**Newbury Town Council**

**Mayor’s Report for Full Council 11/05/2022**

On the 6th January I was invited to the Base in Greenham to open an art exhibition, entitled Decoding Braille, Decoding Me. I would encourage all Councillors to visit the Base.

On the 12th January I had an interesting morning visiting the West Berkshire Therapy Centre in Thatcham. They help people who have had a stroke, heart attack or any serious operation get fit again at minimum cost to the client.

On Thursday morning on the 20th January I was invited to unveil the Blue Plaque of Ms Jane Luker. In 1910 the Female-only Newbury County School moved to the Luker site on the Andover Rd. Miss Luker was a formable leader of her day and was well ahead in Woman’s Liberation.

On the 26th January I presented 30 training certificates at the Newbury Resources Centre and was also given a tour of all the excellent work that they do in our community.

On the 3rd of February I hosted a visit to the Town Hall from Beenham Primary School and gave them a talk on my role as Mayor and a tour of this historic building.

19TH February I was invited to an afternoon crafting by the Newbury Crafters Group and had a great time with the ladies and one gentleman.

I was invited to speak at the Donnington Valley Hotel, to the Newbury Rotary Club. I gave them a talk on the history of the role as Mayor.

On the 27th February attended a Memorial Service to remember all the service men who perished on the HMS Tigris. Brave young men who died for us. We Will Remember Them.

On the 2nd March I spent a pleasant morning at the launch of the Newbury Spring Festival at the Post Barn, Snelsmore Common.

On the 4th March I visited the opening of the Xtrac Acadamy in Thatcham, which specialises in high performance gear boxes to the car racing world. The one thing that surprised me, was that they employed over 380 people.

Also on that evening NTC put up the Ukrainian flag and a candlelight Vigil was held outside the Town Hall and attended by 250 people.

Another highlight of my role on the12th March, was an invitation to officially open the new Astro Pitch at St Bartholomew’s School. They now have a new name, Phoenix Lacrosse Club. I wish them well and do remember when my two daughters played for the School.

On the same evening I attended at the Newbury Methodists Church, a service of dedication, to celebrate 10 years of the Newbury Street Pastors.

One of my favourite events was the on the 16th March, when I hosted the Newbury Civic Awards Presentation Evening. My fellow judges and I had a hard job to pick the finalists, but in the end we managed. We are fortunate to have so many talented individuals and groups, which makes Newbury a great place to live and work.

On the 25th March at the Trinity School I had a great evening watching a production of Grease, very talented students.

On the 29th March I attended West Berkshire Junior Music Event at The Anvil in Basingstoke.

30TH March, I hosted a group of students from Eeklo with the teachers. I gave them a talk on my role and a tour of this historic building and then we had lunch.

I attended on the 31st March at RAF Welford at a memorial service to remember those who died from 101 Squadron. We Will Remember Them.

On 1st April the Town Council celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a special event in St. Nic’s Hall. Mayors, Councillors and former Council employees attended. It was a fun evening catching up with old friends and a big thank you to my Civic Manager, Elisa Mullen for all her hard work.

A night of laughs was had at St Georges Church Hall when I attended a comedy night to raise funds for Parkinson’s UK, a very worthy charity.

On the 30th April I attended a Concert by the South Wales Male Choir, held at St Nik’s Church, what a great Night.

From the 5th May till the 9th May I will be visiting Bagnols, one of our twin Towns.

I would also like to thank Councillor Norman for standing in for me when I had COVID.

Cllr Billy Drummond

Mayor of Newbury