



## Festival 2008 Edition



### Chairman's View



Ever since the Parish, (now Town), Council was formed in 1894 it has steadfastly remained a non-political body and I am pleased to announce that following a recent extraordinary meeting of the Town Council it was unanimously agreed that this will remain the case. The following public statement was issued; *"The Town Council unanimously agreed that it will remain non party political and will continue to work together for the benefit of the Parish"*.

As individual councillors of course we hold our own personal political views, but we do not believe that political persuasions have any place in the Town Council tier of Local Government. As each year passes we as a Town Council face an ever increasing burden of new legislation and regulations, not to mention greater expectations of our services from residents and visitors. Our aim is to become a "Quality Council" which acts as a bedrock to the Community and it's aspirations and we believe that the last thing we need is to throw politics into the mix. We hope you agree with our non-political stance and we will continue to work on your behalf for the benefit of the Community.

As usual we have a number of projects/issues keeping us on our toes and by the time you read this article one of those projects, the new memorial ground, should be nearing completion so I would like to offer my thanks to neighbours of the site for their forbearance whilst construction has been in progress and our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Negotiations with Molins over the fate of the Sports Ground in Mill Lane are frustratingly slow, but please be assured that we will continue to press our case and I am confident we will succeed.

Finally, with Festival week approaching, I hope everyone enjoys the variety of events and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all for the Town Council's Pig Roast with live music on the evening of the 2nd Saturday of the Festival in the Market Square. See you there!

*Alan Turner*

*Mayor & Chairman Princes Risborough Town Council*

### Apology From The (EX) Editor

It's impossible to shut me up for too long, I'm afraid. There are 2 amendments to make to the editorial I wrote for the last edition of Crosstalk:

Firstly, an omission; outside the library there is a memorial to the Bevin Boys who served the country during the 2nd World War.

Not much is known about any local involvement of the Bevin Boys and some keen residents are keen to find out more. If you have any information or knew any locals who were Bevin Boys please contact the Town Council who will happily pass on the information. It is only right and proper that these memories are kept alive and that the memorial outside the library is maintained to respect the valuable part the Bevin Boys played in the war.

Secondly, an error; in the last Crosstalk I stated that Peter Dixon had been editor since Crosstalk started – this is not correct. Whilst my memory had always linked Peter to Crosstalk, I have been reminded that Crosstalk has been going for much longer than I was aware of. Crosstalk was the idea of Mr Don Morris who started production up and was subsequently the editor until Peter Dixon took over. It is thanks to Don Morris that Crosstalk is still going strong and is hopefully as popular now as it was then.

*Cllr Will Streule*

## Editorial



Having served on the Town Council for just over 1 year, I am one of the newest of the 13 Town Councillors serving the public of Princes Risborough.. In that year there have been a number of very lively debates with Councillors having and expressing different views and opinions, which is necessary for us to make the best policies for the Town. Everything that is debated is voted on and every Councillor who may have had a different opinion will abide by the majority vote and we all work as a team.

One of the most recent debates, which the Town Council made a decision on, was "Should the Town Council be A political?" As some Councillors are or have been affiliated to Political parties and some are not, it would be easy to follow the route of other Local Government and Central Government agencies to be political, but as Princes Risborough has been non- Political since time immemorial, a unanimous vote was taken to maintain this status.

One particular concern that the Town Council has and will continue to support is the provision of adequate facilities for the youngsters in the Town as they are our future especially as the average age of the population of Princes Risborough is above the national average. The youngsters who grow up in the Town should be given every opportunity for them to want to stay and build their life here.

There are 3 Town Councillors who work closely with the Youth Town Council, listening to what the youngsters require and they give feedback to the Town Council. One of our Councillors also sits on the Youth Management Committee at the Youth Club, which again provides a good information line to the Town Council. We strongly believe in fighting for these young people. We may not always succeed in providing all solutions to their needs but with communication we will have a better understanding.

If there are any youngsters who are reading this, or any age group for that matter, who have any issues which you would like us, your elected representatives, to debate and implement any policies that we can, please come and talk to us. We hold a Full Town Council meeting on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in Lincoln House where there is a Public Forum for you to raise any issues or concerns that you may have prior to the meeting. Also we shall be holding Saturday morning surgeries where the Town Clerk and a Councillor will be available to talk to on a one to one basis. Alternatively contact you Council via email [prtowncouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:prtowncouncil@btinternet.com)

**Carl Etholen**

## Planning News

Since Thames Water started to oppose major, or even large, projects which would increase the throughput at the local sewage farm, the number of planning applications in Princes Risborough seems to have reduced to a trickle.

The Town Council waits for the Appeal Inspectors to be named and the dates set for the hearings on the adjacent properties of Elmdon and Longfield on the Aylesbury Road. Elmdon went to Appeal because of non-determination by WDC within the statutory time allowed. However, the Development Control Committee (DCC) at Wycombe District Council has since undertaken the exercise of determining the Elmdon application as if it had not gone to Appeal.

Its win/win decision was to reject the application. If the Inspector were now to reject the Appeal, then DCC could say that its decision was justified. If the Inspector were to allow the Appeal, then DCC could distance itself from the Inspector's decision. It remains to be seen how robust a case is prepared by WDC to oppose the Appeal.

The building at the former Berryfield School site is progressing and the face-lift at the British Legion, soon to be re-branded The Legion, is well under way. Work has begun at the boarded-up bungalows beside the King George Vth Playing Field at Wellington Avenue; at least, the noise of foliage clearing chainsaws has been heard.

There are other changes taking place, noticeably in the town centre, where not only are more properties becoming vacant, but increasingly, are changing from commercial to residential.



Cromwell House in Church Street, the former home of Shire Publications, is reverting to being a family house after thirty years of trading. Permission has been given for the upper floor of Barclay's Bank in Market Square to become a self-contained flat. Treats in Duke Street will have an altered frontage to allow access to upstairs accommodation, whilst almost opposite the former upstairs offices of 3R could possibly become another restaurant. The Risborough rumour-mill predicts that one of our older pubs near the town centre may soon become yet another eating place, whilst the Three Crowns at Askett will certainly change from pub to restaurant in the near future. Risborough is changing but is it for the better? And then there is the return of the Kebab Van, allegedly by universal demand.

**Ben Benifer**  
**Chairman of Planning**

## Burials Committee Update



It is very pleasing to report, that after years of effort, the long envisaged Memorial Garden is finally taking shape, although not without a few headaches on the way. The access, car park, internal roadway and paths in phase I are now complete, and by the time you read this report, much of the

soft landscaping will be completed. This includes tidying the hedge boundaries, some fencing, preparation of borders, and some of the planting, along with a lot of remedial work to the grass. In order to give the plants a good chance of taking, some work, such as hedging, will not be completed until the autumn.



Due to budget constraints not all the proposed works will be able to be achieved this year, which means that some areas will not be available for use until later but this shouldn't be a deterrant for anyone wishing to use the facility. Although there are still many issues to resolve before the Memorial Garden is formally opened for use, it may be possible, should this prove necessary, for a family to apply to Wycombe District Council Planning Department for special permission for a burial to take place there in the interim.

In order to provide security for the site, we have budgeted for a nominal annual payment to be made to anyone who would be willing to lock and unlock the gates [once in place] daily. Two people could arrange to job share if desired in order to allow for holidays or rest periods. If anyone is interested in taking on this task, which would enable him or her to budget for something extra in his or her own life, please contact the Town Clerk.

We sincerely hope that the local residents have experienced the last of any major disruptions caused by the

construction works, and hope everyone will soon have the opportunity of taking a look at the site and that you will like what you see, remembering that what we have achieved so far is just the basis for something even better in the future.

*Maggie Wooster  
Chairman of Burials*

## Human Resources and Admin.

Well, our new IT equipment has been installed and it is already proving to be of real benefit to the efficiency of the office. As previously mentioned we have now employed a part time clerical assistant and this has allowed for greater flexibility with staff duties. Furthermore, it also means that for a 6 month trial period we are now able to open the office to the public on Saturday mornings (starting July 19<sup>th</sup>) between 10.00am to 12.00pm as part of our ongoing commitment to be more accessible to the Community. As well as a member of staff, on a rota basis, a Town Councillor will also be available. So if you do need to talk to us face to face, but don't have the time during the week, here's your chance! We hope that you will find this a useful addition to our service.

*Alan Turner  
Chairman HR & Admin Committee*

## Town and Lighting Update



Firstly can I apologise on behalf of the council for the appalling condition of some of the public flower beds most recently. Our new contractor- Windowflowers is not due to commence a contract with us until June and the recent cold spell has not been ideal for planting out tender young

flowers. This has resulted in many beds looking very untidy, choked with weeds and quite sad for this time of year. We are assured that all will be back to normal during June, and we hope that the new contractors will enhance the look of town for residents and visitors alike.

Recently our lighting contractor has been experiencing problems beyond our control, this has resulted in delays of repairs to the lighting stock in some cases, and we hope to resume a more normal service as soon as is possible.

The recent wet weather coinciding with the peak growing season has left grass cutting a challenging task. Whilst our competent Sure Care contractors have continued to maintain Town Council areas to the usual high standards, Wycombe District Council contractors on the other hand

appear to have failed abysmally to keep up with grass cutting maintenance, resulting in hayfield-like areas all over the town. Whilst we appreciate that the budget for this service is modest, Risborough should have its grass verges cut on a more regular cycle than recent experience. Rest assured that we are taking up complaints with Wycombe District Council in the strongest terms; we deserve, at the very least value, for money for services that we pay for.

**Gary Hall**  
*Chairman of Town & Lighting*

## Parks Update



Hello once again to you and yours! It's that time again....although this time I promise not to spout off about jobs, vandals and people that refuse to pick up their canine poop from our parks! Yes, it is time again indeed, for me to share a quick recap of our parks as they stand this summer.

### King George V

We received a request from a travelling, French circus to set up for a few days in one of our parks. We agreed to allow them on KGV although the deep ruts caused by their heavy vehicles did make us wonder whether we had been wise in our decision. We took greater precautions when we allowed the charter fair to use the park. This was purely a 'one off' between the fairground owner, the local police and ourselves and was agreed to avoid complications arising from the enormously-increased cost of road closures. Did you find this more acceptable than the fair in the Market Square? We would be pleased to hear your views.

You would agree that it is indeed a much more convenient location (ie does not bring the high street to a standstill) - it is a safer environment for our children, and also, would allow the owners of the fair to bring more exciting rides in - thus entertaining our youth of all ages. It has been very sad, as one who grew up with that visiting fair, to see it so abandoned and unused of recent years..and who knows, with more visitors using the fair, maybe the owners would consider lowering the ride prices a little to encourage visiting families.

As I said, this is purely my own personal view at this present time that I am sharing with you, and asking for your feedback.

### Wades Park

Once again, just to say that the MUGA is still very well used in Wades. As usual, the park is looking lovely for the time of year, and all thanks to Sure Care Maintenance for their hard work. Not much more to report this month on this park.

### The Crescent Park

As usual, this park seems to be being targeted more than any by our visiting jobs...oh dear..Oops! Sorry..I promised not to mention them this month. So lets move on to:

### St Dunstons

All seems calm and lovely in this park at this moment in time..I do hope I haven't spoken too soon though!

### Earle Mitchell

All is well on the football field.

### Askett

Our football ground in Askett has, as many of you will have seen, newly painted, smart changing rooms. This field, as you will all be aware is the hosting field of our monthly Car Boot sale, weather permitting. Let's hope that the sun will shine for the next Boot day (see the noticeboard outside the Askett ground for more details)!

All that leaves me to say is that I hope you all have a lovely, fun-filled summer and enjoy your holidays wherever you decide to spend them.

**Eunice Clifford**  
*Chairman of Parks*



## Princes Risborough Town Festival Report



As I write this article I am aware that the time for Festival 2008 is coming ever closer and, by the time you read these words, it will only be a few days away.

This year the committee has spared no effort in trying to improve the event with additional attractions on the field for **Supa Saturday**, on the 5th July. A new marching band from the Air Training Corps will lead the **Fancy Dress Parade**, and a full programme of entertainment will be in the arena for the whole afternoon.

On that same evening we welcome back the **'Sound Force Big Band'** who will provide the music for our open-air concert that goes on into the night.

The Annual 10km Run takes place on Sunday 6th July followed by our **Family Fun Bike Ride**.

During the week many of the local organisations will be having special events and open days to promote themselves and you are encouraged to go along to these and try out the many sports and meetings.

Finally the week will end on its usual high notes, these being the **Annual Street Fayre**, the Town Council sponsored **Pig Roast** and last but not least the **Chocolate Hunt** on Sunday 13th.

However, this year, the Festival nearly did not happen. This is mainly due to the changes imposed by the various local authorities that arrange licences and road closures.

The application for a road closure now has to go to Bucks County Council who, currently, charges £1350 to effect. An application has to be made 3 months in advance and a large amount of paperwork has to accompany each application but we were only made aware of this fact some 8 weeks before the event. Luckily, and following very helpful consultation with a County Council officer, we were able to get our applications in for approval, which we currently await. Without this approval the road closures cannot take place and therefore the main event for the Festival could still be under threat, although we are led to believe that the approval will be forthcoming.

The increase in bureaucracy means that each year the Festival becomes more difficult to accomplish and we are worried that Councils are using it as a way to put an end to events of this kind. It must be stated that the majority of the people involved in planning and running the Festival do so in their own free time and this increase in workload means that more and more of their spare time is taken up filling in multiple forms and attending training courses.

Any way with a fair wind and a vast amount of luck Festival 2008 - themed **'The Musicals'** will take place as normal and you the public will be unable to see the joins.

So look out for your FREE copy of the Festival programme that should be delivered in the week commencing 16th June and **PLEASE, PLEASE** come out and show your support for the events that have taken us a whole year to plan.



As this is my final Festival I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the various Festival Committees, both past and present, who have contributed to what has become the biggest event of its kind anywhere in the local district and you the townspeople who have attended in your thousands to make our efforts worth while.

**THANK YOU ALL.**

*John Coombs  
Chairman Festival 2008*

## Best Kept Village (BKV) Competition



We have entered the Best Kept Village competition again this year. A few of us try to keep the Town looking good by planting shrubs and trees. This year we have planted along Station Road and on the green in Monks Risborough. At the time of writing this, these cannot be seen as the grass has not been cut. I have had quite a few complaints about this. Grass cutting is the responsibility of Wycombe District Council, our hard working team in the office will be happy to pass on complaints to Wycombe District Council.

We had arranged a clean-up evening, due to other commitments by some members of the BKV Group we have not been able to get up and running. I must say a big thank you to the Brownies, who are always willing to help with this. The planters, tubs and hanging baskets should now have been re-planted and we hope this will help to brighten up the Town. A sweep up by along the paths outside shops and pubs would be a great benefit to how the Town looks and would only take a few minutes. We could all make a difference with a little effort and take a Pride in our Town. A Town fit for a Prince? Let it be a Town fit for every one of us.

*Pamela Williams.*



## Rugby in Risborough

Do you enjoy watching Rugby?  
Ever thought of playing Rugby?  
Already play?



Why not try out for your new local team!

A brand new club, Risborough RFC has just been formed, and welcomes potential players, supporters, possible sponsors or maybe even a benevolent landowner. The first training sessions for the forthcoming season are underway and we would love to see more players come along, train and hopefully play in the team. Experienced and non-experienced players are more than welcome.

Why not come down and have some fun? If you're interested at all in local rugby please contact Spence, the landlord of the Whiteleaf Cross Pub, or contact the Town Council Clerk (details on the back page) who can point you in the right direction.

## Right to Reply

The Town Council welcomes comments from residents and especially feedback on the content of Crosstalk.

We received the following email after the last edition through the forum on the website and felt the young correspondent had many valid points to make and as such thought it a good idea to share these with you.

The Town Council works hard to be fair to all residents and to refrain from 'moaning' about certain unreasonable behaviour (and in fact upon re-reading the last edition found very little if any negative comment on young people) however, this reader felt the need to write to us and suggests a '2-way street' between the generations of the town – wouldn't that be great.

'To Whom It May Concern

Upon reading the latest edition of crosstalk a few days ago, I have been speaking to a lot of my friends/young people.

I myself am 18 years old and myself and my friends are more than a bit concerned about the councils attitude towards young people, although we are all very pleased to see that Cllr Hall has mentioned that there are responsible young people in the town.

I was always led to believe that councillors should be unbiased and impartial, but if we are going to go down the 'ageist' route then we are not the only ones to blame, I know that there are some youths in the town that are no angels, but when I was younger I can always remember going to play basketball at one of the councils specially constructed basketball courts, to which we are all grateful for I might add, at 2 in the afternoon and getting an earful from an elderly resident for bouncing the ball, so we could all argue

that if we are not allowed to use facilities constructed for us to keep us 'off the streets' and this is still the case today then of course young people are going to try to amuse themselves elsewhere.

It is for this reason that I would like to suggest, instead of blaming young people, (and I would like to add thanks to Cllr Clifford of asking residents not to condemn us all), we need to come to an agreement between the elderly and the young to help resolve these issues, I know that is what you have been trying to do, but I would like to remind the elderly residents of Risborough that this is a 2 way street, they were young once, and did not like being moaned at, but then things were different back then.

Where has community spirit gone, it seems that the young and old cannot live side by side any more which is a great shame, but at the same time young people abuse drink and drugs, (has the CCTV done anything yet?) so, I can understand both sides of the argument but we need to end this hostility toward one another, Risborough should be a community minded town where we all help each other and don't cross the street away from the 'hoodies'.

I also think these people should not be named and shamed in case it becomes how many times you can be named and it will start a vicious circle. They get named so they go drinking, and then do something stupid.....

I would like to finish by asking all young people to be more approachable and help the older generation, we owe them a great deal, freedom for a start, and they have so much to give, just talk to them they don't bite or offer to carry a bag once in a while.

And finally for the older generation you were young once, this is the 21st century and things have changed. I know most of the things that happen today would be unacceptable when you were young but times change.

I would ask the council to read this and email me on the address above telling me their views and thought on the matter.

Many Thanks

Concerned Citizen

Many thanks – keep the letters rolling in!

## Stop Press

Risborough Community Football Cup  
2008 Saturday 5th July Thames Valley  
Police v Risborough Town Youth  
4pm - 6pm King George V  
Recreational Park Who will you  
support?



## News from Princes Risborough School (PRS)

Princes Risborough School has enjoyed a great deal of success on the sports field this year, coupled with an exciting array of events, trips and extra-curricular activities.

The school has a strong belief that learning should be fun and educational. The basketball teams have been successful throughout all year groups

At rugby, our under 14 boys' team were runners up in the county final. Four of our under 18 football team helped Buckinghamshire win the South of England final, beating Essex 3-1. Many other sports are played at PRS including cricket, tennis, netball and athletics.

We are delighted that some of our student's abilities have been recognised as they go on to win further honours. Liam Joseph is a **National** boxing champion, Elliot Churchley has been selected from Europe as one of only five boys to train and play basketball in Boston U.S.A. Anna Gill continues to train with the Olympic horse-riding team and is nominated for the Star of the Future awards. David Woods and Greg Smith represented the South West of England rugby team, in France.

There is a planned trip to Bosnia this summer for "a Drama Festival for Peace". Students also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This is open to those over 14 years of age and we have already seen students pass their bronze expedition stage.

It's not just about fun and adventure, although we do see this as important to a young persons' all round development. We have achieved great success in academic results throughout the school with 60% of our students achieving A\*-C GCSE grades. It is anticipated that results this year will show even better performance.

We are rightly proud of our school and continue to look at innovative ways of providing inspirational quality education whilst encouraging the strong personal development of our students.

PRS were delighted to welcome renowned expert on Autism, Wendy Lawson to the school recently. Wendy suffers from Autism Spectrum Disorder, although she prefers the word "diffability" to disorder.

## Rangers Youth Complete the Double

### Risborough Rangers Youth 3 Chalfont Saints 0

Risborough Rangers Youth Team won the South Bucks Youth Cup Final against Chalfont Saints by three goals to nil

at Burnham to seal the League and Cup Double, the Risborough side having already secured the League title by 8 clear points before this game.

Risborough manager Eric Phillips said afterwards "This is a brilliant way for the lads to finish their time together in youth football, to win this year's league and cup without losing a game was a real achievement and should send them off into adult football with some great memories.



## Latest News from St Mary's Church



The Opening of the Chapter House by the Bishop of Oxford 4th May 2008. Sunday 4th May 2008 was a landmark day for St Mary's as the Rt. Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, opened the new Chapter House.

After preaching at the 10am Parish Communion service, the Bishop enlisted some help from Emma Torrance for the cutting of the ribbon. This was followed by some prayers of blessing and dedication.

Afterwards there was an opportunity for everyone to view the new rooms, celebrate with a glass of champagne and chat to the Bishop and his wife over an informal lunch. Work for the restoration of the main part of the Church is scheduled to begin in 2009.

## Pubwatch! Live in Princes Risborough

Pubwatch is a proactive initiative which is run independent of the police by Licensees of both pubs and off licenses. Its aim is to reduce crime and specifically; anti social behaviour associated with alcohol.

Pubwatch has now gone live in Princes Risborough. It is chaired by Mags from The Bird in Hand, Princes Risborough and I have no doubt in saying that the Pubwatch scheme will assist greatly in making Princes Risborough a more social and friendlier place to be, both at night time and during the day.

It has the full support of the Police, yet the scheme is best run independent of the police; something which has been achieved in Risborough.

**PCSO Dave Rawlings**  
**Princes Risborough Police Office**

## How and Who to Contact

Princes Risborough Town Council, 1, Tower Court, Horns Lane, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 0AJ,  
(01844) 275912 or e-mail [prtowncouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:prtowncouncil@btinternet.com)

Mayor & Chairman of the Council:	Cllr. Alan Turner.
Deputy Chairman & Chairman of Finance Cttee:	Cllr. Dr. Reg Orsler
Chairman of Town and Lighting Cttee:	Cllr. Gary Hall
Chairman of Planning Cttee:	Cllr. Ben Benifer.
Chairman of Burials Cttee:	Cllr. Mrs. Maggie Wooster.
Chairman of Parks Cttee:	Cllr. Eunice Clifford
Chairman of Public Relations Working Group:	Cllr. John Coombs

### Councillors

Cllr. Mrs. Pam Summerbell	Cllr. Mrs. Pamela Williams	Cllr. Wally Woolf
Cllr. Will Streule	Cllr. Bill Bendyshe-Brown	Cllr. Carl Etholen
Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Sue Griffiths	Assistant to the Clerk: Mrs. Kirsty Pope	

**Please visit our website; [www.princesrisborough.com](http://www.princesrisborough.com)**

The full Town Council meets at 7pm on the last Tuesday of each month at Lincoln House, New Road. There is a 10-minute slot at the beginning of each meeting when the public can express a view or concern. Please check the website to confirm time and venue. The next meetings are:

Tuesday 24th June  
Tuesday 29th July  
Tuesday 30th September

**PLEASE NOTE: NO FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING IS HELD DURING AUGUST**

The Town Council aims to be as accessible as possible, and welcomes the views, comments and concerns of the Princes Risborough electorate. Although the views of the whole Council are given wherever possible, for constitutional and legal reasons we must state that the views expressed here in Crosstalk, and in any personal correspondence received from individual Councillors, are those of the author concerned and do not necessarily express the opinions or policy of PRTC unless explicitly stated.