



# Harwich Town Council

## Newsletter - Spring 2023



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023. The Mayor of Harwich together with members from Harwich Town Council wish all of our residents a very Happy New Year. Our aim here at HTC is to keep you all updated from the past few months and looking ahead to a prosperous and eventful 2023!



In September of 2022, Queen Elizabeth II sadly passed away and Harwich Town Council played tribute in King Charles III's accession to the throne. Many residents attended the Mayor's Garden playing homage in marking this moment in history together with paying due respects to our late Sovereign. A national event which will be remembered forever, Harwich Town Council thanks her majesty for her lifetime of service to our country and reflects upon her visit to Harwich in 2004, her presence

within the council filled many with wonderful memories.

Harwich celebrated Christmas with a bang in the latter part of 2022 with the Dovercourt Town Centre playing host in celebrating all things festive. Harwich Town Council's Mayor Cllr. Ivan Henderson can be seen pictured right aided by the support of local children in the great Christmas lights switch on. Many came to support the event and enormous thanks go to the Dovercourt Town Centre, Sally Goff and her team for all their efforts in organising a fantastic event.



© Photo Courtesy of Cllr. I Henderson

### Wednesday 1st

February 2023 saw the 70th Anniversary of the 1953, North Sea Floods. Residents of Harwich, together with family members of those lost in this tragic event came together in commemoration of the frightful night from seven decades ago. The beautifully moving church service took place in St Nicholas Church with tributes read from survivors, family members of the victims and a reflection from the High Sherriff of Essex, whose father played an integral role in the



01 FEB 2023 - Harwich Flood Memorial Rededication - Photo © Steve Brading 2023

rescuing of local residents as police commissioner. The Mayor of Harwich can be seen left cutting the ribbon in opening the newly finished garden and Harwich Town Council warmly thanks everyone who aided the creation of this memorial garden that offers a place for people to visit in reflection, in memory and in peace.

### A word from the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Maria Fowler



The Council's Environment & Community Committee initiated and led a flood memorial garden project working, in partnership, with Tendring Council, Harwich Haven Authority and the Harwich Society. The sundial, mounted on a brick plinth, was donated to Harwich Town Council by former councillor Lawrie Payne and

dedicated on February 1, 2013 to mark the 60th anniversary of the flood. The piece of open space where the memorial stands is owned by Tendring Council and since 2013 has been looked after and maintained by various volunteers including a grandson of one of the victims. The council agreed the space was in need of a redesign to make an area the community could sit, where visitors could learn about the flood and where the sundial memorial was the focal point.

Costing £41,300, the work has been funded by contributions from Tendring Council section 106 money, Harwich Town Council, and Harwich Haven Authority funded the audio post.

Relatives of victims and survivors joined town officials, funders, and members of the public for the ceremony. A reception followed in the 1912 Centre, with an exhibition presented by Harwich Town Council's volunteer archivists, Ray Plummer and Anne Kemp-Luck. The sphere marks a tragic part of Harwich's history, which caused devastation to the town, and deserves to be placed in a garden suitable to honour the lives lost that night. The memorial is now the centrepiece of the garden, with benches, information boards, lighting, new plantings, and decorative paving with the names of the victims carved into the stones.

**If you would like to invite the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to an event please visit the HTC website for more information.**

© Steve Brading . Photo courtesy of Maria Fowler,

### Council Meetings

All members of the public are welcome to attend any meetings which are held at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich. You can view the agendas prior to the meeting on the Harwich Town Council website which are published a week prior. All questions must relate to items only on the agenda.

**Please note, these meeting dates are subject to change. Keep an eye on the [HTC website](http://www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk) for regular updates.**

**Agendas and Minutes can also be found on the HTC website at**

**[www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk/committees](http://www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk/committees)**

### Harwich Town Council's

### Wednesday Winter Warmer

Between the months of January to March of 2023, HTC opened a warm space within the Park Pavilion and offered members of the community a warm space to come and enjoy free refreshments, activity tables and soup and bread served at lunch time. Special thanks goes to Dale

Cheesman who allowed us utilise the room at the Park Pavilion, HTC Councillors and Jeanette and Peter Standing who stood as friendly, welcoming volunteers on a weekly basis during this time of provision.



© photo courtesy of Jeanette Standing

### Harwich Town Council Grant Funding Awards 2022-2023

NEST—£2000

Ark Family Resource Centre—£950

Harwich Cultural and Community Projects—£4334

### Dates for your diary

**Tues 14th March –7.00pm**—Annual Parish Meeting

**Thurs 25th May –11.00am**—Mayor Making

**Sat 6th—Mon 8th May**—King Charles III's Coronation

**Sat 9th and Sun 10th Sep**—Heritage Open Day (Guildhall)



The Guildhall is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of

**9.30am –1.30pm**

Any enquiries for tour bookings please contact the office on 01255 507211.

### Harwich Town Council Website

**DID YOU KNOW...**

Harwich Town Council is proud to announce it has a brand new website. Information can be found here with HTC's meeting calendar, useful links, an exciting 'What we DO' page and much more.

[www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk)





**Next edition due  
for publication  
Autumn 2023**



**Warm Spaces in  
Harwich and Dovercourt**

**Park Pavilion** - Every Wednesday 11.00am-1.00pm until 29th March 23,  
free hot drinks and hot lunch provided

Contact Marie 01255 507211 (option 4)

**All Saints Church**—Tuesdays 10.30am-2.00pm

Contact Joan on 07790451024

**The Friendly Kitchen at Dovercourt Central Church**—from Monday 6th February  
and thereafter every Monday 1.00pm-5.00pm, a free hot meal provided

Contact Hazel 07706932039 or Margaret 07950516995

**The Lounge at Esplanade Hall**—Tuesdays 7.00-8.30pm and

Thursdays 10.00am-2.00pm

**Harwich Arts & Heritage Centre**—Monday– Friday 10.00am-4.00pm  
and every other 3rd Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm

**Harwich Library**—Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm  
and Saturdays 9.00am-5.00pm




**Is it time to start talking about the elephant in the room?**

Have you considered your plans for future care?

Talk to your loved ones about your priorities for your future healthcare, then ask your GP about the **My Care Choices Register**.



**MY CARE CHOICES REGISTER**

[www.mycarechoices.online](http://www.mycarechoices.online)

**Walking in Essex**

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex) has many free walks to download and print. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place for all to access.

**Elections May 2023**

Elections come around again in May, with voters heading to the polls to choose their representatives on Harwich Town Council on Thursday, 4 May. This year, some things will be different:

**Voter ID**

The government has introduced new security measures which means voters will have to show photoID at the polling station. Acceptable ID will include a passport, photo driving license and a national concessionary bus pass – including expired documents provided they still look like you. The full list will be available on the back of the poll card.

If you do not have any of the photo ID required then you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which will be posted to you. Full details of this national process are available at [www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](http://www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk).

You must be registered to vote before you can apply. Being on the electoral register may also be helpful when you want to get credit for things such as a mortgage or loan.

The easiest way to register is to visit [www.gov.uk/registertovote](http://www.gov.uk/registertovote) - please note that paying council tax does not automatically add you to the electoral register. To vote in the May elections, you must be registered by the end of 17 April.

**Poll cards**

A poll card will be sent to all registered electors at the end of March. These will now be A4 sized and delivered in an envelope.

The poll card is still for information purposes and not a requirement for voting.

Polling stations will be open 7am to 10pm on Thursday, 4 May 2023; however, if you would prefer you can apply for a postal or proxy vote.

Further information can be found by visiting either [www.tendingdc.gov.uk](http://www.tendingdc.gov.uk) or [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)