

# **Councillor Howard Bairstow**

## **Mayor of Newbury**

### **2015 – 16**



**Official Record of Year in Office**  
**15 May 2016**

**Date of Mayor Making: 17 May 2015**

**Deputy Mayor:** Cllr Julian Swift-Hook

**Mayoress:** Cllr Joan Day

**Civic Manager:** Joyce Lewis

**Civic Staff:**

Mayor's Attendant : Ian Campbell

Town Crier : Brian Sylvester

Town Marshal : Dave Stubbs

Mace Bearer : Rod Thomason

Mace Bearer : Barry Digby

**Mayors Chosen Charities:**

The Mayor's Benevolent Fund

The West Berkshire Community Hospital

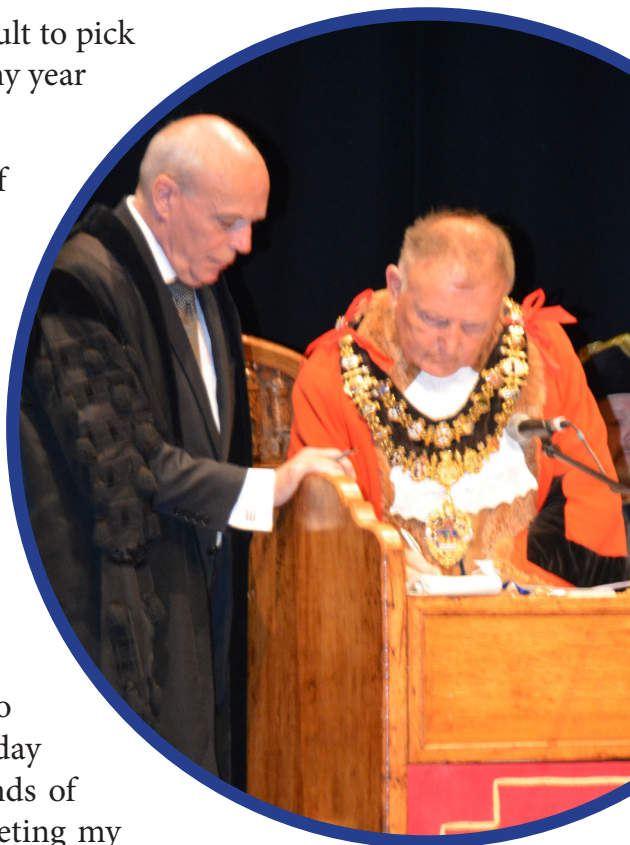
Renal Injury Project

# A Taste of the Civic Year 2015/16

It has been a huge privilege representing the people of Newbury on so many occasions over the past year and a great pleasure to meet so many of our residents, confirming my view that this is a great town in which to live and work.

Every event attended is a highlight in its own right, so it is difficult to pick out individual events for mention; however, this is a flavour of my year in office.

- The Bayer 10k Charity Run. This involved hundreds of local people running to raise funds for charity, including young people who had their own shorter race.
- The many charity coffee mornings held in the 'Town Hall providing me with the opportunity to meet a huge number of volunteers giving generously of their time for the benefit of others.
- It was a great honour to take the salute at Armed Forces and Remembrance Sunday parades, a very moving experience.
- The Mayor's Drive & Tea Party is an annual event that this community should be proud of. It was my great pleasure to host last year's event which is always held on the first Wednesday of July. What a wonderful time everyone had in the grounds of Chaddleworth House. I thoroughly enjoy meeting and greeting my over 75 year old guests and enjoying their company for the afternoon doing my best to chat to each and every one of them plus the drivers and the huge number of other volunteers.



- I, in the company of my Mayoress, Judged Newbury Carnival floats, opened the Michaelmas Fair and sampled some of the rides, and assisted Father Christmas to switch-on the Christmas Lights and, at all these events, we enjoyed the atmosphere of our town at its best.
- It has been a busy year for twin town events; I had the honour of representing our town at twinning events in Eeklo, Carcaixent and Bagnols-sur-Ceze. I also welcomed visitors to our town from Eeklo and Bagnols.
- I have welcomed new businesses to our town, including the Metro Bank and met residents and visitors to the town including an Australian gentleman who was kayaking his way around the world trying to encourage communities to save our planet and not waste resources.





- I have visited most of the schools within the town and a few outside our boundary and have attended a number of events at Newbury College, in addition to welcoming primary school children to the Town Hall during Local Democracy week.

- Meeting more members of our community whilst attending events and AGMs at many societies, charities, support groups and clubs and I have also enjoyed many concerts and performances arranged by the rich array of performing arts groups we are lucky to have in our town.

- It has been a pleasure to hold fundraising events for my charities, the Mayor's Benevolent Fund and the West Berkshire Community Hospital Renal Injury Project including coffee mornings, a cruise on the canal, a quiz night and a race night.

- As Mayor, I chair the meetings of the Town Council, which met on 6 occasions this year since I was elected at last year's Annual Meeting. One of these was an extra meeting to deal with

urgent items of business relating to Victoria Park and I presented a report to each of the other 5 meetings, informing the Council of the main events at which I represented the Town (copies of my reports to each meeting are appended).



Newbury Town Council passed a formal Vote of Thanks to

**Councillor Howard Bairstow**

on behalf of the people of Newbury in recognition of

**Year in Office as Town Mayor**

**17 May 2015 to 15 May 2016.**

Present when the Seal of  
Newbury Town Council  
was affixed

Leader of the Council, David Goff

CEO of Newbury Town Council, Hugh Peacocke

Dated: 15 May 2016



# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 29 June 2015

Since the Mayor Making ceremony on May 17th 2015, I have attended twenty two events.

I have attended in chronological order an Alzheimer's Party at Camps, the Ladybirds Pre-school , the Bayer 10km run, Victoria Park charity flower bed completion, Peace and Integration Forum at Fair Close Day Centre. The opening of the Hanover Mead meeting room, Carers Drop-in Event at the Town Hall and Newbury AFC annual prize giving ceremony. The Newbury Society Annual Garden Party, Newbury Camera Club Exhibition at the Town Museum, Visit to RAF Welford, Art Exhibition at St Mary's Church Hall at Speen. Trinity School's Sports Personality of the year event, and St Barts School Art Exhibition and Parents Summer Festival. I was also present at three charity coffee mornings at the Town Hall.

I attended a presentation by the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets Association at Sandhurst where we were told of the importance of the part-time forces and cadets for our future safety and the need for people to come forward to ensure sufficient numbers are in training to supplement our professional service men and women.

On the 20th June I attended the 130th anniversary of the Newbury Choral Society at St Nicholas's church. A wonderful evening of Gilbert and Sullivan productions with both the 100-strong amateur choir combined with three professional singers giving superb renditions of many well-known songs. On the 23rd I attended a Citizen Making Ceremony at Shaw House where 4 people became citizens of the United Kingdom. A simple but poignant event for new citizens.`

Lastly was Armed Forces Day on the 28th of June to celebrate the men and women that keep us safe at home and abroad. A time to thank all those involved for our protection and safety.

After 40 years of living in Newbury it has been an enlightening time visiting places I had not visited before and meeting a host of interesting people.

Councillor Howard Bairstow  
Mayor of Newbury 2105-2016



# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 21 September 2015

This time of the year is generally quite quiet due to holidays, however on the 1st July the Mayor's Drive took place and approximately 300 cars collected my over 75 year old guests and proceeded to drive through the countryside to Chaddleworth House for afternoon tea. This event has taken place every year since 1940's. We were blessed with good weather and all of the guests had an enjoyable afternoon.

The NTTA entertained a group of visitors from Bagnols-sur-Ceze starting with a reception in the Town Hall followed by entertainment and visits during their stay and finishing with an evening's supper on the eve of their departure.

I have had two interviews with Kennet Radio explaining my role and the events I have attended.

I paid a visit to the Brownies at St Francis de Sales Church and presented awards.

I attended the Newbury Carnival and helped judge the entrants.

I went to Wellington College on the 7th July where the Berkshire Summer Games Festival was held and celebrated with local schools in their victory in various competitions that were held. I visited St Finian's School at Cold Ash following a request by a pupil whose class were studying the history of Newbury. I was requested to give a question and answer session to help in their studies.

On the 9th July I visited the Trinity School Art and Design Technology Exhibition and then a Ramadan Event at the Newbury Mosque.

On the 12th there was a Chalk Art Event in the Market Place with many clever and welldrawn pictures.

On Monday the 13th I attended the annual prize-giving and parade of the local Air Training Corp Squadron demonstrating the parade ground skills and aviation knowledge gained by these keen young people of both sexes.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> I was at Trinity again for the KS3 presentations. An evening of great achievers.

On the following day the Mayoress and myself were at Denison Barracks for the Beating of Retreat by the Ghurkas. A very impressive performance of marching, knife juggling and music played while marching in very quick order over a prolonged period of time. A stirring performance.

These are perhaps the highlights, in addition there have been five Saturday charity coffee mornings, a visit to Eeklo in Belgium courtesy of the NTTA, a visit to RAF Welford, the opening of the newly re-furbished Newbury Tennis Club courts at Shaw, Southby's Allotment open day, (where the mayorial party won a basket of produce from the site), the opening of the new Wickes Store on Hambridge Road, the unveiling of a plaque in the Market Place, the celebration of the 100th birthday of a Winchcombe Place resident and the opening of a new classroom at Robert Sandilands School.

Councillor Howard Bairstow  
Mayor of Newbury 2015-16



# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 30 November 2015

Since our last Council meeting I have attended 41 events or meetings. Some of them are as follows.

There have been seven Saturday coffee mornings for charities, enabling them to raise their profile locally while raising monies for their cause. This is, as you are aware, a free of cost Council gift to help all local charitable organisations.

There have been 4 military events. The first was the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Britain. The second was the Remembrance Service in the Market Place, a very well attended event with the largest number of people to date. The third was my attendance on Remembrance Day itself at St Barts School, where I am a Foundation Governor, where moving speeches were made by the head girl and boy. The fourth event was the Remembrance service at RAF Welford attended by both USAF and RAF personnel.

On the MacMillan Cancer Coffee morning, I managed to get to three different locations and was pleased by the number of people who made the effort to be there. I have attended three AGMs. The West Berks Museum, the Samaritans and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.

I opened the Michaelmas Fair and remembered how giddy one can become when taking the rides. Great fun.

I attended the opening of the Crown Court at Reading and the Bracknell Forest Annual Civic service. I visited the World War one exhibition at our Town Hall. Many congratulations to those who helped to create this event.

I visited Carcaixent in southern Spain near to Valencia with the NTTA and got a deeper knowledge of how the Twin Town partnership functions and the friendships that it has engendered.

There was a Mencap Fashion Show at the Chequers Hotel. A great fun evening with all the young people strutting their stuff to some great music. A never to be forgotten time.

There were many more items I could list but one deserves mention. That was the 401 marathons in 401 days challenge being run by Ben Smith that took place at Park House School. The normal intake of a man is 2500 calories a day. Ben has to take in 6,000 calories which he said is quite a task. He hopes to finish on 5th October next year. He drives from venue to venue and sleeps in the mobile home he has adapted for his challenge. 250 children ran the first mile with him which was reckoned to be the highest number of starters on an occasion like this and will be put into the Guinness book of Records.

Councillor Howard Bairstow  
Mayor of Newbury 2015-16

# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 18 January 2016

Good evening and happy New Year to those I have not met since our last meeting.

It has been 48 days since we last met and I hope you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year celebrations.

This is my report of some of the events that I have attended.

There have been three Saturday coffee mornings. The one on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December being for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund.

There were eight carol services. A schools' service at St Nicholas's Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a service the next day at the Royal British Legion. There was a carol service on the 9<sup>th</sup> for the WB Hospital League of Friends at St Mary's church Thatcham. On the 11<sup>th</sup> a carol service was organised by the Co-operative Funeral Services at the Clock Tower with the Salvation Army Band in attendance. On the 12<sup>th</sup> there was a service with the Hungerford Town Band at Hungerford and on the 13<sup>th</sup> Thatcham held its own Civic Carol service at St Mary's Church. On the 19<sup>th</sup> St Nicholas's Church held the Newbury Civic Carol service. On Christmas Day I attended a carol service at West Berkshire Hospital before beetling off to Kent to get my Christmas dinner.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December I went to the York Nativity Play at Aldermaston. A fascinating re-creation of how the birth of Jesus may have been enacted in medieval times.

On this day also I visited the Victoria Park School and was later present at the launch of the Over 80's Food Parcel Appeal.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December I attended the Cancer Charities Concert at St Nicholas' Church.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December I helped with the Over 80s Parcel Fund packing operation. My gratitude goes out to Sainsbury's for the space and personnel they gave in helping the scouts to pack the 2000 plus parcels. I managed to fill 71. These were palletised and held in refrigerated trailers for the distribution that took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> from the Fairclose Day Centre and other locations from where volunteer drivers took the parcels to the people whose names had been supplied. A fantastic operation involving many people using their cars to transfer the Christmas fare all over West Berkshire. My personal thanks go to all those involved.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> I visited the Duchess of Kent Hospice facility at the West Berkshire Community Hospital and afterwards participated in the Xmas Party for the Newbury Blind at St Johns Hall. In the evening I was at Newbury College for the graduation ceremony.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December I was invited to St Paul's Primary School in Tilehurst to accompany a lay teacher in meditation when he visited the children's classes and taught them the art and peace of meditation. This was a very pleasant and educational day.

The 12<sup>th</sup> was a bright day when a ceremony took place to remember the glider pilots and air force bomber crews that perished in crashes in the Second World War at Greenham Common airbase.

The 16<sup>th</sup> was the Fairclose Day centre Christmas lunch where many single old people were brought to the centre from both Newbury and Thatcham to enjoy a Christmas lunch, see Father Christmas and receive presents.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> I was at the KS5 awards at St Barts School and was taken by the achievements of the pupils and their now adult postures and presence and determination to succeed.

December the 18<sup>th</sup> saw me at a Kintbury School for the presentation of £100-00 to the school by Max Perry an 8 year old, very talented grass track rider who had won for the second year running the top prize in the country's racing and had decided to donate the winnings to his school. A very modest and delightful lad.

Later in the day I was at West Berkshire Community Hospital again for a patient's concert.

To end the year I was up in the bell tower of St Nic's church at midnight as the old year was rung out and the New Year rung in. I adventured further up to the church roof to be able to see an amazing clear sky full of stars giving rise to hopes for the New Year.

These are the highlights of the past 48 days omitting Council meetings, discussions on the proposed Sandleford Development and planning issues etc.

Here ends my report up to January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Howard Bairstow  
Mayor of Newbury 2015-16



# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 11 May 2016

This is the first meeting since January the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

The opening of the David Lloyd gym. And on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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. 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!

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.

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.

26<sup>th</sup> An interview with Kennet Radio. Clean for the Queen when 16 bags of rubbish and a load more that could have been collected given the time. Made us all think.

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

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

Mock Trials at Reading Law Courts. Great debates and arguments by school children working towards a national competition. Newbury Canoe Club prize presentations at the Waterside Centre. Some very fit people from all over the south of England.

Commonwealth Flag Raising Day. In the evening Newbury College awards ceremony. Junior Musical Festival at Basingstoke featuring local school choirs including some from Newbury. Berkshire Winter School Games Festival at Bisham Abbey sports centre.

Choral Concert at St Francis de Sales church featuring a guest French choir. St Joseph's School discussion with children regarding Graphiti on public buildings and walls. Evening Annual Town Meeting. Opening of the Gurkha Chef restaurant .

Visit to Town Hall of a school from Eeklo our twin town in Belgium. 8.00 am starting canoeists on the Devizes to Westminster canoe race. Present prizes at W. Berks indoor bowls club. Open for use a defibrillator at Willow Close.

30<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon for Sorooptimists. Beacon lighting. Blood pressure event and Beating The Bounds North. Charity Race Night at Henwick Sports ground. Visit to Bagnols-sur Ceze France with Twin Town Association. Finally, 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.

Councillor Howard Bairstow  
Mayor of Newbury 2015-16