

## **2nd Mayor's Report 29th October 2018**

Fellow Councillors, the last 4 months have been a whirlwind of engagements!

Since my last report I have completed 63 events, clearly too many to report in detail so I have tried to highlight a few of the varied things I have done.

The Mayors Drive was again a great success and I must thank the Councillors and Council Officers who all helped on a very hot day at Chieveley Manor.

At the beginning of July, I went to the annual awards Evening at 211 Squadron ATC Newbury. Each year a worthy Cadet is awarded the Mayor's cup and this year I decided to ask the winner to be my 'Mayor's Cadet' for the year. 14 yr. old Joshua Lane is now my Cadet and he has accompanied me to several events including a visit to witness the change of Command at RAF Welford and at the wreath laying for HMS Tigris. He was also a willing member of the Civic team at the opening of the Michaelmas Fair on the 17th October!

I gave a civic welcome to a group of visitors from Arras France in mid-July, making the speech in French added another hashtag to my twitter account, I can now include #BilingualMayor! I also attended the 35th Birthday celebrations for Dingley's Promise which culminated in me attending the Newbury Centre at the end of September to read to the children in full Mayoral robes and chain and signing the story using Makaton. I must admit to that being a heart-warming and joyous morning.

I have attended several events at organisations that do amazing things for the people in need in our town. The Loose Ends and 'Homestarts' AGMs and the Open Day at Eight Bells for Mental Health all reminded me of the many unsung fantastic volunteers we are so lucky to have.

I have enjoyed various musical events over the summer. The youth Rock Choir at Arlington Arts being a standout seeing children as young as 6 giving confident performances on stage.

In this year of marking 100 years of Women's Suffrage I must mention the unveiling of a Blue Plaque to commemorate Elsie Kimber as our first Lady Mayor and following on from that I recently gave a talk to Newbury Soroptimists on the Lady Mayors of Newbury.

As we approach the end of the year, I look forward to representing the Town at the annual Armistice Commemorations on the 11th November and to our Civic Carol service on Sunday December 16th.

My thanks must go to Cllr. Kuldip Kang as my Deputy who has fulfilled duties during a trying time for his family. We are all hoping for a good outcome soon.

Cllr Margo Payne.