

NOW – THE BLEAK MID WINTER

With Christmas now another year away, the decorations back in the attic and the diet a good intention for another day, we are left looking at the stark realities of what 2009 might bring. The media are predicting hard times ahead and the realities of redundancies and the loss of cornerstones of our society such a Woolworths will impact upon our town.

Over many years Tavistock has been much vaunted for its community spirit, its vibrancy and with the Pannier Market as its jewel in the crown. Well maybe now is the time to show the substance behind the claims and the Town Council has set about tackling this.

It has decided that a positive first step would be to take a look at itself and so has embarked upon a 'Best Value Review' of its own democratic processes. This is timely in the light of the Boundary Committee's review on the feasibility of a Council for a Unitary Devon, due to the Secretary of State on the 13 February 2009. In particular, the Town Council's review will encompass challenging the need to: Own and manage its legislative and other functions, decide if these processes are utilised to their best advantage for the Town and examine and comment upon the financial aspects of these services. The Review Committee will also seek ways in which to work with schools' senates and councils to widen opportunities for youth involvement and scrutinize the support offered to new councillors with an induction programme and IT training. It will also look again at all previous best value reviews it has undertaken on its services and review such recommendations that had been forthcoming and consider the progress that has been made. Any outstanding issues would be set into a programme for continuous monitoring.

It is planned that the completed Democratic Processes Best Value Review will be presented for the meeting of Council on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

This would allow for any recommendations adopted to be implemented in the forthcoming Council year.

As well as putting itself under the spotlight, the Town Council is about to launch a new edition of the official 'Town Guide'. This booklet is available free and is circulated through the Tourist Information Centres nationwide, the Pannier Market and local businesses, including estate agents, hotels and other tourist establishments. We endeavour to make it available to those looking to re-locate to the area and potential tourists as well as local people who are looking for local information –

see more in our Spring edition!

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SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Medieval Banquet
Friday 20 February 7.30 p.m. – Town Hall
- Easter Bonnet Competition
Saturday 11 April – Pannier Market
- 40's Night
Saturday 25 April 7.30 p.m. – Town Hall
- Tavistock Garden Festival
Sunday 24th & Monday 25th May -
Pannier Market and Bedford Square
- Craft & Collectibles Fair
Sunday 24th & Monday 25th May - Town Hall

*For further information/tickets for these events
please 'phone the Council offices on 01822 613529*

IN THE PIPELINE!

Anyone who has ever been involved in budgetting will recall that, with the first stirrings of spring, thoughts are apt to turn to plans for the forthcoming financial year. Monies still available (very little in these straightened times) and jobs to be completed need reviewing, but plans made for the new budget give impetus and renewed optimism.

The improved and new lighting along St. John's Walk, Benson's Meadow and Pearse Meadow is now complete and the replacement, innovative gates at various entrances to the Meadows are much admired.

Last autumn saw the opening of the 'trim trail' in the Meadows. It was initially met with mixed feelings, but it was very soon seen to be very well used and interestingly, by a wide range of ages, with the occasional

councillor taking a turn. Plans for replacement equipment in the children's play park are on-going and, along with all our play parks, are subject to a rolling programme of maintenance and weekly checks to ensure all is in satisfactory working order. So far, so good. However, the Council has recognised that all these improvements are not enjoyed to their best advantage when they have to be approached on the broken, pot-holed and uneven path. Monies from the 2009/2010 have therefore been allocated to re-surface the main path from West Bridge to the Jubilee Arch. Works will include measures to prevent cracking and with edging to the riverside as well as the camber of the path set to flow off towards the river, thus allowing the removal of the existing ineffective drainage system.

So – no more in that particular pipeline then!

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

There surely has to be a bright side and both councillors and staff at the Town Council are as committed as ever to the vibrancy and community spirit of Tavistock. The following article refers to how busy the Town Hall has been and we at the Council are endeavouring to continue this trend in the less popular months of late winter, so we invite you to our Medieval Banquet on 20th February for an evening of victuals, much merriment and frivolity – just £20 a ticket and on sale now!

The ever popular 40's night is on 24th April, with all the atmosphere and fun that it invokes.

Full details and tickets for these events are available from the Town Hall (01822 617232) the Pannier Market (01822 611003) and the Council Offices (01822 613529).

* *Don't forget*

*2009 Garden Festival in the Pannier Market
Sunday 24th & Monday 25th May*

DOINGS AT THE TOWN HALL

The Town Hall has had its busiest run up to winter for many years. Along with the regular bookings for dinners and balls, there have been successful Christmas events including craft and gift fairs. The last few winters have seen the Town Hall undergoing some major refurbishment, including the completely new kitchen, the repairs to the ceiling of the main hall, as well as redecoration and new window and stage curtains. This investment, envisaged to provide long term benefits for our users, have already proved to be an attraction

For those looking for a beautiful venue, at an attractive price, in the centre of town. This is reflected in the number of wedding receptions we have hosted over the last twelve months and we hope to continue to improve on what we can offer for these and other important events. Meanwhile, we are starting the year off with a Mediaeval Banquet on the 20 February, with wandering minstrels, poems and other entertainment, as well as hearty food in the Medieval style.

See page 1 for contact details.

MAS South West – Who are they and What do they do?

The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) helps manufacturing businesses in the region to improve their productivity and competitiveness - much needed skills in this time of recession.

Established by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), MAS South West is one of ten such regions.

Central to the success of MAS is the dedicated team of specialists that work across the region. Each specialist has worked within manufacturing and offer years of experience. Working alongside a network of world-class associates throughout the region and beyond, they have the skills and knowledge to tackle even the most complex issues.



Set up six years ago, MAS is there to serve the 12,000 or so manufacturing businesses in the South West that generate more than £11 billion for the local economy and employ nearly 300,000 people. Since its launch, it has achieved a huge amount, including:

- Advice and information to more than 2,000 organisations.
- 875 visits to manufacturers.
- Delivered over 4,300 days of best practice modules and workshops.
- Saved more than £60 million across 415 businesses.
- Organised 400 events, attracting nearly 8,000 attendees.

MAS South West Has been successful in bidding for a third contract to deliver the service from 2008 to 2011. The new contract, awarded by the South West Rural Development Agency, covers all the aspects of support to manufacturers that has been delivered so successfully over the last six years as well as new services which will complement existing support in operational

efficiency, people and skills development and business growth and innovation.

Responsive services and programmes include

Operational Improvement – Tailored on-site support to enable manufacturers to improve productivity, cut costs and reduce waste to build cash wealth.

Lean Enterprise and Resource Efficiency – support in applying lean thinking beyond the shop floor to help improve resource efficiency by reducing wasted energy, materials and other emissions.

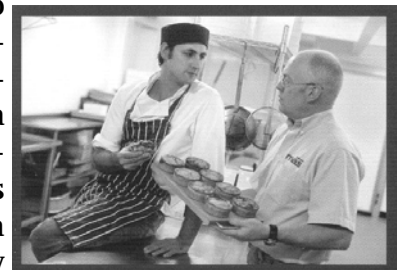
Strategic Support – helping ambitious manufacturers turn growth aspirations into reality, this flexible programme enables businesses to identify paths and barriers to growth and embrace knowledge-intensive, value-added manufacturing.

Leadership – strategic and operational leadership programmes to develop skills and confidence of managers, executives and decision makers.

New Product Development – supporting businesses to develop new products and review and improve their development processes, from design to production.

Supply Chain Development – working with a host company and engaging with its manufacturing supply chain to make business improvements across the supplier network.

Sourcing and Spare Capacity – helping manufacturers to find new materials or components through a web based enquiry service as well as offering a spare capacity posting facility.



Interested in learning more?

Contact 0845 608 3838

or visit their website on www.swmas.co.uk

MOVES TO COMBAT THE RECESSION AT THE MARKET

The market was very busy in the lead up to Christmas and considering the present climate, the market stalls are being filled very well. It is also encouraging to note that there are a promising number of enquiries for potential traders for 2009. Looking back over 2008 has made us realise yet again what an important role the market plays in the town. We have referred to our coach drivers' scheme in previous issues, whereby coach tours based in Torbay are circulated with fliers advertising the town and trips are organised to Tavistock, with the Pannier Market being high on the agenda of places not to be missed. This year has seen some 317 visiting coaches, equating to approximately 12,750 visitors.

Eddie Carruthers, Market Reeve and Mike Souttar as Deputy are always thinking of ways to improve the attraction of the market and this year they have had many and various events such as an auction for Shelter Box which raised approximately £2,000 and a Food and Gift Fair at the end of November. There was Santa Claus and his elf, Peter Gorton from the Horn of Plenty, with cookery demonstrations and advice and the Stannary Brass Band. This event raised £1,200 for the Children's Hospice.

None of this would be achieved without the support and ingenuity of the Market staff and the unfailing generosity of the traders.

A very sincere thank you to everyone. We look forward to your innovative ideas for

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

One of the highlights for the Mayoress and myself was the visit to Celle for the consecration of the newly cast bell of peace. As a retired railwayman, the dedication of a new railway power car "Celle" celebrated during the same visit, was of particular interest. Other highlights include presentations to our Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Dickensian Evening was a great success and we attended many carol services over the

My wife Diana and I have been invited to act as King and Queen at a Medieval Banquet on the 20 February in the Town Hall, which we hope will prove to be a great success.

We are also preparing for the Civic Ball in March and the visit of the Mayor of Pontivy and his delegation for this special occasion, which will also see the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Twinning.

With best wishes,

Cllr. Robin Pike, Mayor of Tavistock.

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr D Best	613902	Cllr Mrs J Ramsey	07957711348
Cllr Mrs M Govier – Dep Mayor	617864	Cllr E Sanders	614308
Cllr M Harper	616367	Cllr P Sanders	612265
Cllr C Jenkins	615106	Cllr Mrs D Sellis	612153
Cllr I. Jennings	613330	Cllr J. Sellis	612153
Cllr Mrs A Johnson	613807	Cllr H Smith	613118
Cllr Mrs J Metcalf	615293	Cllr E Sherrell	612939
Cllr R Pike – Mayor	612456	Cllr B Trew	611320
		Cllr D Whitcomb	617875

CONTACTS

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Superintendent,

Works Depot

Tel: 01822 618116

Market Reeve,

Pannier Market

Tel: 01822 611003

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Town Hall

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SEE US ON THE WEB

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CONTRIBUTIONS & COMMENTS

ALWAYS WELCOME – CONTACT

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