

Newbury Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Civic Pride Arts & Leisure Meeting, 2 September 2019

Agenda Item No xx: – A Report on the Twin Town Visit to Newbury which took place between 11 – 15 July 2019 and the Twinning between Newbury and Carcaixent on 13 July 2019

Background

The Newbury Twin Town Association arranged a twinning visit to Newbury as part of the Thematic Network activities. This provided an ideal opportunity to complete the second half of the twinning agreement between Newbury and Carcaixent, Spain on 13 July 2019 the first half having taken place in Carcaixent in March 2019.

Event

Newbury Twin Town Association invited guests from our twin and linked towns to visit Newbury between 11–15 July 2019, including a large contingent being invited from Carcaixent. All invited guests were accommodated in the homes of NTTA members during their stay providing an opportunity for new friendships to be formed and for the visitors to experience home life in this country. The programme of events included a conference on *'Brexit the price of divorce' which took place in Newbury College followed by a lunch in the college. A discussion on Brexit also took place between younger members of the twinning group and a production provided by the Italian contingent was performed. On a lighter note, a Gala Dinner took place at Newbury Racecourse and a farewell party including hog roast and barn dance took place on the Sunday evening.*

On the civic side, the Mayor of Newbury hosted a Mayor's dinner inviting Mayors and Mayor's representatives from the visiting towns to join her on the Friday evening. This was well received and Madam Mayor received grateful thanks from each of her guests.

On the Saturday morning the twinning of Newbury and Carcaixent was completed in a ceremony in the Corn Exchange. The ceremony was repeated in Spanish as it progressed by two interpreters which was well received, particularly by the Mayor of Carcaixent who doesn't speak English but very bravely opened his own speech in English. Our Town Crier, Brian Sylvester, explained the format of the event as it progressed. Watership Brass, the Newbury Town Band, provided a wonderful musical accompaniment to the occasion playing background music as guests took their seats, processional music and National and European Anthems. Barry Digby, our new Town Marshal, did a sterling job at bringing the Mayors, Councillors and Dignitaries from the Town Hall, into the Corn Exchange and seated in the correct positions. Then managed to get them back to the Town Hall for a glass of cava and slice of celebration cake.

The whole event was greatly enjoyed by our European guests who enjoy experiencing our ceremonial and viewing our regalia and robes, particularly by the Spanish who felt very much as though they were well and truly welcomed into Newbury's twinning circle.

Joyce Lewis
Civic Manager
24 July 2019