



The Town Crier Special Edition Dawlish Town Council



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

January 2009

Special Edition

Where to find us:

The Town Council offices located at:

The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish

Open Monday to Friday 9.30a.m. to 12.30p.m. and 1.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.

or telephone 01626 863388 email: townclerk@dawlish.gov.uk



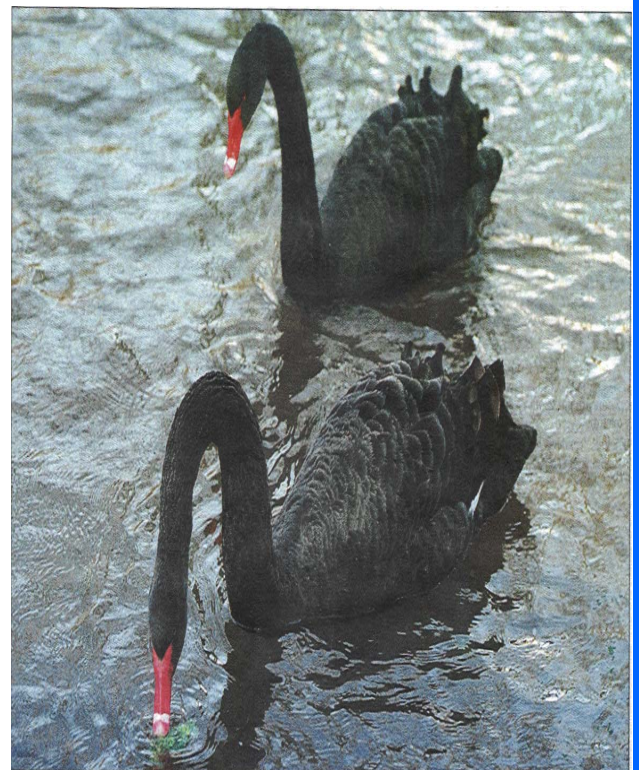
DAWLISH MAY LOSE THE BLACK SWANS

The Environment Agency, the Water Quality 'watchdog' has received complaints from a member of the public in Dawlish that the Town Council does not have a proper disposal system to deal with water from the pond in the waterfowl enclosure at Brunswick Place in Dawlish.



The Environment Agency stated that, under the *Water Resources Act of 1991*, the Town Council must either treat the water to a specified standard before returning it to the brook or connect the pond at the waterfowl enclosure to the nearest foul drain.

Early investigations indicate that this would cost the Town Council around £30,000 if the Water Company agreed to accept a connection. Alternatively, a sealed water collection system will have to be put in place and water tankered away.



The results of the impact study by a public analyst laboratory gives the opinion that the waterfowl pond is not having an adverse affect on the bacteriological quality of the water in Dawlish brook.

The Environment Agency's suggestions for disposal of water from the waterfowl compound will be considered carefully by the Town Council and a way forward will be sought.

Dawlish Town Council is justly proud of the black swans and other ornamental waterfowl which are an important tourist and educational attraction for the seaside town and famous throughout the world.

Councillors fear that the costs of disposal of water from the enclosure, currently estimated at around £30,000 per annum, will be so high that keeping the ornamental waterfowl will prove uneconomic unless sponsorship can be found to alleviate the costs.

The Chairman of the Town Council's Civic Amenities



Committee, Cllr. Mrs. Rosalind Prowse, a former Mayor of the Town, said:

"It has been the practice of the Town Council for many years to gravity-feed water from the brook to fill a pond at the waterfowl compound. I fail to see what significant impact this can have on water quality in the brook when the Town



Council is unable to control seagulls, pigeons and other wild-fowl, such as Mallard ducks. The Town Council has a flock of 13 black swans kept on the brook and also maintains a further flock of approximately fifty ornamental waterfowl which are not indigenous to the United Kingdom and are therefore kept within the waterfowl enclosure. I will be heartbroken if Dawlish has to lose it's emblem of the Black Swan because of this edict from the Environment Agency." The Black Swans are a familiar sight in the town and numerous local businesses have used the Black Swan insignia in their logos and promotional material.

In recent years the flock had been increased from 8 swans to 13 through careful management by the Town Council's Waterfowl Warden Mr. Derek Porter.

The Town Council runs a popular 'adoption' scheme so that local residents and visitors can participate in the care of the Black Swans and other waterfowl.

There are records of Black Swans being on the brook in the early 1900's. However, at some point between the two World Wars, the line was lost. In the late 1940's Captain G.R.S. Pitman, employed as a

game warden in Uganda, presented a pair of Black Swans to the Town of Dawlish in memory of his late parents. His father, had been a County Councillor and Chairman of the County Education Committee. Black Swans have inhabited the brook ever since. The Black Swan has been the emblem of the Town for over forty years and features on road-signs at the entrances to the Town.

In 2008 a re-stocking programme was introduced at the request of visitors and



residents to increase the variety and number of ornamental waterfowl and ensure the survival of the flock

The Town Mayor, Cllr. Wally Protheroe said: *"This has been a real blow for the*



Town Council and Dawlish. The Black Swans are an integral part of Dawlish and an essential element in attracting tourism to the area. It would be devastating to lose this well-loved asset to the town."

Dawlish Town Council retains 'Quality' status

The Town Council has successfully achieved all the criteria required by the Quality Standards Panel to keep its coveted **Quality Town Council** status from December 2008.

Dawlish Town Council was first awarded 'Quality' status in November 2004 and was among the first 100 parishes in England to achieve this stamp of approval. Re-accreditation takes place every four years and the Town Council must show that it has maintained and improved standards since the award of Quality status. The purpose of the Scheme is to provide Councils with benchmark minimum standards. Accreditation shows that the Council has met

these standards and demonstrates to the local community that it is able to deliver efficient services. The tests are also an excellent way for Councils to review their processes.

One of the fundamental requirements of the scheme is a properly qualified Town Clerk. Dawlish's Clerk, Mr. John Winchester, has achieved the Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy Studies from Cheltenham University and is a Member of the Institute of Local Council Managers.

The Town Council must also prove that its financial systems are in order and the Town Council has received an 'unqualified' audit for the tenth year in a row. This means that the Audit Commission has reviewed the Town Council's



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accounts and financial processes and has given them a clean bill of health.

Dawlish Town Councillors and staff are proud to have been re-accredited as a Quality Town Council, which has been achieved through a great deal of hard work but will not be 'resting on its laurels.'

A programme of training for Councillors and staff has been instigated to ensure that the best possible service is provided to the community in the coming years.

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT AND RIGHT TO INSPECT THE ANNUAL RETURN ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2008

Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI2003/.333)

The Audit of Accounts for Dawlish Town Council for the year ended 31st March 2008 has been concluded.

The annual return is available for inspection by any local government elector the area of Dawlish Town Council on application to Mr. John Winchester, Town Clerk, The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish EX7 9AP between the hours of 9.30a.m. And 3.00p.m. On Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays), when any local government elector may make copies of the annual return. Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of £1.00 for each copy of the annual return

John Winchester
Town Clerk.
Dated 5th January 2009.



Forthcoming Meetings

January 2009

13th Planning Committee
14th Town Council
21st Civic Amenities Committee
22nd Finance and General Purposes Committee
27th Planning Committee

February 2009

4th Town Council
10th Planning Committee
19th Finance and General Purposes Committee
24th Planning Committee
25th Civic Amenities Committee



Your Councillors and how to contact them:

Your local Councillors can be contacted at the following telephone numbers.

If you are unsure of which Councillor to contact, please call in or telephone the office on 01626 863388 where staff will be pleased to direct your enquiry to the Councillor best able to deal with your enquiry.

Cllr. Wally Protheroe (Mayor of Dawlish) Mount Pleasant Inn, Mount Pleasant Road, Dawlish Warren, Dawlish. Tel: 01626 863151

Cllr. G. Wills (Deputy Mayor of Dawlish) 13 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish Tel: 01626 888074

Cllr. H. Clemens (Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee) Manor Farm, Holcombe, Nr. Dawlish Tel: 01626 863020 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Mrs. Rosalind Prowse (Chairman Civic Amenities Committee) 4 Nash Gardens, Dawlish Tel: 01626 866621 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. G. Price (Chairman Planning) Mewstone, The Mews, Dawlish Tel: 01626 867088 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Mrs. Jackie Bush 2 Elm Grove Drive, Dawlish Tel: 01626 865704

Cllr. Mrs. Pauline Bloomfield 50 Cofton Hill, Cockwood, Nr. Exeter. Tel: 01626 890200

Cllr. Derek Collins 5 Little Week Gardens, Dawlish Tel: 01626 862103

Cllr. Mrs. Janet Garland 10 Luscombe Terrace, Dawlish Tel: 01626 888312

Cllr. Ted Hockin Aalsmeer, Exeter Road, Dawlish Tel: 01626 862088 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Mrs. Helen Humphries Flat 1, 6 Marine Parade, Dawlish Tel: 01626 862233

Cllr. Mrs. Mary Mugford 'Seaforth' 7 Mount Pleasant Road, Dawlish Warren Tel: 01626 863516 *Teignbridge District Councillor*

Cllr. Francine Tullis Branscombe Cottage, Branscombe Lane, Dawlish 01626 864424

Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wills 13 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish Tel: 01626 888074

Cllr. Mrs. Carol Payne 19 Newlands, Dawlish. Tel: 01626 865722

Cllr. A. Turpin Flat 3, 6 Marine Parade, Dawlish.

Devon County Councillor for Dawlish: Cllr. John Clatworthy 23 West Cliff Road, Dawlish Tel: 01626 864091

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 2009

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 S9

The Annual Meeting for Dawlish will be held on **Wednesday 8th April 2009** in the Council Chamber, The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish commencing at 7.00p.m.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

Electors of the Parish of Dawlish who wish to discuss Parish affairs at the meeting should inform the Town Clerk in writing no later than 12 noon on the 3rd April 2009

Signed: Cllr. Wally Protheroe
Town Mayor

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY 2009

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
S15 SS1-10

The Annual General Meeting of Dawlish Town Council will be held on **Wednesday 6th May 2009** in the Council Chamber, The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish commencing at 7.00p.m.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and witness the election of the Town Mayor for the coming year 2009-2010

Signed: John Winchester
Town Clerk.