

Mayor's Report Full Council 13th 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.