

# Councillor Margaret Payne

## Mayor of Newbury

### 2018 – 19



Official Record of Year in Office  
20 May 2018 - 19 May 2019

**Date of Mayor Making: 20 May 2018**

**Deputy Mayor:** Cllr Kuldip Singh Kang

**Consort:** John Payne

**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

Mace Bearer : Garry Poulson

**Mayor's Chosen Charities:**

The Rosemary Appeal

Daisy's Dream

Newbury Town Council passed a formal Vote of Thanks to

**Councillor Margaret Payne**

on behalf of the people of Newbury in recognition of her

**Year in Office as Town Mayor**

**20 May 2018 to 19 May 2019**

Present when the Seal of  
Newbury Town Council  
was affixed

Leader of the Council, Martin Colston

CEO of Newbury Town Council, Hugh Peacocke

Dated: 19 May 2019



# A Taste of the Civic Year 2018/19

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as Town Mayor over the past year.

Newbury is a vibrant community, rich in history, active in the arts and progressive in technology and it has been an honour meeting with the many people who through their offices enable our town to benefit from what is made available to enrich our society.

Celebrating our town's story has played an important part of my year from attending the 375th anniversary of the battle of Newbury which included 17thC dining and the firing of a canon! (Yes, I can easily recall what they call the Gunner's Grin even 9 months later!) through marking 100 years of women's suffrage with the plaque to Elsie Kimber our first lady Councillor and leading the town in commemorating 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of WW1. Attending the launch of the Commemorative Drive for D Day when Gen Eisenhower visited Greenham and witnessing what part Greenham played during the 2nd world war and marking the presence of the peace women through living history and art at the Greenham common Control Tower.



Our Town's amazing arts culture have also been forefront during the year.

I attended many performances from the large Concerts at St Nic's like the South Wales Male Voice Choir and the Newbury Spring Festival closing concert in 2018 and opening one just last week, and then other more local events such as Newbury Rock Youth Choir last summer, a trip to the pantomime, an evening of Opera from Kennet Opera plus the New Era players performing 'The Heiress' and more recently Trinity School's epic performance of Beauty and the Beast!

On the visual arts side I have had the opportunity to visit many art exhibitions held in various locations around the







town, work by both visiting professional artists and also local amateur artists including students work, giving me the chance to congratulate and encourage some amazing potential professional artists in our midst.

I have been delighted in being able to support and congratulate many sporting achievements made by the people of Newbury. I wrote to Luke Humphries when he made the quarter finals of the Darts World Championship. I presented Young Sportsman of the year to Park House Pupil Ben East at the Get Berkshire Active awards and wrote to congratulate Newbury Canoe club members for their amazing Devises to Westminster Race. On a lighter note I had the pleasure of starting then presenting medals to those who ran in the ROC 10K race and the joyous Santa Fun run.

This town is fortunate to be a leading light in modern technology and as Mayor I have had the opportunity to visit several companies and retailers to witness new methods and new equipment used to enhance productivity and improve deliverance to the people of Newbury. Whilst attending Commercial events I did things as diverse as pose with Willow the Dulux Dog and judge Easter drawings whilst wearing a pair of bunny ears!

One major theme that has run through my year has been visiting and supporting the many charities in and around Newbury. These organisations are just amazing in supporting and enhancing the lives of the young the old and the vulnerable. Highlights have been reading to the children at Dingley's Promise using Makaton, chatting with the youth group at Newbury PALS, attending Christmas lunch at Fairclose Centre, having ladies to afternoon tea in the Mayor's Parlour from a local Care home, dancing with residents at a silver Sunday event and possibly the most fun singing and dancing I have ever had with the Mayor of Hungerford and the Deputy Mayor of Thatcham along with Elvis Presley who it appears is live and well and living in West Berkshire whilst attending the open day at Eight Bells for Mental Health. I also attended World Food Day at the Riverside Community and have spent time at many coffee mornings both in the Town Hall and around Newbury helping to raise awareness and raise money for many different charities. I





was delighted to have two Charity Coffee mornings of my own raising money for the Rosemary Appeal and Daisy's Dream.

One major event I would like to mention is the annual Mayor's Drive, held in July 2018 at Chieveley Manor on a scorching day where over 200 elderly residents enjoyed a ride and picnic. My thanks to the army of volunteers who support this event every year driving or making the picnics up it is a highlight of the year!

The Royal British Legion do so much for this Town, and I have been pleased to attend several events including the County Conference and the Ladies Section Conference. I also laid a wreath commemorating HMS Tigris the submarine adopted by Newbury and lost in 1943 and at RAF Welford marking the 75th anniversary of the loss of a Lancaster Bomber in 1944.

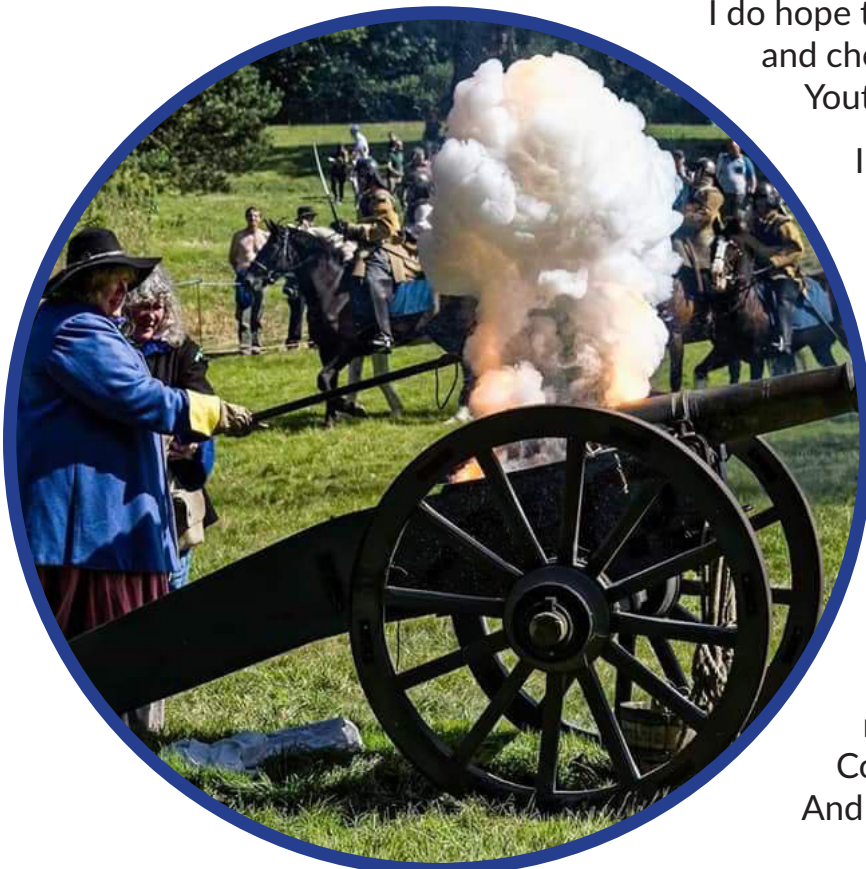
Speaking of RAF Welford reminds me of the fact I have been accompanied on many Mayoral events by my Mayor's Cadet Joshua Lane. Having seen the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet in action (also a Newbury girl!) I wondered if it were possible for a Mayor's Cadet and so when awarding the Mayor's Cup at the annual prize giving at 211 Sqn ATC Newbury, I invited Josh to be my Cadet for the year. He has attended many events from Remembrance Sunday to the switching on the Christmas lights and several visits to RAF Welford. Thank you, Josh, for your hard work and diligence!



I do hope that future Mayors will continue with this and choose a worthy recipient from our many Youth Organisations in Newbury.

I have had the opportunity to stretch my language skills during the past year, I have greeted visitors to Newbury in French and in Flemish and when visiting our newly Twinned Town of Carcaixent in Spain delivered my whole speech in Spanish having written it all out phonetically first!

I have also represented Newbury across West Berkshire and beyond. Places like Bisham Abbey celebrating Newbury Schools taking part in sporting events, Reading Minster for remembrance services, Reading Crown Court for the Schools Judicial competition. And Brock Barracks to mark the centenary of





the Army Cadets.

Christmas and New year saw no let up and I had the joy of many parties and Carol services the most memorable was St Mary's Shaw where a Carol Concert for Guide Dogs for the Blind saw 15 Guide Dogs in attendance!

These last few weeks have also seen a flurry of diverse events from starting the junior stage of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe race, visiting Carcaixent and signing the twinning documents. Celebrating the opening of the Greenham Trust Wing at Newbury Hospital and the success of the Rosemary Appeal marked by a visit by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester. One major highlight was of course the Civic awards evening in the Town Hall celebrating so many people who go the extra mile for individuals or organisations in the Town.

Throughout this past year I have been supported by my wonderful husband John as my Consort and also by the Revd. Debbie Davidson as my Chaplain. Thank you both so much for your constant encouragement also John for your patience and Debbie for your prayers!

The Civic team are like a well-oiled machine that ensure the Role of Mayor runs smoothly and efficiently. Headed by Joyce Lewis who is the most amazing lady with endless knowledge and supported by Rod, Barry, Brian, Dave and Garry who have looked after me on many occasions, thanks lads! Special mention must go to Ian Campbell the Mayor's attendant ensuring I am where I should be when I should be and another fount of knowledge and advice!

I have been the 20th Lady Mayor and I am delighted to be passing the baton to another Lady Mayor and wish Cllr Elizabeth O'Keeffe the most enjoyable year ahead.

Thank you Newbury for giving me this amazing 12 months I hope I did you proud!

Margo Payne  
Mayor of Newbury  
2018-2019



# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 25 June 2018

Fellow Councillors, it has been very busy in my first month as Mayor.

Mayor Making was a lovely day and I would like to acknowledge the support from the Civic Manager Joyce Lewis, my predecessor Cllr. David Fenn and from my Deputy Mayor Cllr Singh Kang.

I have attended 15 events since the 20th of May.

- The UK Equality Exhibition
- Community Iftar
- Newbury Spring Festival
- ROC 10k Event
- Wreath laying at Falkland Memorial for 375th Anniversary of 1st Battle of Newbury
- Lord Lieutenant's 'At Home' Cocktail Party at Welford Park
- Celebrating 'Volunteer Week' at VCWB
- Opening of Mabel Luke Alms-houses
- Opening Speen Fete
- Rotary Club Boules Competition
- Annual Town Council v Newbury Bowls Club match
- Dine in the Dark Event held by Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Committee meeting for Newbury Twin Town Association
- Charity Coffee morning for Eight Bells Mental Health Charity
- Launch of Newbury in Bloom in Parkway Newbury

Two unusual events have been laying the wreath at Falkland Memorial on behalf of the people of Newbury to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the 1st Battle of Newbury, where I inspected some of the troops of the Marquis of Winchester Regiment and 'Dine in the Dark' organised by wGuide dogs for the Blind and hosted by David Wilson Homes which entailed eating a two course meal with sight impairment glasses on and learning the everyday difficulties of being sight impaired from a lovely lady and her gorgeous guide dog Harley.

I am looking forward very much to the Mayors Drive which this year takes place at Chieveley Manor on July 4th and to two of my own Charity Events, The Mayor's Classic Car Meet on Sunday 22nd July and my first Charity Coffee morning on Saturday 28th July.

Cllr Margo Payne  
Mayor of Newbury



# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 29 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.  
Mayor of Newbury

# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 28 January 2019

Fellow Councillors, another busy two and half months since last full council in which I have completed 52 engagements.

Obviously, there are too many to talk about, but I would like to highlight a few from the end of 2018

Events at the Corn Exchange have included handing over the Ceremonial trowel used for laying the foundations back in 1863, a trip to the Pantomime to see Jack and the Beanstalk (oh no you didn't oh yes, I did!)

Marking the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 saw several events including War poetry at Trinity School and War Words by friends of Newtown Cemetery, the latter being accompanied by the sound of fireworks at Newbury Racecourse which added a certain poignancy to words spoken about the sounds of the battle field

.

Our own event to mark Remembrance Day was incredibly moving as it was amazing to see over 6,000 people attended the commemoration. Mention must also to go to the 'Battle's Over' event which was also well attended and much appreciated as a way of acknowledging those who gave their lives from Newbury during the 4 years of WW1. Our final World Wars exhibition and talks also took place over the week of the 9th November onwards. Thanks to the World Wars Working group for all the amazing work they have done over the past 5 years.

I enjoyed spending time at the World Food day held at The Riverside Community Centre in November which led to me being invited to visit the West Berkshire Muslim Centre for a coffee morning, another fun and interesting event.

Another fun event was celebrating the New Era Players 40th anniversary by attending a performance of 'The Heiress' The first play they performed back in the 1960's.

Where to start for Christmas 2018!

Switching on the Christmas lights in November got everything off with a burst of colour and a packed Market Place. The tree and the lights looked magnificent.

I attended 6 Carol services including our own successful Civic Carol Concert at St John's the Evangelist Newbury. Thanks go to all Councillors who supported that event.

The most memorable Carol Concert must be the one held on the 20th December at St Mary's Shaw for Guide dogs for the Blind, there were working dogs retired dogs and puppies in training at the service and they raised over £600!



I had the fun of several Christmas parties held for various organisations in the weeks leading up to Christmas and enjoyed a delightful Christmas lunch at the Fair Close Day centre.

Packing parcels and then delivering parcels for the NWN over 80's parcel fund was great fun, a well organised massive event with over 1000 parcels delivered in the area.

A special delight for me was taking Evie my Granddaughter on the Santa Barge Trip She was awestruck by her first ever meeting with Father Christmas and then competed with the Town Crier to see who could ring the bell loudest.

On Christmas Day morning I spent a couple of hours with the Mayor of Thatcham meeting and spending time with patients on Highclere and Donnington Wards at West Berkshire Community Hospital, It was lovely to see how the staff had made such an effort for those in hospital away from their families on this special day and the warmth and smiles from the nursing staff to all in their care was a joy along with joining in the carols from the Salvation Army.

On New Year's Eve John and I spent the hour before midnight witnessing the ringing out of the Old Year and then the ringing in of the New in the Bell Tower of St Nicolas Church. I was joined by my Chaplain The Rev Debbie Davidson who said a prayer for the Town as the New Year commenced. I have been very grateful for her support at several events over the past months.

As 2019 has commenced there has been little let up in my engagements, already I have welcomed a former Mayor back to Newbury on a visit from his now home of New Zealand, Attended and opened the Volunteer event at the Corn Exchange talking to over 60 charities, attended a Coffee morning in support of Sue Ryder and opened the County Conference for the Royal British.

Legion speaking on how the RBL is as relevant today as it was 98 years ago when it was formed.

I am looking forward to my charity event on 16th February which I hope some of you will attend and also to representing Newbury at the formal twinning with Carcaixent in March.

My thanks as always to all the Council Officers, to Cllr Kuldip Singh Kang and to all Councillors in their assistance in many ways.

Cllr Margo Payne  
Mayor of Newbury

# Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

## 13 May 2019

Councillors,

Since the last Full Council on 28th January I have had 63 engagements in my diary.

These have been extremely varied, from meeting HRH the Duchess of Gloucester at West Berkshire Community Hospital to judging the Easter Paintings at Tesco whilst wearing Bunny ears! With so many I have chosen just a few to highlight.

I was delighted to 'unveil' the Blue Plaque marking the involvement the railway line through Newbury to Southampton had during the preparation for D Day and continuing the theme of D Day I recently attended the launch of the plans to re-enact the drive Gen. Eisenhower made to Newbury on the 5th June 1944.

I was delighted to present the Civic Awards at the Annual Town meeting, celebrating the achievements of those who go the extra mile for others both in personal circumstances and through charitable organisations and business.

I have attended a conference on Isolation and Loneliness and a conference on Dementia at which I was honoured to be a guest speaker sharing my own experiences in having a close relative with Alzheimer's.

I attended the Rotary Club dinner where I was invited to speak on the history of the Lady Mayors of Newbury and gave a talk at the Macular Society on the joy of being Mayor sharing several amusing incidents including posing with the Dulux Dog!

I have supported several local schools at both the Get Berkshire Active Winter Games at Bisham Abbey and the Crown Court Mock Trials in Reading. I also attended the very enjoyable production of Beauty and the Beast at Trinity School where my Granddaughter Evie had the joy of meeting 'Belle' afterwards declaring Belle was now her best friend for ever!

At the beginning of March I was fortunate to be able to represent the Town in Carcaixent Spain as we formalised the Twinning Agreement. Making my speech in Spanish was a challenge as it is not first in my foreign language abilities! Writing it out phonetically was a great help!

Before Easter I met a group of Students from our Twin Town in Eeklo and was delighted to manage a very short speech in Flemish welcoming them to Newbury.



Leading up to Easter I also had the fun of judging Easter Bonnets at St John's Pre School and joining the Willows school when they had a visit from musicians performing in this year's Spring Festival. I also had the honour to present an award to a volunteer from Fair Close Day Centre at the High Sheriff's Reception at Shaw House.

On Easter Saturday I started the Junior races on the Newbury stage of the Devizes Westminster it was a glorious morning and great fun to keep sounding the klaxon!

I have attended several AGM's for local Charities and enjoyed coffee and cake at numerous Charity Coffee mornings both in the Town Hall and around the town.

I had the pleasure of visiting Art exhibitions at Arlington Arts Greenham Control Tower and City Arts. Attending the opening concert of the Newbury Spring Festival this weekend will be a wonderful experience and I still have a further 4 engagements after Full Council to fulfil before Mayor Making on the 19th May.

I wish my successor every joy in becoming Newbury's First Citizen and again say what an honour and a privilege it has been to serve the Town and Council over the last 4 years and particularly the wonderful 12 months as Mayor.

Margo Payne  
Mayor of Newbury.