

Councillor David Fenn

Mayor of Newbury

2017 – 18



Official Record of Year in Office
14 May 2017 - 20 May 2018

Date of Mayor Making: 14 May 2017

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Margo Payne

Mayoress: Marion Fenn

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

1st Wash Common Scouts Hut Appeal

A Taste of the Civic Year 2017/18

My year, serving Newbury as its Mayor, has reinforced my belief that Newbury is a great place to live and work, full of wonderful people from all walks of life.

It has been an honour and an amazing experience to represent the people of Newbury at many and varied engagements throughout the 2017-2018 mayoral year.

My wife, Marion, as Mayoress, has come along to most events and shared in having the opportunity to talk with and understand first hand, what contributions are made by and to our local community.

Much work is done by volunteers supporting the homeless, disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our society. I am glad to have met with them, to thank them for their constant help and hopefully promote just what they do for our community. We visited the homeless shelter and attended AGMs for Loose Ends, Home Start and Street Pastors.

When visiting care homes we have engaged with dedicated staff and happy residents. The latter are no longer able to live independently but feel well looked after. We were given insight into the occupational therapy on offer and saw many art exhibits of residents' own work. It is particularly impressive how those suffering from dementia can paint pictures and write stories to reflect their younger days.

High profile events included Mayor Making, Remembrance Day and Parade (well attended by service personnel, Veterans, uniformed organisations and the public) and judging the colourful Newbury Carnival. The service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Newbury was well attended, including by several people who experienced it firsthand. After the service in St. John's Church flowers were laid at the memorial in St. John's Gardens.

In July, West Woodhay House opened its grounds for the Mayor's Drive. The over 75s, with their volunteer drivers enjoyed a picnic tea (which I helped prepare and pack at Fair Close earlier in the day) in the shade on a scorching hot day.



Newbury's Michaelmas Fair was as popular as ever. On the day I opened it I could offer free rides to some children when I was on them. As my challenging ride I chose the Screamer - quite an experience!

The Lions organised a spectacular firework display at the racecourse. There was a record attendance and much money raised for charity.

The Bayer 10k run was manned by Rotary and I presented the medals. Both Rotary and Lions contribute in so many ways, not only raising money for charity but also by providing valuable help with stewarding at town events.

The streets and Market Place were packed to witness Santa's sleigh pulled by a horse, go through town with Santa, me, Marion and two children, (who had won a competition for the ride) on board. I then switched on the Christmas lights to the delight of the onlookers.

Christmas parcels were packed and delivered for our over 80s with plenty of volunteers along the way. It was good to have help from the Guiding and Scouting organisations when packing and the wonderful service offered by Sainsbury's.

As well as the Civic Carol Service, held at St George's, conducted by Rev. Terry Winrow, my chaplain, we attended Carol services around the area. On Christmas Day we visited the patients at West Berkshire Hospital. They were delighted to select carols which were accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.

In recognition of educational opportunities locally we went to award giving at schools, Castle School Post 16 unit, Newbury College and WBTC apprenticeships. Thank you to all local employers who create time and space to help these young people. We also judged cookery competitions at St Barts and Speenhamland Schools and visited the i College. I attended when Primary School pupils visited the Town Hall, during Local Democracy Week, when a debating competition was held for Senior School pupils and when Year 7-8 pupils took part at Mock Trials in Reading Crown Court.

Beside recognition of the volunteer caring sectors, Newbury has numerous diverse cultural events. We attended the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scots Guards beating the retreat at Hermitage, Sleeping Beauty, Hare Krishna festival, Diwali, Junior Rock Choir, concerts at Trinity School and Museum exhibitions.



Other successful events were the NTC 20th Anniversary, Newbury in Bloom, Blue plaque unveiling, Waterways festival, Pre- school visits, Shaw church flower festival and opening The Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Coffee Shop.

There are numerous sporting and exercise opportunities in Newbury. I attended indoor and outdoor bowls, boules, junior football, canoeing, indoor and outdoor tennis, Tai Chi and Berkshire Games at Bisham Abbey where Newbury Schools are well represented. We were involved with additions to Newbury's recreational facilities, including new tennis courts complete with floodlights and defibrillator, replanted rose beds and reopened the Bowls Club. Victoria Park's further enhancements, including new pedalos, truly means it is Newbury's Jewel in the crown and a great place to visit.

Fair Close celebrated its 50th anniversary where I met the Duchess of Cornwall.

I would like to thank all the people who have supported, helped at and given so generously to my chosen charities at coffee mornings and quizzes. These have proved relaxing opportunities to meet and chat with the public in our lovely Town Hall Chamber. Money has been raised for the Newbury Weekly News Christmas parcel appeal, Mayor's Benevolent Fund (to support the most needy of Newbury and the Mayor's Drive), the Rosemary Appeal (for cancer care and renal dialysis unit at West Berkshire Hospital)

and the 1st Wash Common

Scout Hut Appeal (to replace the 100+ year old tin hut).

My thanks go to the Mayoress (Marion Fenn), Civic Manager (Joyce Lewis), Mayor's Chaplain (Rev. Terry Winrow), Mayor's attendants (Ian Campbell and his reliefs!), Councillors and Officers who have supported me throughout the year.

(copies of my reports to each meeting are appended)

Councillor David Fenn
Mayor of Newbury 2017-18



Newbury Town Council passed a formal Vote of Thanks to

Councillor David Fenn

on behalf of the people of Newbury in recognition of his

Year in Office as Town Mayor

14 May 2017 to 20 May 2018

Present when the Seal of
Newbury Town Council
was affixed

Leader of the Council, Adrian Edwards

CEO of Newbury Town Council, Hugh Peacocke

Dated: 20 May 2018

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

26 June 2017

Thank you for electing me as Mayor of Newbury. Not only was 14th May an important day for the community of Newbury but a much appreciated day for our family. The singing by Falkland School Choir was excellent. Many letters and positive comments have been received. I would like to re-iterate our appreciation to the staff and children who helped get my Mayoral Year off with an all age community spirit.

This report covers the seventeen engagements I have attended, many of the accompanied by my wife, Marion, the Mayoress.

My first appointment, for dementia week, was during my first week of being Mayor in the pouring rain. I met carers (who do an invaluable job) and dementia sufferers.

Our NTC 20th anniversary reception went well. Thank you to the committee involved.

Fund raising events included seeing off three Round Table members, on their fund raising trip for the Rosemary Appeal, to the Monte Carlo Rally, coffee mornings for Eight Bells for Mental Health and the Sandham Singers. The Mayor's coffee morning was well supported and raised over £230 for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund.

Victoria Park is looking splendid after its refurbishment and is featuring some sporting events. I threw the first bowl at the re-opening of the Bowls Club which has attracted at least 6 new members. Jonathan Overend accompanied me for the opening of the newly marked tennis courts. Jonathan spent some time engaging with the public and playing 'a game of tennis' with me. Thank you to the officers who have enabled Victoria Park to attract so many people to its excellent facilities including play equipment, splash park and skateboarding/scootering. The following week I presented the medals to the under 7s who played in a brilliant football tournament, on the newly laid pitch, in Victoria Park, organised by Councillor David Fish. I started and presented trophies and medals at the Bayer 10K race. Rotary Boules in the Market Place was another fun and well attended event.

We attended the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Festival concert, High Sheriff's reception, Lions Lunch and Buzz Connect networking event.

Our last two events have seen ages range from 2 and a half to 101, having visited St George's Pre-school and the Argyles Care Home.

I wish Joyce a speedy recovery from her accident.

Please support my next coffee morning on 15 July in aid of the Rosemary Appeal.

David Fenn
Newbury Town Mayor

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

30 October 2017

This report covers the period from end of June to 23rd October. Marion, the Mayoress, has accompanied me to many of the events. We were made to feel most welcome and appreciated.

It is clear that there are many groups involved in care, education, a variety of sporting, heritage and cultural activities in the town.

Thank you to those who have supported the mayor's coffee mornings. They have been a huge success with £361 (which has been match funded) for the Rosemary Appeal and £412 for the 1st Wash Common Scout Hut Rebuilding Project. Other coffee mornings attended were in aid of Alopecia Society, Save the Children and Water Aid organised by Eight Bells, Guides and at Winchcombe Place for the Rosemary Appeal.

Care home garden parties and art events took place at the Argyles, Willows Edge and Donnington Care Home. A visit was made to the newly built Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. Also a garden party was held by West Berks Hospital, Donnington Ward where we could explore their sensory garden.

AGMS were attended for Street Pastors, Loose Ends, Home Start, Dingley's Promise and Community Council in Berkshire.

A variety of musical events including the Scots Guards Beating the Retreat at Hermitage, Hungerford Band, Newbury Rock Choir and the Thatcham Festival Finale.

The Mayor's Drive in July, enjoyed by the over 75s, was held on a hot day at West Woodhay House. The picnic boxes, prepared earlier in the day, at Fair Close by volunteers, including the mayor, were enjoyed! We supported Samaritans Awareness, Stopover (stop smoking) and TSB's cake sale held in aid of Rapid Response Cars.

Achievements were recognised at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Newbury College Technology Skills and Art, Graduation and F.E. awards, Berkshire Training Services and Lord Lieutenant's Reservist and Cadets Awards.

The Council's Newbury in Bloom Event was a great success with the Awards Evening being held at the Corn Exchange. Prizes were presented at Southbys Allotment Open Day and Wash Common Garden and Craft Show.

Thanks to David Fish for organizing another enjoyable and successful Charity Golf Day where I presented the prizes.

Several religious events took place, celebrating the diverse and integrated society of our community including the colourful Rathayatra Festival with a chariot drawn through Northbrook Street to Victoria Park to the chant of Hare Krishna all the way, Onam Festival and Diwali. We took part in Bollywood dancing! St

George's Church, Wash Common welcomed us to the Benefice Service for St George and St John, licensing of the new vicar and celebration of completion of their building project.

Sporting events were AFC Newbury football teams' awards, Berkshire Schools Summer Festival at Bishan Abbey and Little Bears Nursery sports day.

Ribbons were cut at the opening of the Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Coffee House, St Mary's Shaw Church Flower Festival and the top floor opening at Gracewell Care Home.

The Town Hall hosted a Heritage Day display, blue plaques were unveiled for James Money and the Brewing industry.

Newbury Carnival was a vibrant and popular event. Hundreds attended the Corn Exchange Crossing Lines Project, held in Northcroft Park. Also popular was Greenham Common's One Hundred Years War and Peace production.

By taking part in a blindfold walk in the Market Place the difficulties and obstructions encountered by visually impaired people became a reality to me.

Other engagements included BNI and Buzz Connect networking events, Newtown Cemetery Open Evening, Freemasons 300 years open morning, Armed Forces flag raising,, Newbury Weekly News visit, Waterways Festival, Newbury Art Group Exhibition, Chalkfest, 100th birthday party, The Common Good book launch, Battle of Britain wreath laying, United Nations supper, Apple Day, Spinners, Weavers and Dyers exhibition and lunch, Launch of NWN over 80s Parcel Fund, National Older Person's Day, Opening of St Gabriel's School Sixth Form Centre, Thatcham Mayor's Charity Quiz and opening the ever popular Michaelmas Fair.

We opened St Bartholomew's summer fete and judged their cooking competition. We judged cupcakes at Speenhamland fete. Trinity School hosted house speeches, sports personality, dance festival and house performing arts events.

Recently at Local Democracy Fortnight I was pleased to welcome, to the Town Hall, St Nicolas, Fir Tree Lane, Speenhamland, St Joseph's and Falkland Schools. Two more are coming in November.

Our first sixth form debating competition, webcast live, was very successful and may become an annual event.

My engagements demonstrate the vast array of activities that take place in our area and I look forward to more in the coming months.

Finally, my earliest engagement was a 06.45 a.m. networking breakfast event and the fastest was on the Screamer at the fair.

David Fenn
Newbury Town Mayor.

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

29 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

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

16 May 2018

This is my last report and covers the period from February, relating to nearly 60 events.

We held our second charity quiz which was filled by those who wanted to come to the first one. This raised further funds for the Rosemary Appeal and 1st Wash Common Scouts Hut Appeal.

The Twin Town Association held a coffee morning and AGM and had an International weekend at Easter.

St John's Church was packed for the 75th Anniversary service commemorating the bombing of Newbury and this was followed by wreath laying at St John's garden. Some attendees were present when the bombing took place and shared their memories. Thanks to all who put this event together. There was a WW1 single act of commemoration and a Lancaster memorial service at RAF Welford.

Unfortunately, the annual pancake races were cancelled due to rain and the event was limited to St Nicolas hall for the lunch and me tossing a pancake, but none could be thrown from the Town Hall balcony.

Further coffee mornings were held by me, Newbury Musical Theatre and the United Nations Association. We greeted overseas young visitors from Eeklo and at a colourful event at Bradfield College where Moroccan students sang and danced in national dress.

Sporting events were:- Get Berkshire Active awards; School Games at Bisham Abbey; 24 hour tennis marathon; Newbury Table Tennis finals and Indoor Bowls finals. I started two races, from Newbury, of the Devizes to Westminster canoeing. Unfortunately the race was abandoned at Reading because of high water levels and the fast flowing River Thames.

I planted the first rose in the new rose bush and lavender beds that have been planted in Victoria Park and unveiled plaques in recognition of the costs being met by Sundog Hire, Rivar, Volker Highways and Tesco Bags of Help. This was a great community event with many members of the public planting!

Educational events included Castle School post 16 world of work; WBTC graduation; my being a male role model reading stories at Falkland school in book week and attending the Mock Trial competition at Reading Crown Court.

Musical and cultural items were Hogans Learn to Play; Hungerford Band: Philharmonia Orchestra; Peter Pan at Trinity School and Hoards Exhibition at the museum.

Civic Awards are an important in the Council's calendar. Thank you Swift for your sponsorship.

During Care Home Week we visited Winchcombe Place: Gracewell and The Argyles.

Further engagements included Freemasons Open Day; Street Pastors AGM; W.I. Yarn Bombing; Knitted Newbury; Judging Easter Colouring competition at Tesco; Town Plan Exhibition; Voluntary Sector Knowledge Event; Rotary Blood Pressure checks; unveiling new bins, partly financed by McDonalds, at the skate park, Lions, Rotary and Soroptimists meals; My Perspective Photo Exhibition, meeting the Duchess of Cornwall at a Fair Close 50th anniversary event. VE Day at Gracewell. We attended the Berkshire Guiding Annual Review at Easthampstead Park, taking our Civic award winner with us as she has been a guider for over fifty years.

After cutting the ribbon and officially declaring the free table tennis area (sponsored by Table Tennis England) open in the Kennet Centre my sporting action was tested with a game of ping pong. This gave me an appetite to go on to McDonalds for their official reopening, see their enhanced facilities and enjoy sampling their food plus making McFlurry ice creams in the kitchen.

There have been many enjoyable events throughout the year. These include frequent coffee mornings. I am grateful to the public for supporting these. It is great that so much has been raised for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund, the Rosemary Appeal and 1st Wash Common Scout Hut Appeal as well as being able to talk with the public in a relaxed atmosphere. Thank you to the Good Exchange for match funding for my chosen charities. Thank you for all the helpers and for the delicious homemade cakes!

My thanks go to my wife, Marion, the Mayoress, Joyce Lewis, Civic Manager, Ian Campbell, my attendant and his deputies, fellow councillors and officers for supporting me in this non-political role.

David Fenn
Mayor of Newbury