band D property).

Within this budget the Town Council will continue to provide all of the services and events that residents of the town have come to expect such as the maintenance of the Priory and its grounds (you may have noticed that that we are in the process of having the outside of the Priory building re-painted), the Town's Cemetery, the Lido, Ware Festival, Rock in the Priory and the Community Cinema project. The Town Council will also continue to provide both moral and financial support to local groups such as Ware in Bloom, Dickensian Evening and Ware Museum and will also continue to pay the town's contribution towards the running costs of the CCTV system. The Council also provides grants to local organisations. During the year these amounted to £3,000 and the recipients included Victim Support, Ware Royal British Legion, Ware Choral Society, Ware Brass and the Southern Maltings Community Group.

**WARE TOWN COUNCIL FORECAST INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015 (2014/15)**

**BUDGET FOR 2014/15 AND BUDGET FOR 2015/16**

	Forecast Income and Expenditure						Budget Income and Expenditure					
	2014/15		2014/15		2014/15		2014/15		2014/15		2015/16	
	Income	Expend	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	
<b>As Trustee of the Priory Building</b>												
Priory Building	160,801	223,894			-63,093	196,260	238,627	-42,367	185,250	241,361	-56,111	
Priory Grounds, incl Public Conveniences	1,067	79,072			-78,005	900	76,982	-76,082	900	86,674	-85,774	
Priory Lido	43,845	84,225			-40,380	41,850	85,831	-43,981	45,150	90,430	-45,280	
Fletcher's Lea	47,550	86,982			-39,432	36,000	83,677	-47,677	63,400	100,224	-36,824	
Audit Fee		7,000			-7,000		7,000	-7,000		10,000	-10,000	
Miscellaneous income and costs	3,455	2,724			731	2,010	1,882	128		1,900	-1,900	
Loan payment Fletcher's Lea		93,280			-93,280		93,280	-93,280		93,280	-93,280	
<b>Total for Priory Charity</b>	<b>256,718</b>	<b>577,177</b>			<b>-320,459</b>	<b>277,020</b>	<b>587,279</b>	<b>-310,259</b>	<b>294,700</b>	<b>623,869</b>	<b>-329,169</b>	
	Forecast Income and Expenditure						Budget Income and Expenditure					
	2014/15		2014/15		2014/15		2014/15		2014/15		2015/16	
	Income	Expend	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	Income	Expend	Balance	
<b>Ware Town Council Services</b>												
Allotments	5,037	8,161			-3,124	5,200	7,425	-2,225	5,200	7,744	-2,544	
Closed Churchyard, War Memorial & Clock	992	6,569			-5,577		2,728	-2,728		2,848	-2,848	
Cemetery	65,150	63,208			1,942	65,000	66,922	-1,922	71,500	69,078	2,422	
Tourism, Leisure & Amenities	62,751	124,584			-61,833	40,550	83,600	-43,050	7,200	41,600	-34,400	
Town Twinning		2,000			-2,000		2,000	-2,000		2,000	-2,000	
Town Centre CCTV		17,467			-17,467		17,467	-17,467		17,467	-17,467	
Ware Festival	9,391	15,816			-6,425	5,100	12,763	-7,663	7,950	17,441	-9,491	
Administration	1,078	177,668			-176,590	1,550	177,772	-176,222	1,300	178,574	-177,274	
New Homes Bonus	68,287	73,596			-5,309	28,477	28,477	0	79,936	79,936	0	
Neighbourhood Plan		5,000			-5,000			0			0	
Subsidy to Priory Charity as above	256,718	577,177			-320,459	277,010	587,269	-310,259	294,700	623,869	-329,169	
Precept Income	542,513				542,513	542,513		542,513	551,748		551,748	
Grant from East Hert Council	21,023				21,023	21,023		21,023	21,023		21,023	
<b>Total for Ware Town Council</b>	<b>1,032,940</b>	<b>1,071,246</b>			<b>-38,306</b>	<b>986,423</b>	<b>986,423</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,040,557</b>	<b>1,040,557</b>	<b>0</b>	
Carry Forward from 2013/14					42,475							
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>4,169</b>							

## 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 Corneilles-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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