

## Historic George and Pelican Inn Blue Plaque Unveiled

The fifth of Newbury's programme of blue plaques was unveiled on 29 September. The plaque was erected outside the premises of Jackson-Stops & Staff Estate Agent, 2 London Road, which with its neighbouring buildings was the premises of the George & Pelican Inn, the most famous, prestigious, and (reputedly) most expensive of the many inns in Newbury which served the coaching trade.

The George and Pelican was the inn of choice for royalty, politicians, generals, and admirals. Nelson was a frequent visitor as his father lived in Bath. The inn had stabling for 300 horses.



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# NTC NEWS

## NEWBURY in Bloom

### 2016 WINNERS

The 2016 Newbury in Bloom Presentation evening took place at St Nicolas Church Hall in September. The Mayor of Newbury, Cllr Julian Swift-Hook, together with the sponsors presented the awards to the very deserving winners. There were a total of 28 entries received from local businesses, schools, places of worship, pubs & restaurants and allotments. All entrants were invited to attend on the evening and were presented with certificates for participating.

The winners were presented with a trophy, a plate beautifully handcrafted and engraved by local woodturner, Alan Hulford, together with a certificate and a gift voucher from the sponsors for each category.

The winners were as follows:

#### **Pubs/Restaurants**

sponsored by Rivar Sand & Gravel Ltd

**Lock Stock & Barrel**



#### **Places of Worship**

sponsored by Yew Tree Garden Centre

**The Friends Meeting House**

#### **Allotments**

sponsored by Yew Tree Garden Centre

**Paul Dean**

West Mills Allotments

#### **Business**

sponsored by Mole Country Stores

**LK Hair**

#### **Schools**

sponsored by Penwood Nurseries

**Speenhamland Primary School**

We are pleased that we had so many entries and the standard was very high. It was very hard to choose the winners. We are very encouraged by this year's campaign and we look forward to expanding it further next year.

## TOWN HALL OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AS PART OF HERITAGE WEEK

Newbury Town Hall threw open its doors to the public as part of National Heritage Week on Friday 9 September. The Chamber, The Civic Staircase, The Town Hall portraits, the Council's maces and other Civic Regalia were all available to view. This included the Town Hall Honours Boards, which list all of the Mayors of Newbury, going back to 1596 and features many well-known local families.

The Town Hall portraits are on the civic staircase, which leads to the Council Chamber. They include the portrait of "Jack of Newbury" dated 1550, as well as King George III and Queen Charlotte. The recently loaned painting of "The Newbury Coat" was also on display. In the Council Chamber, as well as the Honours Boards, the Mayor's Throne and the Council's maces were on display. The maces date from 1707 (Queen Anne) and 1758 (King George II).

The Town Hall welcomed groups of guests who all enjoyed in the opportunity to look around Newbury's historic Town Hall.

## Event Dates

**Monday 10th October - Thursday 20th October**

Local Democracy Fortnight

**Monday 17th October:**

Policy and Resources Committee Meeting - Town Hall

**Monday 24th October:**

Planning and Highways Committee Meeting - Town Hall

**Monday 31st October:**

Full Council Committee Meeting - Town Hall

All meetings start at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber. Public questions are welcome and must be submitted by 2pm on the day of each meeting.

## ALLOTMENT AWARD WINNERS 2016

Newbury's best allotment tenants were recognised at a recent Community Services Committee meeting for their cultivation skills and maintenance of plots.

Following allotment visits at Newbury's six allotment sites by Councillors earlier in the year, Newbury Town Council presented awards to tenants who were judged to have kept the best allotment plots on each site. This year a number of awards were given out, including 'Best Newcomer', 'Best Plots', 'Best Schools Plot' and 'Best Site Overall'.

A trophy was presented to Dave Cole, Steward of our One Tree Park Allotment Site, after they were judged to be the best site overall. The competition was very close but the One Tree Park site, off of Fifth Road was judged to be marginally ahead of the other five sites, which were all highly rated.



An award was also given to Falkland Primary School who tend an allotment plot at Wash Common.

Newbury's allotments are very popular, however, our waiting lists have reduced in recent months and we would urge anyone interested in having an allotment to contact the Community Services Team at Newbury Town Council on 01635 35486. There are over 500 plots in Newbury, ranging from large to small, with some tenants who have had the same plot for over 40 years.