

# Winter 2022

## TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



### TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL OR TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL?

It's sometimes really difficult to know who does what in Tewkesbury when you have two councils that both have the words Tewkesbury and Council in the title.

In reality, we work together for the benefit of Tewkesbury but deliver different services.

Tewkesbury Town Council is responsible for the Town Hall, Watson Hall, Tewkesbury Museum, Public Toilets, Moorings, Play Parks (Derek Graham, Warwick Place & Mitton), Severn Ham, CCTV, the Arrivall Sculptures, the town clocks, the provision of litter bins, benches & bus shelters.

We can be reached on 01684 294 639.

Tewkesbury Borough Council is responsible for Bin Collections, Street Cleaning, Council Tax, Housing Benefit, some Play Parks, Planning, Car Parks, Licensing & Environmental Health.

They can be reached on 01684 295010.

And if you're still not sure, just call one of us, we'll always do our best to direct you to the right Council to deal with your query.

### SO WHAT DID TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL DO IN 2021?



- New automatic doors at Watson Hall
- Extensive repairs to Museum Roof
- Refurbished the Smart Clock
- Organised the Remembrance Parade
- Upgraded the CCTV system

- Vandal proof doors at Spring Gardens toilet block
- Accessible seesaw at Derek Graham Play Area
- Custodian of the Severn Ham
- Funded six Play Ranger sessions
- New bins & benches .....and more



# What's On @ The Watson

## March 2022

Purple Prince Disco	12/03/22
The Mark Walby Band	18/03/22
Stichstory Public Workshop	20/03/22
Resident's Weekend	25/03/22
Southwest Wrestling	26/03/22
Nearly Elton!	27/03/22

## April 2022

Festival of the Unexplained	2/04/22
Manor Players - Hi De Hi	9/04/22
Honeymoon Swing Dance	15/04/22
Non Jovi	16/04/22
Duran Duran - Tribute	23/04/22
Open Mic Night	29/04/22
Mad Manners	30/04/22

WATSON HALL PRESENTS

# THE MARK WALBY BAND



**MARCH 18TH 2022**



THE WATSON HALL, TEWKESBURY, GL20 5PX

Scan Here for Tickets

hello@watsonhall.co.uk / 01684 636666  
https://tewkisburytowncouncil.gov.uk/whats-on/

Watson Hall Presents

# HILLTOP CEILIDH BAND

The Nation's Best Ceilidh Musicians



## Ceilidh Dance & Disco

A fun night of dancing  
No experience required!

Saturday 11th June 2022 | Doors/Bar - 6.30pm - 11.45pm  
Watson Hall, Tewkesbury, GL20 5PX  
01684 636666  
Tickets £12

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## Recent Events at the Watson Hall



Martin Kemp



Honeymoon Swing Dance Band



John Coghlan's Quo



Craig Charles Funk & Soul Club



Audience @ The Big Sing



Open Mic Night

# Smart Clock Refurbishment

You may have noticed over the past few months that the Smart Clock on the High Street has been undergoing a facelift! The clock; which was given to the people of Tewkesbury by Mayor Smart in 1883 - hence the name, was in need of a coat of paint and whilst the scaffolding was in place, it received a service as well.

Unfortunately, when the inspection hatch of the clock was removed, there were several, more serious issues. The bottom of the clock was experiencing rust, as the clock unit was no longer waterproof. The water had also damaged the clock mechanism, the support for one set of hands had cracked and the clock face had become loose.



It was also discovered that the clock had originally had lights within it and it was felt that this would be a great opportunity to not only fix, but to restore the clock to its former glory. The clock now boasts economical LED lights on a daylight sensor.



Local signwriter, Simon Lloyd carried out the delicate task of stripping back the paint and restoring the dedication plaque. The initial paint stripping also revealed that the clock had originally had gold gilt roses on it and these were also reinstated. After consulting with the local Conservation Officer, permission was given for a lead cover to be installed on the clock, to weatherproof it for the future.

The project has also brought to light some wonderful historical information about the clock. On September 22nd 1917, the Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic reported that due to the Smart Clock being fast, the Worcester bus had left The Cross three minutes before the scheduled time, leaving passengers stranded in Tewkesbury.

The same publication also reported on 21st January 1950, that the clock had been taken away for repairs more than a year ago and was being missed by the people of Tewkesbury. By 4th March 1950, the clock had been restored to its rightful location.

Thank you for your patience whilst the scaffolding was in place, and we hope you agree that it was worth the wait – and at least it didn't take quite as long to repair as it did in 1950!



# Precept Information – Annual Report

Tewkesbury Town Council is made up of 16 Councillors who live in Tewkesbury town parish. Councillors volunteer their time to serve on the Town Council and represent the 5,411 households in Tewkesbury. For many years the Town Council has tried to keep rises to the amount residents pay through council tax, called the precept, to a minimum or no rise at all. Unfortunately this means we were faced with some very difficult decisions in terms of the buildings we are responsible for. All our buildings are old, two of them are listed and need significant investment and ongoing maintenance in order to keep them open and available for the community to enjoy. The Museum building is of historic interest and due its current poor state of repair, has been placed on Historic England's At Risk Register. Your council works hard to utilise income opportunities as much as possible. Like many other organisations this has been much more challenging in the last two years due to the COVID pandemic and the large increase in energy prices.

## Precept for 2022-2023

The council has taken the difficult decision to increase the precept as follows:

Band A from £59.58 to £77.76 a year, increase of 35p per week

Band B from £69.51 to £90.72 a year, increase of 41p per week

Band C from £79.44 to £103.68 a year, increase of 47p per week

Band D from £89.32 to £116.60 a year, increase of 52p per week

Band E from £109.23 to £142.56 a year, increase of 64p per week

Band F from £129.09 to £168.48 a year, increase of 76p per week

Band G from £148.95 to £194.40 a year, increase of 87p per week

Band H from £178.74 to £233.28 a year, increase of £1.05 per week

## Did you know?

Tewkesbury Town Council is the custodian of the Severn Ham for the people of Tewkesbury. The Ham is one of 5% of floodplain meadows left in the UK and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Over the last year we have worked with Severn Trent to ensure that minimal damage was done during the pipeline replacement project and we will continue to work with them whilst the restoration works take place over the next five years.

Curlew nest on the Ham and in conservation terms, they are as rare as the panda. We're excited that over the next three years we will be part of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) project to carry out extensive fieldwork monitoring on the Ham.



Curlew on the Ham

Mike Smart (Severn Curlew Project Officer) from WWT will be joining our Annual Meeting on Monday 28th March at 6pm at the Watson Hall to talk about the project.

This is not a Town Council meeting, but a meeting for the residents of the town.

Why not come along to find out more?

