

NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 11TH MAY 2016-05-11

MAYOR'S REPORT

Good evening fellow councillors .

This is the first meeting since January the 18th and the last before our mayor-making ceremony this Sunday. So this is the last time I shall be chairing this meeting and I thank you all for your participation in the decisions and work of this Council during my mayoralship.

My report covers most of the events I have attended but excludes Council committee meetings, NAG meetings and most of the West Berkshire affairs that I am involved with.

There were four Charity Coffee mornings but two more were cancelled which was a pity as these raise awareness and money for the charities involved.

There were fifty nine events I have recorded and I do not intend to cover them all now.

Significant ones in my diary were as follows.

20th January the opening of the David Lloyd gym.

22nd January the first meeting of Newbury in Bloom Committee. This is intended to create an awareness of making our Town florally attractive and get the whole Town involved. In time it is hoped we may work towards Britain in Bloom and gain fame, and visitors, for our Town.

31 January. Surveyed, with others, a potential southern entry to the proposed southern Sandleford development. This is felt to be a better entry point than the proposed Warren Road choice.

1st February. West Berkshire training session on Child Sexual Exploitation. A very informative and thought-provoking explanation of how this occurs and what to look for and how to stop it from happening.

5th . Get Berkshire Active Awards at Reading. This was for those who have physical disabilities and how they overcome these and are able to compete with meaningful results. A very uplifting occasion.

9th . Soroptomists Pancake Races. A great fun time for all competitors and a challenging time for the Mayor trying to toss pancakes in a managed manner. Not easy!

15th .Revealing of a Blue Plaque to Francis Bailey , a famous astronomer who was born in Northbrook Street.

19th Army Benevolent Fund Big Curry Event at the Hilton Reading. A drop of curry finished off by a comedian raconteur. Great fun and a good curry.

20th A visit to the Newbury Crafters who knit any- and every-thing. A small group of exceedingly able and gifted people, both male and female, who create both useful and beautiful products. Well-worth viewing when an opportunity comes up.

26th An interview with Kennet Radio.

5th March. Clean for the Queen. 16 bags of rubbish and a load more that could have been collected given the time. Made us all think.

7th. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue event giving the chance for the public and the Fire Brigade to exchange views.

8th Newbury Spring Festival School Workshop at Chieveley performed by professionals to encourage children to take up musical instruments. Fun, educational and inspirational for the children.

10th CTP Employment Fair at the Racecourse. An exhibition for retired or invalid forces personnel to find employment. A great event getting people to meet employers.

11th World of Work at Castle School at Newbury College. An event to help students into work.

Evening .A look at the EU referendum with a UKIP candidate. Not a mind changer but an informative discussion.

12th Mock Trials at Reading Law Courts. Great debates and arguments by school children working towards a national competition.

13th Newbury Canoe Club prize presentations at the Waterside Centre. Some very fit people from all over the south of England.

14th Commonwealth Flag Raising Day. In the evening Newbury College awards ceremony.

15th Junior Musical Festival at Basingstoke featuring local school choirs including some from Newbury.

16th Berkshire Winter School Games Festival at Bisham Abbey sports centre.

19th Choral Concert at St Francis de Sales church featuring a guest French choir.

21st St Joseph's School discussion with children ref Graphiti on public buildings and walls.Evening Annual Town Meeting.

22nd District Parish Conference. Market Street Development exhibition.

23rd. Opening of the Gurkha Chef restaurant .

25th. Visit to Town Hall of a school from Eeklo our twin town in Belgium.

26th. 8.00am start canoeists on the Devizes to Westminster canoe race.

April 2nd. Present prizes at W. Berks indoor bowls club.

9th. Open for use a defibrillator at Willow Close

10th. 30th anniversary luncheon for Soroptimists

21st. Beacon lighting

23rd. Blood pressure event and Beating The Bounds North.

30th. Race Night at Henwick Sports ground.

May 5-9th. Visit to Bagnols-sur Ceze France with Twin Town Association.

10th. Heritage plaque to John Winchcombe in Northbrook Street

The above gives a listing of some of the events that I have attended showing the variety that occur.