Editorial

It is lovely to see all the spring bulbs starting to come into bloom and brighten up the village at this time of year.

This edition of the newsletter contains news of progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and the presentation on the results of the TNP survey, information on the planned May Day celebrations and initial information on this year’s Fringe.

Lisa Davis (t:217328) and Anne Barrow (t:215034)

CONCERT

The next event from Musically Monstrous Promotions who promote a regular concert series of American Roots Music in the barn at the Three Horseshoes.

Full details at www.musicallymonstrous.co.uk.

Friday 3rd March 2017
Doors 7:30 On stage 8:00 / tickets £10
The Three Horseshoes, Towersey
The Ben Somers String Band

A fresh approach to bluegrass & Old Time string band music. The Ben Somers String Band comprises four fantastic musicians from the UK and France who play a mix of original and traditional acoustic music. The group is led by Ben Somers, multi-instrumentalist, session musician based in London whose recent credits include Taylor Swift, Seal, Dr John, Bruce Molsky, Dizzee Rascal and many more. The group also feature Marius Pibarot on fiddle, Evan Davies on mandolin and Dorian Ricaux on guitar.
Towersey Morris

will be dancing at sunrise on May Day:

Towersey Village Crossroads

Monday 1st May at 5.30am
then breakfast at The Three Horseshoes.
It’s on Bank Holiday Monday, so come and watch us.

Find us on Facebook Towersey Morris  twitter @towerseymorris

Find out more about Towersey Morris or the history of this traditional part of English culture on our website www.towerseymorrismen.org.uk

Want to learn? Join us at Towersey Village Hall Mondays 9pm (Autumn & Winter)
Services coming up

You are very welcome to join us at our weekly activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th March</td>
<td>9.30 First Sunday Service</td>
<td>Keith Civval</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>9.30 Morning Worship</td>
<td>Simon Baynes</td>
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<td>19th March</td>
<td><strong>3.30</strong> St Cath’s Café, with a thought for the day at 4.15</td>
<td>Rachel Cross</td>
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<td>26th March</td>
<td>9.30 Parish Communion for Mothering Sunday, followed by the Annual Church Meeting. All welcome</td>
<td>Rachel Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>9.30 First Sunday Service</td>
<td>Derek Witchell</td>
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Thank you for your support in 2016

Our annual review of 2016, covering the activities and finances of the church, has been published. The finance report shows that our ministry expenditure is fully funded by voluntary and other receipts. The Church Fete and other fundraising contributed to the maintenance and new facilities in the church building. Our great thanks to all those who have supported the church financially in the past year – either directly through voluntary giving or indirectly through our fundraising activities. Do pick up a copy of the full report from the back of church or download a copy from our website. To find out more, do come to the church annual meeting immediately after the morning service on 26th March. All very welcome.

Building Project News

We are pleased to announce receipt of another significant grant towards our Building Repair and Development project. We are very thankful to the Garfield Weston Trust for a grant of £15,000. This brings the total received or committed to £263,000, which is a wonderful total. We have now started the tender process hope to start work in the summer. We still need a further £72,000 to reach our £335,000 target so please consider making a donation. You can donate online at www.towerseychurch.org.uk/donate or pick up a leaflet in church.

Future dates for your diary

- The May Festival of the village green this year will be on 30th April at 11am.
- Don’t miss the Towersey Open Gardens Event on the afternoon of 11th June.

Contact details

Vicar: Rev Rachel Cross – 07795 292280; 22 Stuart Way, Thame OX9 3WP  vicar@towerseychurch.org.uk
Churchwarden: Sue Civval – 01844 215373/07769 700 647  sue@towerseychurch.org.uk

www.towerseychurch.org.uk
We are looking for volunteers to help us with the Fringe. So, if you’re interested – we’d love to hear from you! Please contact Jenni on 217108 or jijuly@icloud.com

Areas where we need help:

- **Helping on the committee** – there’s always room for one more!!
- **Finding Sponsors** – know anyone who’d like to sponsor a barrel of beer for £100?
- **Distributing flyers** – are you able to help distribute with us on specified days, put in a public place or give to friends and family?
- **Posters** – are you able to put up a poster at your place of work?
- **Muscle power** for set-up – Fri 25th / Sat 26th Aug. Also for take down the day after (Mon 28th). If you’re a guy or a gal with muscle power and a toolbox to match – then we need you!
- **Bunting** – managed by TOWCAP - we’ll be using the fabulous bunting lots of you have created, but we always need a little bit more…..
- **Parking attendants** – briefing on Sunday morning before we start
- **Bar Staff** – training will be given
- **Ticket Collectors** – as people enter the Comedy marquee
- **Childrens Activities** - helping on games for the children
Welcome to our monthly update on progress towards Towersey’s Neighbourhood Plan.

Our main focus in 2017 so far, has been the Village Questionnaire. As a gentle reminder and encouragement to respond to the Questionnaire, the Committee hi-jacked the February Village Café morning. If you were there, you couldn’t have missed us – the badges were enormous. And apologies if you were asked multiple times by different members if you had completed your homework! As well as being an opportunity for us to nag you – sorry again – it was great to hear the feedback from villagers on their thoughts about the Plan. As you would expect, many people had similar opinions and there were some new ideas as well – keep them coming please.

Our nagging and our later door-stepping seems to have paid off. To date we have received more than 130 responses in a mix of both hard-copy and on-line. **THANK YOU!!!**

We have also learnt a few points on running such questionnaires. Firstly, we want to keep the responses confidential so that everyone can feel free to answer openly. While this is obviously correct on all counts, it does cause us problems when chasing people up, because who has answered? – we don’t know! Given the purpose of the Questionnaire, the maps were very important. On the printed versions, it was very easy to mark different points on the map; on the electronic version, you couldn’t, so had to describe the locations, which we realise was not perfect. We all learn, but most importantly, more than 65% fought through the challenges and responded.

If you are reading this and you haven’t completed the Questionnaire, please do not despair. Though your specific responses will not be able to be included in the initial survey results, your opinion and thoughts are still very important to us, so please do still complete the paper version. (Let us know via towerseynp@gmail.com or Alison Byrne on 07540 141 329)

Now we have your thoughts, ideas and opinions, we will be collating them over the next few weeks in preparation for the Village Presentation on Sunday 2nd April, 2-4pm at the Village Hall. Please do join us to hear the feedback and of course, let us know of any new suggestions.

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**REMINDER**

**Neighbourhood Village Presentation – Sunday 2nd April**

**Towersey Memorial Hall. 2-4pm – Tea and Cakes for sale**
Towersey Parish Council

March 2017

All electors in the Parish are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. If you wish to ask a question of the Council email The Clerk joannewills@btinternet.com

**2017 Meeting Dates:**
All meetings in 2017 are being held in the War memorial Hall and will commence at 7.30pm
- 7th March
- 25th April
- 6th June - Annual Council meeting
- 11th July
- 12th September
- 24th October
- 12th December

Parish Councillors on the Council are:
Cllr Mark Davis (Chairman), Cllr Steve Nutley (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Kerr Stephenson, Cllr Nikki Jackson and Cllr Ashley Byrne.

District Councillors are: Cllr Lynn Lloyd, Cllr Ian White
County Councillors are: Cllr David Wilmshurst

**Great British Spring Clean - 5th March 2017**
Calling all volunteer helpers!
Sunday 5th March 2017 – starting at 10am
Please meet outside the War Memorial Hall.

**Useful Contact Numbers:**
Mrs Jo Wills - Towersey Parish Council Clerk – joannewills@btinternet.com
PCSO Natalie White – Thame Valley Police - 101
OCC Street Light faults - 0800 317802
OCC Highways issues – pot holes etc. 0845 3101111
Thame Citizens Advice Bureau 08444 111 444
I have two bicycles at the Three Horseshoes from the golf day over the Christmas period. Could the owners please collect. Many Thanks Grant

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**DO YOU HAVE AN ANNEX FOR LONG TERM RENT**

I am a single professional lady looking for annex/self-contained accommodation to rent in the area.

I would be happy to house/pet sit and help with small gardening jobs if required.

Please call Debbie 077486 28922

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Would anybody like a vintage Smith Corona electric typewriter? In good working order with a hard case, spare tapes, and instruction manual. Please collect from Angela Dike, Inverbroom, Towersey

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**GRAZING WANTED**

I am keen to get my beloved horses back to Towersey - one miniature Shetland and one Cob, both extremely friendly.

If you have any land that you would like to rent please contact me on 07919 161713 - Thanks Catherine
Towersey Fringe
Sun 27th August 2017
Midday - Midnight

Hold The Date(s)!

Watch this space in future editions to check out the new and exciting things happening at T-FRINGE 2017

Film @ the Fringe
TOWCAP will be hosting a film on the Saturday night before T-Fringe
(Saturday August 26th 2017)

More details to follow later......
TOWCAP presents ....more dancing!

in Towersey Village Hall

Irish Dancing Night

Saturday 25th March 2017
Starting at 7:30pm

Live music by Kinderhook
Dance performance and participation for all

Irish drinks and food

Tickets on sale from 1st February, price £12.50
Contact Louise Clark  01844 261498, louiserclark@btinternet.com
Or Liz White 01844 358155

Tickets include free introductory dance lessons (optional)
VILLAGE VOICES: NEWS OF WORKSHOP AND CONCERT

Village Voices Community Choir meets every Friday at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Our songs are drawn from many genres: music from around the world, old and modern songs, including pop songs. All the music is learned by ear, so you do not have to be able to read music. Our evenings are great fun, with a friendly tea break, and singing has proven health benefits. You can come along any time and try it: your first visit is free. Thereafter we charge £5 per visit. See www.villagevoicestowersey.com for more information, plus sound clips and videos.

Our annual all-day workshop and evening concert will take place on Saturday March 11th 2017 in the Memorial Hall. We are thrilled to be bringing the acclaimed folk duo Belshazzar’s Feast to Towersey for our concert, their first visit. They are top class musicians, and also very witty and entertaining. 7.30 pm. See http://www.belshazzarsfeast.com.

VILLAGE DIARY FROM MARCH 2017

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 5th March</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Village Spring Clean</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 7th March</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 11th March</td>
<td>7.30 pm</td>
<td>Village Voices Workshop</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 25th March</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Irish Dance Night</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 2nd April</td>
<td>2pm – 4pm</td>
<td>TNP Presentation</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
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<td>Sun 30th April</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>May Festival</td>
<td>Village Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 11th June</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Towersey Open Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 27th August</td>
<td>12 noon – midnight</td>
<td>The Fringe</td>
<td>Playing Fields</td>
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Deadline for Next Newsletter 31st March