Horncastle’s Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 April at 7.30pm in the conference hall at Horncastle College in Mareham Road. Everyone is welcome to attend but only people registered as local government electors for the Parish of Horncastle are entitled to speak and vote.

The event is a chance for town electors to discuss parish affairs and to pass resolutions thereon (although such resolutions are not binding on the Town Council). However, the Council particularly welcomes ideas for things that it might look at in terms of forward work and spending.

For more information please contact the Town Clerk on (01507 522957) or by e-mail: info@horncastletowncouncil.co.uk

There’s going to be a right royal celebration in Horncastle in June to mark HM The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. A working group led by town councillors along with interested members of the public and representatives of various organisations has been busy planning a whole range of events over the period Saturday 2 to Tuesday 5 June. The George Jobson Trust has generously funded commemorative mugs for all the younger children in Horncastle which will be distributed prior to the Bank Holiday weekend. Cllr Mrs Fiona Martin, chairman of the working group, commented as we went to press: “Our thanks go out to the businesses and organisations as their response to our appeal has been tremendous”.

Annual Parish Meeting
- Tuesday 24 April

We’re all going to town for the Queen’s Jubilee!
The full programme of events has still to be finalised but this is how it’s looking at present:

**Saturday 2 June**

Morning: Fancy dress parade with floats from Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School in West Street, via Bridge Street, High Street, Bull Ring to The Stanhope Hall in Boston Road. Red, white and blue theme and led by the Julie Deane Dancers. Hand held flags will be available. Open to children, adults, businesses and organisations. Prizes for the best entries in various categories. Entry forms from Houldens newsagents, 17 High Street.

Afternoon: Film show at The Stanhope Hall by Horncastle Transition Towns.

**Sunday 3 June**

Lunchtime: The Great British Sunday Lunch served in two sittings 12 – 1pm & 1pm – 2pm

Afternoon: Tea dance with Ellen Ely providing “Harmonies of Time” starting at 3.30pm. Tickets for these events held at The Stanhope Hall will be available soon. Refreshments by the U3A.

**Monday 4 June**

Afternoon: The Children’s Parties – two sessions, one for under 6 and one for age 7 – 11 both at The Stanhope Hall. The under 6’s will have a Punch & Judy show, music, party games, Burglar Bill and party eats by the Horncastle WI. The 7 – 11’s will also have a disco and other activities.

Evening: A walk around Scrivelsby Park led by Gail Dymoke as part of the Wolds Walking Festival starting at 7pm, followed by the lighting of the official beacon at 10pm and fireworks. Hot dogs and bar.

**Tuesday 5 June**

Morning: The Big British Breakfast at The Stanhope Hall with Scott Dalton of Radio Lincolnshire in attendance.

Afternoon: Film show at The Stanhope Hall.

Evening: Proms on The Wong – bring your own picnic/supper – with Banovallum Brass and local singer Claudia. Bar. Fireworks finale by the Horncastle Lions at 10pm.

As stated, the above is an outline of what is so far planned. The Jubilee Working Group will be producing programmes and flyers nearer the time. If you can offer any help, the group would like to hear from you. Contact Cllr Mrs Fiona Martin or the events co-ordinator, Cllr Bill Aron – details on back page.

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**Summer Festival is on the way**

Horncastle’s Summer Festival will be on Sunday 8 July from 11am until 4pm. Many market stalls and attractions have already been booked and the organisers say that it will be a much bigger event than last year’s. The Christmas Cracker event will be on Sunday 9 December and, again, preparations are well under way.

Stalls are available for both events (at a discount rate for local charitable organisations) – contact Sharon Stevenson on (01507) 524595 for details.

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**You’re welcome**

The Town Council meets every second Tuesday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm at The Stanhope Hall (formerly the old Town Hall) in Boston Road.

Meeting dates for the next few months are as follows: 8 May (annual meeting), 12 June and 10 July.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings and have the opportunity before the actual meeting gets underway to voice any concerns or opinions they may have or to ask questions.
Town Council office hours

The Town Council’s office at the Community Access Point & Library in Wharf Road is open to callers without appointment on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 12 noon. Appointments can be made for outside these hours – please telephone the office to arrange.

Saturday surgeries

Following the successful piloting of a Saturday morning Councillors’ “surgery” scheme, the Town Council has decided to continue it for the foreseeable future. The surgeries are held once a month on the last Saturday from 10am -11am at the CAP & Library in Wharf Road. Future dates are as follows:

- 28 April
- 26 May
- 30 June
- 28 July
- 25 August
- 29 September
- 27 October
- 24 November

There’s no need for an appointment so just turn up and have your say!

Holt Lane update

Following the public inquiry in October into whether the part of Holt Lane that is not currently listed as a public right of way should be so listed, the Planning Inspectorate has decided that there is sufficient evidence of public use to do so.

However, the Inspector made some modifications to the application and these have recently been advertised so that anyone who objects to the proposed changes can make representations.

The closing date for objections was 28 March. If there have been no objections the Inspector will confirm the order that the whole of Holt Lane is a public right of way. This means that the metal fence blocking access from Banovallum Gardens will have to come down and, once again, parents from that area of town will be able to use the Lane as a “safe route” when taking their children to school.

Grants for hedges and woodlands

Lincolnshire County Council is keen to hear from people in Horncastle interested in taking advantage of its hedge and small woodland grant scheme.

Grants of 50% are available towards the cost of trees and rabbit protection used to plant new hedges and small areas of woodland. They are available to farmers and small landowners but not for domestic gardens.

A free advisory service is on offer to help formulate planting designs and work out the number and variety of trees needed. Please contact Matthew Davey at the County Council on (01522) 552349 or e-mail matthew.davey@lincolnshire.gov.uk.
The Cinnamon Trust, a national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets, is looking for new volunteers in the Horncastle area. The charity helps to keep owners and pets together for as long as possible with the aim of relieving the owners of any worries regarding the welfare of their pets both during and after their own lifetime.

Volunteers help in the ways that are most appropriate for them. They visit housebound owners to take their dogs for daily walks, foster pets as one of their family when owners face a spell in hospital, take pets to the vet, clean the budgie's cage and so on.

If you are able to help, please contact Sally Collins on (01736) 758707 or e-mail sally.collins@cinnamon.org.uk. The organisation's website is www.cinnamon.org.uk.

Designated Public Place Order

You may have seen signs around the town centre referring to an “Alcohol control area” but are not sure what that actually means. It's actually another name for a “Designated Public Place Order”.

A DPPO is concerned with controlling the consumption of alcohol in a public place or places so that it does not constitute a nuisance. The one that covers much of Horncastle town centre was introduced a few years ago because there had been problems with alcohol-related disorder or nuisance.

It does not mean that you can’t drink outdoors in those public places. But it does mean that you may be asked to stop drinking by a police officer or police community support officer and to surrender any alcohol in your possession. Failure to comply with the officer’s request could lead to you being arrested and fined up to £500.

Home Office guidance stresses that police powers under a DPPO are not intended to disrupt peaceful activities – such as a family having a picnic with a glass of wine or beer – nor should the police challenge someone consuming alcohol where that person is not actually causing a problem.

But because there is still seen to be a problem, the Town Council has referred the issue to the police and has been told that it is a policing priority for the town. The police have been in talks with the anti-social behaviour team at East Lindsey District Council to look at ways of tackling the problem.

They have also asked that anyone coming across problem street drinking should report the matter to the main police control room by dialling 101.
They walked our streets

In the first of a new series of articles on leading historical figures associated with Horncastle, Cllr Ann Wayne looks at medical pioneer Edward Harrison, MD:

When walking through St Mary’s churchyard in Horncastle I wonder how many people know that the “white painted” house was the first public dispensary in Lincolnshire. It was founded in the late 1700s by Edward Harrison, MD, and supported by Sir Joseph Banks.

Harrison knew that the poor regularly suffered from whooping cough, scarlet fever, typhus, smallpox, cholera and tuberculosis but were unable to afford medical fees. A public dispensary gave them, for the first time, access to treatment by qualified men of medicine. Treatment was free but there were rules to be observed by the patients: they had to provide the vials to contain their medicines and promise to behave decently and soberly.

In the 1790s Edward Jenner was experimenting with cowpox puss to find out whether it could prevent smallpox in humans. This was confirmed in 1798 and Harrison was supplied with cowpox vaccine for use at his dispensary. A free inoculation programme was successfully introduced, putting Horncastle ahead of the game.

While at the dispensary, Harrison also did extensive research into the causes of tuberculosis and related diseases and published a treatise that was still being referred to 50 years later.

Concern for the health of doctors and their families led Harrison to found the Lincolnshire Benevolent Medical Society, one of whose main aims was to supply funds if they became ill, unemployed or died. Also at this time a large number of medical practitioners in Lincolnshire received no formal training so Harrison and other influential figures put a Medical Reform Bill before Parliament. This failed but some of its proposals were contained in a later Bill.

Harrison went on to open a private clinic at his house in West Street for the “mentally deranged”. Later, he paved the way for a change in the treatment of spinal deformities by abandoning the extreme procedures then being used in favour of a course of “spinal manipulation” – similar to modern-day osteopathy.

Harrison and four of his family are buried in St Mary’s churchyard and recently his tombstone was refurbished and moved into the church.

It is thought provoking that great men such as Edward Harrison once walked the streets of our town.

• You can find out more about Edward Harrison from the book “A Victory Over Prejudice - The Life and Times of Edward Harrison, MD”, written by Bob Pendell, and available from Perkins and the Sir Joseph Banks Centre or through the author. Wider afield copies can be ordered through www.edwardharrison.net
CONTACT DETAILS OF YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Horncastle Town Council
Website: http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/horncastle
Address for correspondence: Horncastle Town Council, Horncastle Community Access Point and Library, Wharf Road, Horncastle LN9 5HL. Callers welcome 9am – 12 noon Wednesdays & Thursdays – other times by appointment.

Mrs Gillian Mauger
(Town Clerk) 01507 522957
info@horncastletowncouncil.co.uk
Stuart Goodacre
(Estates Supervisor) 07972 411087

MEMBERS
Cllr W J Aron 01507 523555 / 526951
billandamanda@hotmail.com
Cllr Mrs L A Baker 07914 553996
la.baker@btinternet.com
Cllr R Barker 01507 524453
bark587@aol.com
Cllr Mrs A M Birchall 01507 522144
da@abirchall.plus.com
Cllr M Lamb 07740 023770
lamb1council-info@yahoo.co.uk
Cllr Mrs F M Martin 01507 523387
fionamart@btinternet.com
Cllr S W Newton 01507 522339 / 525384
stephennewton@cupits.co.uk
Cllr D Roark
(Chair & Town Mayor) 01507 526958
david.roark@tesco.net
Cllr R W Stephens 01507 525321
roger.st@btinternet.com
Cllr Mrs S Campbell Wardman 01507 527241
sandra.campbell-wardman@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Cllr Mrs A C Wayne 01507 527366
ann.wayne@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr M Wilkinson 01507 523205
matt.romy@yahoo.co.uk

East Lindsey District Council
East Lindsey District Council, Tedder Hall, Manby Park, Louth, Lincolnshire LN11 8UP. Telephone: 01507 601111

Cllr Mrs S Campbell Wardman 01507 527241
sandra.campbell-wardman@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Cllr Mrs F M Martin 01507 523387
fiona.martin@e-lindsey.gov.uk
Cllr S W Newton 01507 522339 / 525384
stephen.newton@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL. Telephone: 01522 552222

Cllr W J Aron 01507 523555 / 526951
cllrb.aron@lincolnshire.gov.uk