

Newbury Town Council

Mayor's Report for Full Council Meeting on 29th January 2018

The period from the end of October 2017 to end of January 2018 has been the busiest so far for my mayoral engagements, involving 66 events.

It started with the Lions Club spectacular firework display at the racecourse with a record attendance.

The Remembrance Day Services in the Market Place and St Nicolas' Church were well attended by many members of the public and organizations. Thanks go to the Royal British Legion and NTC staff. I also attended the Remembrance Service at RAF Welford and the Memorial Service for the wartime accidents at Greenham Common.

Democracy events were held with Willows and John Rankin Schools.

I attended the World War 1 exhibition and talk in the Town Hall.

Musical events included Kennet Opera's Marriage of Figaro, Hungerford Town Band and Trinity School Concert.

I officially switched on the tennis court floodlights in Victoria Park and unveiled the defibrillator mounted on the outside of the tennis courts.

The Mayor Charity Quiz raised £741 shared between the Mayor's Benevolent Fund, Rosemary Appeal and 1st Wash Common Scout Hut Appeal. By popular demand we are holding another quiz on 2nd February.

In addition to a Mayor's Coffee Morning which raised £204 I attended others in aid of Home Start, Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery, Swings and Smiles and 8th Newbury Brownies.

Other events included opening the refurbished training kitchen at the Community Furniture Project, visiting the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice for their 25th anniversary tea, Newbury Dramatic Society's 'It's a Shaw House Thing', reopening the Castle pub at Donnington, Fair Close 50th anniversary events, 1st Wash Common Scouts' Fayre, Ivory Belongs to Elephants Walk, Bramlings House refurbished Hostel supporting 17 - 25 year olds. Visiting the Homeless Night Shelter where we thanked the Salvation Army for providing the accommodation and the dedicated team of volunteers.

I attended Trinity School Key Stage 5 presentations and the Citizens Advice new offices.

The remainder of the period involved many Christmas themed events. Newbury was packed for the Christmas Light Switch on in the Market Place. We enjoyed our ride on Santa's sleigh through the lined streets of cheering people to the switch on.

Thanks to Sainsbury's, Newbury Weekly News, the Scouts and Guiding Organizations for the packing production line of the over eighties Christmas Parcels where we joined in. These were subsequently distributed by the volunteers, drivers and teams via Fair Close who kindly acted as the store.

Further events attended were:-

Swift Christmas Toy Appeal

Tesco Toy Appeal

Rotary Club Santa Fun Run

Hungerford Christmas Light Switch on

Best dressed shop window and prize presentation

Beauty and the Beast Pantomime - oh yes we did!

Jubilee Canal Boat Trip

Contact the Elderly Party

Blind Club Party

Fair Close Christmas lunch

Donnington Ward party

St John's Church Community Christmas Tree Festival

Prize presentation to Best Dressed Christmas Market Stall

Carol Services attended:-

Newbury Cancer Care

Save the Children

St John's Church

Civic Carol Service at St George's Church (£180 raised for Wash Common Scouts)

On Christmas Day morning we visited West Berkshire Community Hospital, talked with all the patients and sang carols, accompanied by the Salvation Army Band in both wards.

At lunchtime I visited St George's Church Hall where a meal and entertainment was provided for those who would otherwise have been on their own on Christmas day.

The year ended up the tower of St Nicolas Church for the ringing in of the New Year and a view of Newbury from the tower roof.

Marion, the Mayoress, joined me on many occasions. We continue to gain much insight into the work and support offered by the people of Newbury.

I will be holding coffee mornings on 17 February; 3rd March and 14th April.

David Fenn

Mayor of Newbury