



Photograph: Stephen Kitchener

OH, WHAT A MEMORABLE YEAR...

Oh, what a memorable year as Tring Town Mayor. A year of remembrance, celebration and introduction. A new Town Council to chair and new members to introduce into a committee-led council where all individuals are part of the team. I have endeavoured to use everyone's ability to reach unanimous decisions for the benefit of the community. Thank you, Councillors, for your contributions and for accepting my style of chairmanship.



Cllr. Stephen Hearn
Town Mayor

In a very full year the Charter 700 celebrations provided so many wonderful memories. On Charter Day I visited schools in the horse-drawn cart and the open-top vintage vehicle accompanied by the Town Crier and a party of ladies in medieval dress. At every stop we were greeted by smiling excited children. The day closed with a church service attended by hundreds of people.

The carnival day was blessed with fine weather and the impeccable organisational skills of Tring Together led by Vivianne Child – what would we do without her! Heading the parade

of schoolchildren through a crowded High Street will never be forgotten.

However, there is one thing not even Vivianne can control and that is the weather. Can you remember the rain which arrived during the evening of the Christmas Festival? The Victoria Hall had not seen so many people for years. Of course, stall-holders and the entertainment carried on regardless to the satisfaction of some 10,000 visitors.

Tring can always celebrate the present but equally it can remember those who gave so much for town and country. Following on from the 2014 centenary commemorations honouring townspeople who served in WWI and later conflicts, this year VE day on 8th May was marked by a service of remembrance in the Memorial Garden which is yet another beautiful feature of our town. For this, we thank the Friends of the Memorial Garden and the enthusiasm and hard work of the Dacorum Borough Council team led by Robert Cassidy. Once again the Green Flag has been awarded to the Garden: you can see it proudly flying at the entrance.

This year has seen the implementation of the Town Plan which contains a comprehensive schedule of works to improve and maintain our town. Thanks to a substantial grant from Dacorum Borough Council these works will continue unabated.

Thank you to our hardworking and enthusiastic Town Clerk, Michael Curry, and to all the council staff. Enjoy Tring and the community in which we live.



Annual Town Meeting

On **Monday 18th April at 8pm** in the Victoria Hall, Akeman Street.
Open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Improving the Street Scene



Photograph by: Stephen Kitchener

When formulating the Town Plan we wanted to improve the look of the High Street even if it meant taking on roles not strictly our council's responsibility. Work was needed so we have got on without delay and the results can be seen.

With funding from Dacorum Borough Council we have painted the street furniture, repaired benches, replaced litter bins, kept the bus shelters clean, purchased a street vacuum cleaner, renewed town maps and road signs. At the same time we have reminded Herts County Council to attend to the highways and to keep the street lights functioning – not an easy task!

The High Street is becoming a pleasant place to be, empty premises are being taken up and many retailers have painted the fascia of their properties. More retail outlets would be great but perhaps the improvements will begin to attract them back into Tring. We will continue to improve and maintain where and when possible, with works extending beyond the High Street.

The Duckmore Lane allotment and meadow hedges have been cut back and dangerous and diseased hedgerow trees removed. New fencing will be installed and, behind this, new hedging will be set.

You will soon see a lot of activity at Streamside Walk in Brook Street and along the footpath to New Road. At first it may look dramatic but given time it will provide a green and pleasant area of grassland with flowers and trees for the whole community to enjoy.



Cllr. Penny Hearn

Let's all try to keep Tring clean and tidy.

An "Enchanting" Light Display

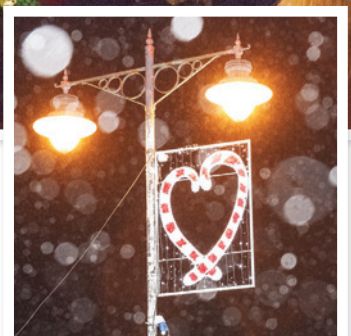
This year the Town Council was determined to improve and revitalise the High Street Christmas lights display for everyone's enjoyment and what a success it was.

The basic electrical infrastructure had been neglected for years so, funded by Tring Town Council and supported by Dacorum, this was dealt with, making the displays more reliable and effective. There remained some gaps in the display due to the lack of suitable power sources but hopefully this will be provided for next year. Western Road and the upper part of Frogmore Street were not forgotten which pleased many and perhaps, as was suggested by a Tring resident, Oxford Street now comes to visit Tring's light display. One little girl wandering up the High Street with her Dad thought the lights were "really Christmassy" and other satisfied customers described them as "enchanting".

Thank you to all those shopkeepers and residents for the window displays and congratulations to the winner of the shop window competition, Hyatt Studios.



Photographs by: Stephen Kitchener



If we all pull together the spirit in Tring will always bring success and hopefully investment, giving the town what it deserves.



Cllr. Mike Hicks

providing that the additional infrastructure required was in place before the development started.

A visit from the Hertfordshire School Places Planning Officer reassured the Council that all of the extra children expected could be accommodated by adding extra primary and secondary school classes.

You will all know someone whose children have grown up and been forced to move away to find a home of their own. The affordable housing will provide some housing association homes for rent and lower cost homes to buy.

Protecting Tring - LA5 update

A major development in Tring is required as part of the local area plan to meet the Government quota of new housing over the next 20 years. Without this plan private developers would automatically win permission for new developments.

The positioning of the Local Area 5 (LA5) development was decided by a public consultation process. The outline design shown by Dacorum Borough Council and agreed to by the consultees had a balanced design with a mix of housing (including 40% affordable) and a good provision of public facilities.

The Dacorum Planning Officer who visited the Tring Council stated the sentiment:

"It is essential the development blends into the surrounding land as it is Green Belt and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and that the development when completed gives the appearance that it has always been part of the town. The planting of suitable trees and the layout should be in keeping with the area. We must always remember this is one of the principal entrances to the Town."

Tring Town Council supported this,

However, never mentioned in the initial public consultation, we learn this plan must also include provision of places for travellers. This is not supported by the town's people or the developers. Tring is adjacent to the AONB. Rest assured that Tring Town Council will oppose the Travellers' Site in this position at every opportunity.

Due to a recent change in the law there was a requirement to remove the proposed site from the Green Belt. This was discussed and voted on at Dacorum Borough Council as part of the combined changes to the Local Allocation Plan. All Tring's Dacorum Borough Councillors voted against the changes but they were still passed.

NHS Clinical Services in Tring by Cllr. John Bowden

Like many towns, Tring is expanding. As a newly elected councillor I was, therefore, very concerned to discover that Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust was proposing to relocate three NHS services provided at the Clinic in Station Road, Tring to Gossoms End in Berkhamsted. The three services involved are Children's Orthoptist, Children's Speech and Language and a Lymphoedema Clinic.

Two public consultations took place and these included representation from County, Dacorum Borough and Tring Town Councillors. There were strong objections to the proposals: many factors had to be taken into account, including the need for residents to be able to access services locally. It was agreed to carry out an online survey, and the responses to this demonstrated the need to retain the clinic in Tring. As a result, the Children's Orthoptist/Speech and Language will relocate to Rothschild House Surgery and the Lymphoedema Nurse will visit local patients in their homes.

I am mindful of the fact that in the future Tring will need more NHS facilities, not fewer, and there should be more consultation to look at the best way of providing services to cope with future growth in population.

Herts Urgent Care will be providing 'caretaker' GP services in the New Surgery in the Forge Car Park in Tring as a result of Dr Hall-Jones's retirement. Your local councillors will continue to monitor this situation.

Charter 700 Celebrations by Vivianne Child

Reminiscences from Vivianne Child, a member of the Charter 700 group who tried to keep tabs on everything that was happening under the Charter 700 banner.

For those new to Tring, Monday June 30th 2015 saw the 700th anniversary of the granting of our Town Charter. We had a great year with at least 32 events, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of people attending! We were honoured to get some Heritage Lottery funding and people were incredibly generous with their time, energy and money.

I wish we could leave our 'best practice' notes about Charter 700 for the people who organise Charter 800 in 2115. A group of us met for over eighteen months, trying to keep tabs on everything that was happening, enthusing and encouraging each other as we watched over 32 events come into being. At an early meeting we wondered what had happened for 'Charter 600', however, we decided that in 1915 other things, namely World War One, were occupying people's minds. So – no pressure – but this was probably the first time that Tring has tried to celebrate its heritage, in all its forms and in a way that appealed to its entire population.

I have three favourite moments.

First was Monday 30th June, when the Mayor, Town Crier, 'Lady Steffi' and I arrived at our first school; Goldfield. We were met by the Head Teacher, dressed as King Edward II,



Photograph by: Stephen Kitchener

wearing a false beard, followed by all her teachers and pupils who were all in medieval dress. Any doubts we had as to whether the schools would 'embrace the concept' melted away. Thank you, Debby Stevens.

Second was late that night, in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul, with over 400 other people, singing "Happy Birthday to Tring". This was a moment I'll never forget when the Tring community was at its strongest. We were smiling, drinking beer and being together. Thank you, Tring.

Lastly was the yarn bombing aka the knitting on Church Square. It wasn't the organising group's idea at all and yet it was the absolute highlight of the celebration for so many

people, including those who got off buses to take photos. It showed me that the best ideas don't come from committees! Thank you, Sally Spriggs.

I said at the start that I'd like the Charter 800 group to have our notes. Actually, I wouldn't. What was so special about the Charter celebrations was that it hadn't happened before; there was no blueprint, and no-one could say "oh no, we've done that before and it didn't work." Send the Mayor to visit every school in Tring, Wigginton, Aldbury and Long Marston all on one day? Yes, of course. Leave Church Square plastered in wool for over a month? Yes, of course. Drive a flock of sheep down the High Street? Yes, of course. ***It's a Tring Thing!***



When I was Mayor (2010-11), I suggested that we should celebrate the 700th Anniversary of our Charter. I found a group of people who were also excited about the idea and so we began. It was fun from start to finish, dressing up to give out leaflets at 6.30am at Tring Station, drinking Charter Ale and seeing all those smiles in Church Square.

Thank you to all who organised, took part and enjoyed yourselves. We throw a great party in Tring!

Cllr. Roxanne Ransley

The LOUDEST Man in Tring!

Steve Berry looks back on an eventful year.

I was honoured to be invited to become the Town Crier for Tring back in 2013 by the Town Council. Taking part in the Charter 700 celebrations was a once-in-a-lifetime experience! It was a joy to travel around to each school with Mayor Stephen Hearn and see the reactions and participation from the children and their teachers.

The funny thing about the first time I put the uniform on was that it fitted almost perfectly. I did need some braces to keep the trousers up though, and the hat is a little small for me! I found that my voice held up well. The secret is to project, not to shout. Also, having my own bell means I can command attention before I speak. It doesn't hurt that I am practised in presenting in my job, and that I act with a local theatre in my spare time. I'm also a Verger for Tring Team Parish and therefore make announcements at weddings. It all helps.

I've lived in Tring for 18 years and really love its sense of community and the pride people take in their town. Being appointed Town Crier is another step in being taken to the community's heart. I've been overwhelmed by people's reaction to me as Town Crier. It's all been so positive, both from my friends and the wider community.

Photograph by: Stephen Kitchener



“The Heart of the Town”

In 2015 Church Square really made the most of its location at the heart of the town. Who could forget the yarn bombing that was part of the Charter festivities? The Charter Market and the Farmers' Market relocation to Church Square and Mansion Vista (diagonally opposite towards the Memorial Garden) has been a great success. The weather failed to dampen spirits during the Christmas Fair, with the stage on Church Square as usual.

Tring Town Council owns Church Square and Mansion Vista following a bequest by Lord Rothschild as an open space in the Town. Approval by the current Lord Rothschild was necessary to move the markets to Church Square.

This year the Town Council had to remove the dead trees in Church Square. On the advice of Dacorum Borough Council's Tree Officer they have not been replaced because the underlying chalk makes sustainable growth impossible.

An unexpected benefit of having to take the trees out was that it allowed the reinstatement of a Christmas tree, thanks to the generosity of Philip and John Matthews.

Other work done in Church Square and Mansion Vista during the year: the flower bed was cleared and replanted, bringing some colour; a drop-kerb has been put in opposite Brown & Merry's; and the bus shelters had their regular maintenance – this year the clear polycarbonate panels in the Mansion Vista shelter were replaced.



Photograph by: Stephen Kitchener



Photograph courtesy of Dacorum Digest

Award Winning Roads and Home Safety Group

An important topic, which affects all of us in today's environment, has been taken on board by councillors and local volunteers in this newly formed group. The intention is to improve the local environment and to make the relevant authorities aware of the concerns and requirements of the town.

The group will look at footpaths, drainage, lighting, policing and security in its efforts to ensure everyone's safety. The piecemeal reporting of problems and minor faults is unlikely to result in a positive response, but by auditing and grouping actions we may be more likely to succeed. Members of the group have been allocated areas of the town to survey and report back in order to prepare a co-ordinated approach to the local authorities. We all know there is a lot to be done and if you have matters to raise, then drop a note to the Town Clerk.

The group and its intentions are yet another example of Tring's community spirit which was recognised when John Savage received Dacorum Borough Council's Community Award. Come rain or shine you see John litter-picking in and around the town – well done John.

A day in the life...

The early bird!



Philip Cartwright
Part-time assistant to Town Warden

You'll have to get up early in the morning if you want to catch one member of the Town Council's staff, Philip Cartwright, part-time assistant to the Town Warden, Colin Jones.

Philip is out and about at the crack of dawn inspecting and tidying the Council's playgrounds on Pond Close, Chapel Meadow and the Skate Park ready for the day ahead. He also helps plant and water the flowers in the High Street planters.

You are most likely to spot him with the Council's new acquisition – a street vacuum cleaner. The Council bought the cleaner to supplement the work done by Dacorum Borough Council's Clean, Safe & Green team. The road sweeper was not touching the cigarette butts, etc. that were accumulating on the pavement at the edge of the buildings.

On the other hand, the Town Warden, Colin on his travels round the town is more visible than Philip. It's a bit like the odd couple,

really. A thought confirmed when watching them work together when a ladder is involved. Who's up the ladder? Not Philip, who is half Colin's age...

Colin monitors and reports to the appropriate agency or owner the condition of the public parts of the town with regard to things like litter, grounds maintenance, vandalism and health and safety hazards. He also manages all the maintenance of the Council's property including the allotments.



Colin Jones
Town Warden

Market House

The Council's Office

Built by public subscription and opened on 13 July 1900, Market House is a splendid grade II listed building in the heart of the town on the junction of the High Street and Akeman Street. The Council Chamber and the Council's offices are on the first floor, whilst the Information Centre is on the side in Akeman Street. It is lovely location in which to work, but it does need looking after.

The work done in the past two years includes having the outside repainted; upgrading the fire security system; replacing the heating system upstairs; and repairs to the roof. In the coming year the plan is to give the Council's Information Centre a bit of a sprucing up (and maybe treat staff to an extra radiator so they don't have to huddle over a convector!).

The Information Centre is a goldmine offering material ranging from District and County Council contact details and bus timetables to guides to local attractions, walks, activities and the

Photograph by: Stefanie Buse



arts. Some local councils – Aylesbury and Wendover notably – have closed their centres citing lack of demand. Whilst the internet makes this sort of data more accessible to many, the number of visitors to the Tring Centre has not dropped as much as one might

have expected. The Town Council is committed to maintaining the Information Centre as it recognises the service it provides to local residents and visitors. The Information Centre is open 9.30am - 3pm weekdays and 10am - 1pm on Saturdays.



Photograph by: Stephen Kitchener

Striking a Balance

Duckmore Lane allotments

The Town Council has a duty to provide allotments and is lucky to have such an excellent site for them.

Duckmore Lane is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it is hoped that this will be taken into account by allotment holders; because of the AONB status, for example, no sheds are permitted on the site. The large rubbish tip has now been removed: many thanks to all who did this work and now composting should be encouraged as much as possible.

Bonfires can be lit, but only in the winter and when the wind is blowing away from nearby houses: one person's smoke can be another person's pollution, so responsible behaviour is the key. Dead trees will be removed to improve air flow, hedges cut and broken fences replaced so that this lovely site will continue to remain an attractive and productive area.

Enquires about the availability of plots should be made to the Council Offices.



Cllr. Olive Conway



Tring Together sets up home at the Nora Grace Hall

by Vivianne Child

In April 2014, Tring Together moved to the Nora Grace Hall; it was one of those 'win-win' situations you read about. The central body of the Red Cross had made a decision to stop being involved in halls (UK-wide, not just in Tring). Tring Town Council had always owned the land but now had the added challenge of owning the building, and Tring Together were looking for a home in the centre of town. Nearly two years on, and the hall is going strong, with a top team of caretaker Marc, 'Queen of bookings' Debs and a contact list of 47 regular groups that use it.

The Nora Grace Hall team have learned a lot. The hall may look quite robust from a distance and many people have fond memories of the original local fundraising star Nora Grace, but structurally we've had some challenging moments around a leaking roof and some non-cooperating outside lights. We are very grateful to the ever patient Town Clerk, Town Warden and Tring Town Council who have brought the hall up to scratch with external painting and new electrical safety measures. Thanks also to the voluntary Red Cross committee who, although now in retirement, are still very much in the wings to offer advice and support.

Fast forward to 2017 when the three-year agreement between Tring Together and Tring Town Council will be up for review. We are developing a shared vision for this town centre amenity that feels like a real community hub on its busy days, but still feels a little drab on a rainy Tuesday in January.

The Tring Cinema is going from strength to strength and the hall is home to some groups that have been meeting for decades as well as some groups that started with us in 2016. There is just one mystery remaining.

Where do all the teaspoons go?



WWW.TRINGCINEMA.COM

 [TRINGCINEMA](https://www.facebook.com/tringcinema)

To find out more about the Nora Grace Hall call **01442 828920** or email **info@tringtogether.org.uk**

Financial Matters by Cllr. Penny Hearn

The Finance & Policy Committee has several responsibilities, including the financial control over the Council's activities. During 2016/2017 a 2% increase over last year's precept of £24.67 takes the charge of a band D property to £25.16. This modest increase will contribute towards the necessities and improvements the Town Council will introduce throughout the coming year.

Remedial work at Duckmore Lane grass keep is required with new fencing and reseeded of the pasture at a cost of £1,670. The Council wishes to make internal changes to the layout of the ground floor of the Market House to provide additional and much needed storage to the shop at a cost of £4,000.

The Council has allocated as an earmarked reserve, a sum of £4,000, for a legal challenge to the Travellers' Site proposals included in LA5 and a further £5,000 for the future development of the Nora Grace Hall. (Both these matters are reported more fully on pages 3 and 8 respectively).

Each year the Council sets aside a small budget of £4,000 to help local charities and community groups, if they can show that their activities are of benefit to the local community. If you feel a small grant could benefit your organisation please look on the Council's website to see how to make an application. During the past year support has been given to Tring in Transition, Tring Together (Community Hub research), Royal British Legion, and the Justice & Peace Group.

The Annual Community Award of £300 is presented at the Annual Town Meeting and allows the recipient the opportunity to give the money as a donation to their choice of good causes. Last year's award went to Mrs Doris Bardell.

The grants and endowments the Town Council make to local organisations are specified in the 2016/17 Budget:

- Tring and District Local History Society (annual endowment) £2,000,
- Tring Together (support for Christmas Festival) £1,000 and an office grant of £5,000,
- Tring Youth Town Council £300 and Tring Youth Project to assist in the running of the Temperance Hall Youth Club £5,000

It is pleasing to note that the properties owned by the Council have supplemented the Council's income. Over the years this has allowed us to keep the precept low, while instigating many projects. 2016/17 will be no exception, with many responsibilities falling upon our very able and hardworking staff.

The Finance & Policy Committee deals with all matters relating to our excellent staff team led by Michael Curry our Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk Dawn Slade, Colin Jones the Town Warden and his assistant, Philip Cartwright. Emma Cave is the Clerk to the Youth Town Council. The Information Centre is run by our friendly efficient team, Ray Flanigan, Ruth Higgins, Vicki Elsdon, our volunteer Janet Rigby and on Saturdays Marjorie Swain is on duty.

	2015/16	2016/17
Income		
Precept:	£119,450	£123,587
Grants Received:	£19,778	£19,393
Assets:	£81,761	£83,903
Interest Received:	£110	£143
Total Income	£221,099	£227,026
Expenditure		
Administration:	£131,751	£137,219
Grants:	£17,300	£17,300
Market House:	£13,929	£17,403
Market Place:	£18,717	£18,396
Other Holdings:	£8,526	£8,200
Allotments:	£2,836	£2,560
Open Spaces & Environment:	£6,040	£15,070
Projects:		
Charter Celebrations:	£2,000	£0
Tring Town Plan:	£10,000	£0
Marketing Tring:	£3,000	£0
Charter Contingency:	£7,000	£0
Upgrade of Christmas Light Infrastructure:	£5,000	£0
Total for Projects	£27,000	£0
Total Expenditure	£226,099	£216,148
Surplus/Deficit	-£5,000	£10,878

** £5,000 of the surplus to be earmarked for the future development of the Nora Grace Hall*

Youth Town Council by Emma Cave, Youth Council Clerk

Tring Youth Council has had another busy year with a relatively small group of youngsters working hard to get involved in lots of community events.

The work the group undertakes is fun and productive and gives the young people opportunities to learn about local issues and problem solving in a non-school environment. We meet monthly in the Council Chamber and have elected officers to run the group. These positions, and indeed simply being a member, can show a great deal about a young person's qualities and look great on CVs later in life.

We would welcome new members from the age of 11 to 19 who are interested in organising events for young people in the area and would like to represent the voice of all young people in our community. Our group suits all sorts and you do not have to speak in public or help at every event if you don't want to – just being involved is enough and really rewarding.

We have got involved with the Tring WI this year and taken part in one of their Centenary events. They supported us in our first Bake Off competition! We staged another successful Fun Dog Show at last year's Summer Carnival and with proceeds from these events have made a donation to the local charity Hectors' House whose namesake was a past Youth Councillor.

We are working on improvements to the Skate Park at the moment and looking to stage some evenings to showcase local young bands. We continue to support the Tring Youth Club at the Temperance Hall on Friday evenings.

If you are interested in getting involved we'd love to hear from you soon!

Please contact Emma Cave: emmacave7@hotmail.co.uk or 01442 825968.



Tring Town Council – representing you

John Bowden, Liberal Democrat

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Tring HP23 5DN

john@bowdens.plus.com



I serve on the Planning Committee and on the Buildings & Assets Committee. As an outside interest, I have been Chair of the Management Committee at Tring Community Centre for many years. The Community Centre is a self-funding charity. In my role as Tring Town Councillor I am passionate about representing the best interests of local residents where possible.

Olive Conway, Conservative

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Tring HP23 5HX

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I represent Miswell Ward as a Town Councillor and Tring West & Rural as a Dacorum Borough Councillor. I chair the Allotments Committee and serve on the Buildings & Assets and Finance & Policy Committees.

I work with Tring Charities, Churches Together in Tring and Old Church House. I am also a member of the Justice and Peace Group, a trustee of Tring Youth Project and I chair the Beavers Swimming Club.

Henry Grace, Conservative

Little Tring Farm,
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I represent Bunstrux Ward and I'm a member of the following committees: Allotments & Environment, Planning, Road & Home Safety, Town Plan & Infrastructure. I am the Town Council's representative at the Tring Sports Forum.

My personal interests include the countryside and farming, running, cycling and tennis.

Stephen Hearn, Conservative (Mayor)

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I was born in Wigginton more than three score years and ten ago! My roles are Town Mayor, Town and Dacorum Borough Councillor, Chair of Town Planning, Chair of Road and Home Safety, Chair of Dementia Friendly Communities initiative. I work as Managing Director and Senior Auctioneer of Tring Market Auctions. Likes: Work, cricket, fishing, the countryside, people, grandchildren and helping others.

Penny Hearn, Conservative

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Chairman of the Town Council's Finance Policy Committee and Town Plan and Infrastructure Committee.

Town Council's representative on Tring Charities (a Housing and Education Trust) and The Ladies Section of the Royal British Legion.

Chairman of the Tring Youth Project: we are a small group of Trustees who run a youth club at the Temperance Hall in Christchurch Road. The Tring Youth Project was first introduced by the Town Council in 1992.

Hobbies: Shopping(!) and gardening.

Michael Hicks, Conservative (Deputy Mayor)

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This is my second term as a Town Councillor for Dunsley Ward and I am very pleased to have been Deputy Mayor this year. Last May I became a Dacorum Borough Councillor for Tring West and Rural.

I am chair of the Buildings & Assets Committee and the Tourism Working Party, and as Deputy Mayor I attend all the Council's committees. I am the Council's representative with Tring Together.

With regard to pastimes, I enjoy skiing, cycling and swimming. I enjoy watching rugby (I watch Tring whenever I can). I also enjoy watching live music in Tring.

**Phil Hills,
Conservative**

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Hello, I'm Councillor Phil Hills representing Tring Central Ward elected to the Council in May 2015.

I'm committed to protecting Tring's Green Belt and environment having lived in Tring for the last 33 years.

In my leisure time I like going to live music events and doing plenty of walking.

**Nick Hollinghurst,
Liberal Democrat**

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A Town Councillor, the County Councillor for Tring and a former DBC Councillor with 30 years experience in local government. I served for 8 years on the County's Health Scrutiny Committee and my other interests are in transport, local planning and the environment - I drive an all-electric car.

I represent the Town Council on the Tring Bus Users Group and the Arla Liaison Group, and I am on the Finance & Policy and Town Plan & Infrastructure committees.

**Nigel Nutkins,
Liberal Democrat**

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This is my second term as a Tring Town Councillor. I am a member of the Planning Committee Working Party and of the Road & Home Safety Group. I'm interested in the ecology of our town and animal welfare. I enjoy motorcycling, judo and I do first aid for the Red Cross and with Tring Rugby Club.

**Roxanne Ransley,
Liberal Democrat**

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I am pleased to represent Tring on both the Town Council (Bunstrux Ward) and Dacorum Borough Council (Tring Central). I sit on three Town Council committees: Planning, Allotments and Town Plan & Infrastructure. In 2010/11 & 2013/14 I was Tring Mayor. I represent the Council on the Tring Community Centre Management Committee and with the Farmers' Market.

I am an instructor at Tring Beavers Swimming Club for the Disabled. I also teach adults to swim; I am a Governor of Dundale School and a social member of Tring Squash Club.

**Christopher Townsend,
Liberal Democrat**

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Tring HP23 4DJ

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I have lived in Tring for over 10 years and have three young children who go to local schools. I believe in communities working well together and that, through the political process, you can make real change. I've served as a Borough Councillor for over eight years and have grown to understand the complexity that besets local government. My mission is to make it all work better, serving the community as a whole.

**Gerald Wilkins,
Conservative**

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I represent Dunsley Ward as a Town Councillor and serve on the Planning Committee and the Allotments Committee. I also represent the Council on the board of Tring & District Local History & Museum Society.

I am Tring Town Council's representative on Dacorum Borough Council's Standards Committee. My interests include farming and the countryside and fly fishing. I'm Honorary Vice-President of Bucks County Show.

2016/2017 *Looking ahead*

with Michael Curry, Town Clerk

It's fitting to finish this edition of the Town Crier with a look ahead at what is looming on the horizon. Hopefully the preceding articles have demonstrated some of the work that has gone into implementing the Town Plan. Bringing the balance of the actions to completion, with the help of Dacorum Borough Council's generous grant, will be a major part of the Council's work in the coming year. Improving the footpath from New Mill into the town jointly with Dacorum Borough Council and the Canal and River Trust is one of the tasks.



Whilst the anniversary theme of 2015/16 continues with the Queen's 90th birthday (there is also the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare), the Town Council is facing some important strategic issues – not something you tend to associate with town and parish councils.

The first concerns the inclusion of the Travellers' Site in the proposed development between the Aylesbury Road and Icknield Way (Local Area 5 in planning parlance). Tring Town Councillors, local Dacorum Borough Councillors and the local Hertfordshire County Councillor are all in agreement that the proposed site is wrong. The purpose is incompatible with a prime gateway location. All are committed to oppose this aspect of the development.

Everyone is aware of the cuts in local government finances. Roads are not being repaired, hedges and verges not cut, and drains not cleared. Increasingly town and parish councils have to undertake tasks which are not their responsibility and cost money. Collaborative working with our partners can find solutions to delivering services locally in a cost-effective way. Retaining the services provided at the Tring Clinic is an example. The preparation of the Town Plan gave the Town Council a good indication of what residents thought was important and, hence, a guide to the services it should try to protect. The Council's decision to increase the precept through a 2% increase in the Band D tax rate was a direct response to this challenge in order to build the reserves to enable it to take on such tasks.

Finally the Council is always concerned that it is getting the best use for the community from its assets. The articles on Church Square and the Nora Grace Hall are examples. But success brings its own challenges. For instance, the Nora Grace Hall clearly has a limited lifespan and there will come a time when it will not be cost-effective to patch the roof again. How can we replace it? Thinking about it now, not when it happens, is clearly a good starting point.

There is one thing that is certain for 2016/17 – I'll be busy ...!

More on Charter 700

To have a look online at the 'photobook of the year' that was kindly funded by Tring Lions, go to www.tringtogether.co.uk

And for more Tring history, download the Tring Heritage Trail app to your smartphone or tablet.



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