

**STATEMENT ON UKRAINE CRISIS:
NEWBURY TOWN MAYOR, COUNCILLOR BILLY DRUMMOND**

"I would like to take the opportunity to offer my most sincere thoughts and sympathies to the people of Ukraine and Newbury's Ukrainian community during this difficult time. As a Council, we would like to offer our solidarity with those who are struggling, and will work to do all that we can as a local council to support those affected."



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Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of.

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NEWBURY SETS ITS BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR

Newbury Town Council has set a budget of £2.326M for the coming year, with a range of exciting new plans for the Town. Among these are the construction of the new Community Café in Victoria Park, improvements to the public toilets at The Wharf, upgrades to playgrounds at Fifth Road and The Nightingales and a new mini golf facility in Victoria Park. Further works are planned for the Council's open spaces at Wash Common and Hutton Close. The Town Council budget also provides a range of grants and support to organisations working with the old, the young, the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and the minority groups in Newbury. Councillor Martin Colston, is the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. He said that the budget demonstrates the Council's commitment to all sections of the community in Newbury. "It is even better news that we aim to provide these improvements with minimal impact on the Council-tax payers of Newbury. Next year the average payment per dwelling in Newbury will be £89.00, which is an increase of only 1.5% on this year. Most of the improvements to services and facilities will be funded from contributions paid by developers, our own internal reserves and external grant funding, where we can attract it. This budget and our plans for next year are proof that this Council is delivering for the people of Newbury." Full details of the budget for 2022-23 can be found on the Council's website <https://www.newbury.gov.uk/the-council/key-documents/budget/>



DIARY DATES

14th March 2022

Community Service Committee Meeting (Council Chamber)

16th March 2022

Civic Awards (Council Chamber)

28th March 2022

Planning & Highways Committee Meeting (Council Chamber)

4th April 2022

Annual Town Meeting (Council Chamber)

Other Events:

Saturday 26 March

Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery Welcome Day – everyone welcome 10am – 4pm

NEWBURY MARKET

Every Thursday & Saturday in the Market Place.



SATURDAY SURGERY

Town Hall Steps every Saturday 10am - 12 noon

'GROWING NEWBURY GREEN' CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST COMMUNITY ORCHARD

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Grow Newbury Green's first Community Orchard at Barn Crescent. On Sunday 13 March there will be a Community Planting Event starting at 10am and volunteers are very welcome. The event is in partnership with Newbury Town Council and supported by Newbury in Bloom. Previous clearance work to allow the planting of one of the local 'Lockdown Woods' has revealed the border and hedge line of the area where raspberries, gooseberries and redcurrants will be planted to add to the free edible fruits already available. There will be a short ceremony to celebrate the orchard and to thank all the volunteers hard work that they have carried out over the last 10 years. This is a chance for local people to come along and see what it's all about. Bring gloves, spades and secateurs and have a go. Get out and about and hopefully enjoy the Spring air!



BLUE PLAQUE AT LUKER HALL FOR ESTHER JANE LUKER, THE FOUNDING HEADMISTRESS OF NEWBURY GIRLS' SCHOOL



Newbury Town Council is pleased to announce the unveiling of its 14th blue plaque, to Esther Jane Luker (1872-1969), who served as the first headmistress of Newbury Girls' School from 1904 to 1933. Newbury Girls' School was the first Newbury school to offer secondary education for girls to university standard, and Jane Luker (as she was generally known) was therefore a pioneer in that important advance. The school was set up by Berkshire County Council in 1904 and was an immediate success, taking pupils from a wide area. By the 1920's, its girls were gaining entrance scholarships to Cambridge. In addition to academic excellence, Jane encouraged a love of art and music, travel, sport, and community service. In 1910, the school moved to the purpose-built premises in Andover Road which were later known as "Luker Hall". After her retirement, in 1945 it became Newbury County Girls' Grammar School and was merged with St Bartholomew's School in 1975. With the construction of the new St Bartholomew's building in 2011, the Luker premises were sold for conversion to flats. The plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Newbury, Cllr Billy Drummond on 20 January with a number of former pupils in attendance, together with the current St Bartholomew's School headteacher, Julia Matthews.

JOIN THE MAYOR FOR A FUNDRAISING BANQUET!

Councillor Billy Drummond's final charity event during his term as Mayor of Newbury will be a 'Fundraising Banquet' in aid of Newbury Speakability and the Mayor's Benevolent Fund. The black-tie event will take place on Saturday 9 April at the Chequers Hotel in Newbury. If you would like to meet the Mayor and help to raise some money for two very worthwhile charities, tickets are just £60 a head and include a welcome drink, a three-course meal and music with a DJ and disco after dinner. There will also be a silent auction and a raffle taking place throughout the evening to raise additional funds for the two charities. Group booking discounts are available so you can get a group of friends or work colleagues together for a special night out. Booking is essential as there are limited tickets available.

To book your tickets, contact the Mayor's Office by emailing mayor@newbury.gov.uk or by calling 07538 334 106. Group booking discounts are also available.

