We will remember

laid on behalf of
the residents of Oundle,
Oundle Town Councillors & Council staff

[Signature]
Ten Hayes

Oundle Oracle
December 2014
Oundle Town Council Newsletter
**Mayor's Report**

The greatest honour of the Mayoral year is laying a wreath on your behalf at the Remembrance Sunday parade. Getting it right is important, particularly with family members still living in Oundle, which makes this the most nerve wracking occasion too. This year’s parade, organised by the Oundle branch of the Royal British Legion, was particularly poignant. During the reading of letters from and to Charles, a Northamptonshire soldier who was killed in October 1914 at the first battle of Ypres aged 17, a biplane flew overhead.

The budget for the next financial year has to be agreed by mid January. This means that the run up to Christmas is particularly busy for Councillors and staff involved. The exercise will be even more difficult than usual this year. Tenants and hirers will move from the Courthouse and Queen Victoria Hall to Fletton House. The speed that we can fill the empty space is an unknown factor. Therefore income will be difficult to predict.

£7000 of your money has been spent on changes to the Christmas lights display. See how they look at the switch on at 6pm on Saturday December 6th. We have earmarked £5000 of your reserves to secure a stage of the Friends Life Women’s Tour 2015 if Northamptonshire is chosen again. The organisers make their announcements in January.

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The main role of Mayor is to lead the business of your Council. The Mayor is also invited to many charity events and Civic Services throughout the county and beyond. I am organising a Charity Concert on Saturday January 17th in aid of CHAT Youth Counselling Agency and Volunteer Action. See page 10 for details.

Supporting Oundle events always comes first and I have gained extra pleasure when this has been at organisations I have been involved with for many years. For example Oundle Town Cricket Club invited me to speak at their Junior Award Presentation evening at the end of another successful season. I am looking forward to seeing the play of more of these young men and women as they join the seniors at Milton Road.

I was delighted to host a reception at the Courthouse on November 6th for Margaret Venables, President of the British and International Federation of Festivals, who had travelled from North Yorkshire to present Oundle Festival of Music and Drama with a Gold Award for excellence. Presenting the certificate to Chairman Andrew Spurrell she praised all those involved in keeping up the high standards that the Award demands.

**Season's Greetings**

Cllr. Gwen Radcliffe
Make your voice count

The Questionnaire is an essential part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. The cost has been funded by a Government grant. It asks for your views on the topics which are the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan.

The results of this consultation should be with us in February, analysed by an independent firm. A public event will then be organised.

If you need support to complete the Questionnaire, there are volunteers who will help.

Extra copies are available and there is an online version on our website www.oundle.gov.uk

Please return the Questionnaire by December 15th to
Courthouse  Library  Medical Centre  Oundle News  Smiths at No. 4

Election Countdown

The idea of service to the community may be a little lost in the contemporary emphasis on entrepreneurial values. What people should think about is the immense personal satisfaction you may find working as a member of Oundle Town Council.

This is a fantastic community, with so much to offer and to enjoy. Oundle is a delightful place to live, work and do business – and the councillors work hard to try to ensure this is maintained. Councillors work to ensure appropriate representation of the interests of all members of the community.

There are no exams needed to be a councillor...the only qualification a councillor needs is an enthusiasm for Oundle. If you want to be a Councillor you need to decide to stand for election by April 2015.

Contact Debra Harper, Town Clerk: 01832 272055

A date for your 2105 Diary

Your Annual Town Meeting takes place on Thursday, April 30th at 7.30pm in the Queen Victoria Hall

Fletton House

Councillors, consultants and contractors met on November 10th to get the second phase of construction underway. Phase 1 asbestos removal works are complete. After successful fund raising the programme now includes roof works and replacement windows. As a result, the programme has been extended from March 2015 to May 2015.

Inspector Rejects Planning Appeal

An appeal against the refusal of an application for outline planning permission for the residential development of land between St. Christopher’s Drive and the A605 bypass has been rejected. The Town Council opposed the appeal and was represented at the hearing by the Chair of its Planning Committee, Councillor David Chapple.

The land in question was not allocated in the Rural North Oundle and Thrapston Plan for development in the period to 2021 and as East Northamptonshire Council could demonstrate that it had at least a five year deliverable supply of land for housing the Inspector decided that the appeal should be dismissed. The Town Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will allocate the land required for housing for the period 2021 to 2031.

Oundle Verges

Oundle Town Council has applied to become the responsible authority for highway verges in the town. The three cuts a year, currently organised by NCC Highways, is for the safety of road users. A higher level of verge maintenance would cost OTC an extra £3800 next year.

Nationally Local Councils are being challenged by a growing movement of campaigners, such as Alan Titchmarsh, to allow verges to be a haven for bees and other pollinators. ‘However, councils must strike the right balance between road safety and wildlife. Keeping road verges well maintained ensures that motorists have a good line of sight and allows pedestrians to walk more safely alongside busy roads,’ said Mike Jones, Local Government Association.

Oundle Town Council will be working with its contractors to achieve the right balance.
### January

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<tr>
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| Fri. 16th | Farmers Market                                                        | Ursula Buchan discusses the enduring appeal of John Buchan and The Thirty-Nine Steps  
St Peter’s Church, Oundle  Time: 19.30 |
| Sat. 17th | Mayor’s Charity Concert                                                | St Peter’s Church, Oundle  Time: 19.45                                  |
| Wed. 28th to Sat. 31st | Oundle Amateur Theatrical Society’s ever-popular annual pantomime. Featuring local adult and junior actors, and dancers from Oundle School of Ballet. | Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle  Time: 19.30 and Sat matinee |

### February

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<tr>
<td>Fri. 6th</td>
<td>Lit Fest event</td>
<td>Rusty Players</td>
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| Sat. 7th | Farmers Market                                                        | Matthew Jukes’ Australian Wines Roadshow  
Great Hall, Oundle  Time: 19.30 |
| Wed. 11th | Farmers Market                                                     | Yeoman of the Guard  
Oundle Gilbert & Sullivan Players perform the witty, amusing opera set in the the 16th century at the Tower of London.  
Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle  Time: 19.30 |
| Sat. 14th | Farmers Market                                                        | 2015 Exhibition opens at Museum                                      |
| Mon. 23rd to Sat. 28th | 2015 Exhibition opens at Museum                                       | The Festival’s Kid Lit programme offers a fantastic line-up of children’s authors invited especially for their ability to engage and inspire children.  
Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle  Time: 19.30 |

### March

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| Sat. 7th | Farmers Market                                                        | Wellness Fair  
Queen Victoria Hall |
| Mon. 9th to Fri. 13th | Kid Lit                                                                 |                                    |
| Sat. 14th | Farmers Market                                                        | Lit Fest event |
| Sat. 21st | Wellness Fair                                                        | 2015 Exhibition opens at Museum                                      |

### April

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| Sat. 11th | Farmers Market                                                        | Stamford Arts and Crafts Guild Fair  
Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle |
| Wed. 15th to Sat. 18th | Oundle Festival of Music & Drama                                       | Oundle Festival of Music & Drama  
Queen Victoria Hall and Oundle School |
| Sat. 18th | Italian Market                                                        | Lit Fest event  
Oundle Festival of Music & Drama  
Queen Victoria Hall and Oundle School |
| Mon. 27th | Lit Fest event                                                        | Annual Town Meeting  
Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle  Time: 19.30 |
| Thu. 28th | Annual Town Meeting                                                   |                                        |

### May

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| Thu. 7th | Election                                                               | The Flautadors - Music for the Queen of Scots  
St. Mary & All Saints Church, Fotheringhay  Time: 19.30 |
| Fri. 8th | Farmers Market                                                        | Farmers Market  
St. Mary & All Saints Church, Fotheringhay  Time: 19.30 |
| Sat. 9th | First meeting of new Town Council                                     | First meeting of new Town Council  
St Peter’s Church, Oundle |
| Tue. 12th | Around Britain in Song                                                | Around Britain in Song  
Rita Cullis soprano, Alec Hone piano  
Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Titchmarsh  Time: 19.30 |
| Sat. 9th to Sun. 17th | Oundle Art Group Event                                               |                                        |
| Fri. 22nd | Mediterranean Market                                                  | Mediterranean Market  
Oundle School Chapel  Time: 19.30 |

### March

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| Fri. 5th | Randers Chamber Orchestra                                              | Randers Chamber Orchestra  
Time: 19.30 |
| Sat. 6th | Mediterranean Market                                                  | Mediterranean Market  
Oundle School Chapel  Time: 19.30 |
| Sat. 13th | Friends Life Women’s Tour of Britain                                  | Friends Life Women’s Tour of Britain  
Queen Victoria Hall |
| Wed. 17th to Sun. 21st | Friends Life Women’s Tour of Britain                                 |                                        |
| Sat. 27th | Summer Show                                                           | Gilbert & Sullivan Summer Show  
Queen Victoria Hall |
| Sun. 28th | Summer Show                                                           | Gilbert & Sullivan Summer Show  
Queen Victoria Hall |

### Further Information

www.oundle.info
I'm Adam Simmonds, your **Police and Crime Commissioner**.

It is my role to work with the Chief Constable and Northamptonshire Police, to cut crime and make our communities safer.

A large part of my role is setting the strategic priorities of the Northamptonshire Police for which the Chief Constable has responsibility to ensure their successful implementation. To do this effectively, it is vital that local communities are involved wherever possible.

I want Northamptonshire to be the safest place in the country and I am confident that we can achieve this. When I was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire in November 2012, I set out the strategic priorities in my Police and Crime Plan. These included a 40% reduction in violent crime; making Northamptonshire’s roads safer, addressing the complex issues of rural crime and a large expansion of the Force’s Special Constabulary. My full plan can be viewed at: [http://www.northantspcc.org.uk](http://www.northantspcc.org.uk).

Since November 2012, the Force has made great strides in achieving the ambitious targets that I set out in my Police and Crime Plan. However, to build on this success, it is important that communities such as Oundle are involved and able to have their say and provide feedback to enable us to improve further and make progress.

I invite you to contact me with any concerns or share your feedback on the policing of Oundle, or the wider county. Please contact me on [commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk). Alternatively, you can write to me at Force Headquarters, Wootton Hall, NN4 0JQ. I very much look forward to hearing from you.

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Oundle Town Council is gathering information about how the playing field behind Abbott House has been used by the community, other than for Primary School sport. Do you remember organising or taking part in community activities or teams there? Perhaps you kicked a ball around, unofficially?

If so, please contact [admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk) or ring 272055

PS. Queen’s Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977 already logged by Mayor

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**Springfield Garden work begins!**

After 4 years negotiation with previous owners Spire Homes, the garden land has been kindly ceded by them to Oundle Town Council, with a grant of £2,000.

Professional plans, drawn up by local landscape architect Charles Clay, have been carried out and the basic ground-works have been completed. Our heartfelt thanks, to Charles, for his time and expertise, and to Garry Kruger, local landscape gardener, who completed the ground-works at cost.

Members of the community of Rock Road and Springfield Road planned to commence tree and shrub planting in November, and by Spring 2015 hope to have an emerging Community Garden!

This is an Oundle Transition Community Project being carried out with the kind cooperation of Oundle Town Council and Spire Homes.

Continued development will be Community led.

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Oundle and the surrounding Police area has been selected as the pilot area for the Futures Project which is focused on developing a ‘Community Hub’ - Community based approach to improve the ‘quality of life’. The area is benefitting from an increase of 9 PCSOs who are working with the existing team to conduct ‘intensive engagement’ canvassing the Community for information on how the Police and Community can work better together.

We are also piloting the joint Police / Fire Rural Intervention vehicle which sees a Police Constable working in an operational setting alongside a Fire Officer.

There is a vision to introduce a Parish Constable to each Town and Village across the area, who can be tasked by both the Police and the Town / Parish Councils to ensure local issues are addressed.

Volunteers, such as Neighbourhood Watch, are going to play a key role in the Futures project. The increase in each of these volunteer schemes will see an improved Policing footprint creating greater intelligence gathering opportunities and increased potential to arrest or disrupt offenders by use of intelligence led Policing.

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Are you or anyone you know interested in becoming a Special Constable based in Oundle? Contact me at: [commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk).

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**Policing in Oundle**

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**Green Spaces**

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Friends of Oundle

“I am compiling a list of people who would like to be on a database of event volunteers. I like to call it becoming “Friends of Oundle.” If you are interested in being included then please contact me paula@oundle.gov.uk. I will occasionally ask if you would like to take part in something and then you can choose if you want to. It is a lovely way to meet people and a great help to support this beautiful place we live in. Thank you.”

Paula Prince, Events Officer

Oundle Festival of Music & Drama
April 15th - April 18th 2015
Affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals
Syllabus available from Oundle Bookshop
Closing date for entries ~ Jan 28th
Find out how you could enter or join our gold award winning team of volunteers at www.ofmd.org.uk

Among the more interesting items acquired and displayed by Oundle Museum during the past year is an intriguing silver seal ring found at Barnwell. The Museum is grateful to the land-owner where the ring was found for the donation of his share of the treasure trove price.

Its background is a combination of history and legend. Inscribed “Bereng Gaius”, it belonged to a member of the Le Moyne family: the builders of Barnwell Castle in the thirteenth century. Apparently, Sir Berengar was known as “Berenger the Black”. Legend has it that he fell out with his brother over the affections of a local lass, killed his brother and walled him up in the castle! However, it is known that, having fallen into debt he took himself off to the crusades. History does not record his return.

Would you like to share stories like this?
Why not become a Museum steward?
This involves three hours at a weekend on two or three occasions between March and November.

See our NEW Improved web site www.oundlemuseum.org.uk for contact details.

John Hadman

Mayor’s Charity Concert
Saturday January 17th, 7.45pm
St. Peter’s Church, Oundle
in aid of
CHAT Youth Counselling & Volunteer Action
performers include
2013 & 2014 Oundle Young Musicians & Young Singers
Oundle School Ensembles

Tickets £10 & £5 (child) - From Oundle Box Office
Oundle Box Office, 4 New St. Mon to Fri 10.00am – 1.00pm
Tel : 274734, or online at www.oundlefestival.org.uk

Planning a wedding in 2015?
Check out the
Queen Victoria Hall
An outstanding venue for both public and private events
To find out more about booking contact admin@oundle.gov.uk or phone 272055

A Handful of Harmonies
A Handful of Harmonies is a singing group for women of all ages. There are no auditions, no solo singing and no backing tracks. The session music is always live and tailored to the group. Sessions are fun and offer a chance to meet new friends.

Why not come to a practice session and see if it’s for you?
Fotheringhay Village Hall, Main Street, Fotheringhay, PE8 5HZ
Thursdays from 7.00pm to 8.30pm during term time.
Call Andrew on 01778 345857 or visit www.handfulofharmonies.co.uk

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John Hadman
You are most welcome to attend all Council and Committee meetings.
Meetings are held at the Courthouse at 7.30pm on Tuesdays.
Agendas are displayed on the Courthouse noticeboard and posted on www.oundle.gov.uk by 6pm on the Friday before the meeting.
A public participation spot is provided for you towards the beginning of each meeting for contributions relating to the agenda.

You do not have to give advance notice to speak at the following meetings.

**Council:**  Dec 16th - Jan 20th - Feb 17th - Mar 17th

**Estate Management:**  Dec 9th - Feb 10th

**Operations Management:**  Wed, Dec 3rd - Jan 13th - Mar 10th

If you wish to speak at a Planning Committee meeting you are asked to contact the Town Clerk, Debra Harper, at least 48 hours in advance. This will allow the Clerk to make any necessary arrangements.

Representations on Planning matters are restricted to 2 minutes.

**Planning Committee:**  Dec 2nd - Jan 6th - Feb 3rd - Mar 3rd

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**Your Town Councillors 2014-2015**

- David **CHAPPLE**  273877
- Val **CHESSER**  272217
- Moira **CLARKE**  270274
- Chris **ELLIOT**  275333
- Ann **FITZGERALD**  270849
- Paul **KING**  07970 946555
- VACANCY

- Neville **OAKES**  275818
- Sue **OAKES**  275818
- Brian **PEARSON**  272790
- Gwen **RADCLIFFE**  273191
- Philip **ROSE**  272520
- Roy **SPARKES**  07904 463707
- Terry **STAGG**  273774

**Council Office Open:** Monday to Friday, 9am - 2pm

**Christmas Closure from noon on Dec 24th to 9am on Jan 5th**

Oundle Town Council,  
The Courthouse  
Mill Road,  
Oundle  
PE8 4BW

admin@oundle.gov.uk  
www.oundle.gov.uk  
Tel:- 01832 272 055