

PRESS RELEASE

3 September 2019

Town Hall Chamber Open to the Public

Treasure the Treasures on your Doorstep!

Saturday 14 September, 10am to 2pm

Newbury Town Hall is throwing open its doors to the public so that everyone can view the Council Chamber, The Civic Staircase, The Town Hall portraits, the Council's maces and other civic regalia. This includes the Town Hall Honours Boards, which list the Mayors of Newbury, going back to 1596 and features many well-known local families. Although meetings in the Town Hall are open to the public, and there are often coffee mornings and other community events in the Chamber, it appears there are still a lot of Newbury people who have not visited the Chamber. The event is FREE, including refreshments, and all are welcome.

Speaking ahead of the event, Leader of the Council, Cllr Martin Colston said: "We are very lucky in Newbury to have such an interesting history, and I am proud of our heritage and traditions dating back to the first Charter of Queen Elizabeth I in 1596. I would like to encourage anyone to come and have a look at our historic Town Hall on the Open Day".

The Town Hall portraits are on the civic staircase, which leads to the Council Chamber are most impressive and include the portrait of "Jack of Newbury" dated 1550, as well as King George III and Queen Charlotte.

Continued.....

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Newbury Town Council is committed to continuing to make Newbury a better place to live, work and visit.

“The Newbury Coat” is also on display, featuring a very famous story from Newbury’s industrial past. In the Council Chamber, as well as the Honours Boards, the Mayor’s Throne and the Council’s maces will be on display. The maces date from 1707 (Queen Anne) and 1758 (King George II).

The Victorian Town Hall (facing the Market Place) was built from 1876 to 1878 and The Town Hall clock and clock tower were added 3 years later, in 1881. The Municipal Offices (facing Mansion House Street), were built from 1909-10.

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- The Open Day runs from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturday 15 September.
- Officers and members of the Council will be in attendance to welcome the public. Light refreshments will be available.
- The event is open to all and no booking is required.
- Children must be supervised.
- A lift is available for anyone who has difficulty with the steps and staircase.
- Heritage Open Days is the largest heritage festival in the country. Heritage Open Days operates as part of the National Trust with funding from players of People’s Postcode Lottery. Every single Heritage Open Days event is free, including access to many sites that usually charge for admission. For details and opening times, visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk .

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