

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**To:** Councillors Phil Barnett; Vera Barnett, Jo Day, Billy Drummond; Nigel Foot; David Harman; Chris Hood; Andy Moore; Gary Norman and Graham Storey.

**Substitutes:** All the remaining members of the Council.

**Also to:** All members of the Council for information.

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee** to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025** at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to the press and public and will be streamed via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87306351762?pwd=peoqCySMRqYdUgG341ZhgmMPKA47kx.1>

Meeting ID: 873 0635 1762

Passcode: 700140

Yours sincerely,

**Joanna Aylott**  
**Civic Manager**

---

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of interest and dispensations**  
To receive any declarations of interest relating to business to be conducted in this meeting and confirmation of any relevant dispensations.
3. **Minutes (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2)**  
3.1 **To approve** the minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (previously circulated).  
3.2 To report on the actions from previous minutes.
4. **Questions and petitions from members of the public**  
(Questions, in writing, must be with the Civic Manager by 2.00 pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025).
5. **Members' questions and petitions**  
(Questions, in writing, must be with the Civic Manager by 2.00 pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025).

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

☎ (01635) 35486

☎ (01635) 40484

🐦 @NewburyTC

✉ [towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk)

🌐 [www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk)

📘 NewburyTC

Making Newbury a Town  
we can all be proud of.

6. **Royal Engineers Association Freedom Parade**  
**To receive** a presentation from the Royal Engineers Association, who hold Freedom of the Town, on their plans for a Freedom Parade on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
7. **Update from the VE Day & VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Group (Appendix 3)**  
Update on the actions from the VE Day & VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Group.
8. **Update from Local Democracy Working Group**  
Update on the actions from the Local Democracy Working Group.
9. **Civic Awards 2025 (Appendix 4)**  
**To note** the status of the 2025 Civic Awards.
10. **Mayor Making 2025 (Appendix 5)**  
**To note** the status of Mayor Making 2025.
11. **Flying the Town Flag from the Town Hall**  
**To note** the Town Council's Flag Flying Policy and application process has been published on the Newbury Town Council website.
12. **Newbury Twin Town Association (Appendix 6)**  
**To receive** a report from the Newbury Twin Town Association on their activities of the past year, and their forthcoming activities.
13. **Civic Manager's Reports (Appendix 7a & 7b)**  
**To note** the following reports:
  - Mayor's Festive Afternoon Tea
  - Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community
14. **Civic Events (Appendix 8)**
  - 15.1 **To review** civic events since the last meeting of the Committee.
  - 15.2 **To note** the programme of civic events until the next meeting.
  - 15.3 **To receive** ideas for suggested or potential future events or activities.
15. **Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee meetings 2024/25 (Appendix 9)**  
**To note** and agree any other items that Members resolve to add to the Forward Work Programme.

**Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts, & Culture Committee held in the Council Chamber on Monday 25 November 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Phil Barnett, Vera Barnett, Jo Day, Nigel Foot (joined 19:46), David Harman, Chris Hood (joined 19:35) and Gary Norman.

**Officers Present:** Toby Miles-Mallowan (Chief Executive Officer) Joanna Aylott (Civic Manager) and Amy Xing (Civic Officer).

**41. Apologies**

Councillors Billy Drummond, Andy Moore and Graham Storey.

**42. Declarations of interest and dispensations**

The Civic Manager declared that Councillors Phil Barnett and Nigel Foot are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

**43. Minutes**

**Proposed:** Cllr Phil Barnett

**Seconded:** Cllr Gary Norman

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts and Culture Committee held on 2 September 2024 were approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

Actions from the previous meeting were fulfilled, with items to be discussed as part of this meeting's agenda.

**44. Questions and petitions from members of the public**

The Chairperson welcomed Pragna Hay, who asked:

*"Can Newbury Town Council consider some form of recognition of the fact that Newbury was the second largest resettlement centre for the Ugandan Asians refugees in 1972, and recognise the amazing volunteers from Newbury who assisted at the resettlement centre?"*

The Chairperson answered:

*"Yes, we can consider this. We would like to arrange a follow up meeting to discuss ideas surrounding a recognition event."*

The Chairperson asked a question in response:

*"Do you have any ideas for a recognition event?"*

Pragna advised she had given this some thought and would like a place for people to be able to go to and reflect, such as a tree, bench, or memorial. The Civic Manager agreed to arrange a follow up meeting with Pragna and relevant members of the committee to discuss ideas.

(Cllr Chris Hood arrived at 19:35).

#### **45. Members' questions and petitions**

Question Received from Cllr Meg Thomas:

*"Would it be possible to have a permanent set of equipment available for outside events which showcase our work as a council and local democracy in general? This could comprise: a gazebo, camping style table and about four chairs, flags/bunting, a display board and handouts/leaflets."*

The Chairperson answered:

*"Yes, we can investigate this. Discussions are ongoing in the Local Democracy Working Group regarding outreach to adults, and this can form part of the discussion. If the LDWG think this is appropriate, it will be put to CPAC at the next meeting."*

Question Received from Cllr Sarah Slack:

*"Residents have approached me stating that the current 'Welcome to Newbury' sign's do not appear particularly welcoming. The original paint appears to have worn away and they are now in a rusty state. Please would the committee clarify who is responsible for the maintenance of the 'Welcome to Newbury' signs? If it is the responsibility of Newbury Town Council, would the committee explore the feasibility and cost of renovating the current 'Welcome to Newbury' signs and whether or not a local organisation might like to sponsor this work? Please would the committee also consider including the names of Newbury's twin towns and their respective flags on the 'Welcome to Newbury' sign?"*

The Chairperson answered:

*"Newbury Town Council officers are exploring costs for installing new 'Welcome to Newbury' signs across the Town. There are currently 8 signs, and we are looking to increase this to 10 to ensure all major routes into the town are covered. Greenham Trust have agreed to match fund this project and we are looking to include this in the budget for 2025/26, under the Planning and Highways committee. Civic Pride, Arts & Culture will be involved in the design and were planning to include the names of all Newbury's Twin Towns and their respective flags. CPAC were considering ways to recognise our Twin Towns with possible signage in Victoria Park. There will now be implications for the working group formed by Councillors Billy Drummond, David Harman and Gary Norman, and there is an item discussing this later in the agenda."*

#### **46. Report on Remembrance Sunday Event**

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager on the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service which took place on 10 November. It was agreed that the event was a successful and meaningful occasion.

The Civic Manager noted that a wash-up meeting had taken place on 20 November involving key stakeholders, which confirmed positive feedback and some minor suggestions for next year.

It was noted that in the planning for next year's event, we will consider implications of Martyn's Law, and ensure the event is compliant with legislation.

The Civic Manager gave special thanks to the Newbury Royal British Legion, Amy Xing (Civic Officer), and all those involved in the event.

#### **47. Report on Heritage Open Day**

The Committee received a report from the Civic Manager on this year's Heritage Open Day, which took place on 14 September.

The Town Hall opened to the public, inviting visitors to explore key areas like the Council Chamber, Mayor's Parlour, and the Civic Staircase.

The event highlighted Newbury's heritage, with a focus on the theme 'Routes, Networks and Connections'. Drawing from this we were able to promote the Newbury Town Trails and Twin Towns. Members of the Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers presented an interactive display highlighting the local textile heritage.

Overall, it was a successful event with positive engagement from the public. The Civic Manager thanked all those who volunteered on the day.

Cllr Gary Norman noted he was present throughout the open day as a volunteer and was appreciative of the enthusiasm from members of the public.

(Cllr Nigel Foot arrived at 19:46).

**48. Update from Local Democracy Working Group**

Cllr Jo Day provided an update on the 'Meet the Town Council' sessions that have happened so far and noted that some upcoming sessions have been postponed due to works on the roof above the Civic Staircase. The Civic Manager explained that once works at the Town Hall are concluded, we will welcome schools back and rearrange visits that were postponed.

We received an excellent response to our invitations, with 9 out of 14 primary schools attending sessions on offer from the 7 to the 22 of October. Over 400 primary school children visited us over this period, and we have interacted with over 200 students from St Barts, Trinity and Park House.

Feedback from the teachers was incredibly positive.

Cllr David Harman and the rest of the Committee thanked and congratulated Cllr Jo Day for her work leading these activities for the local school children.

**49. Festive Afternoon Tea**

The Civic Manager advised the Committee that the venue, catering and entertainment has been confirmed for this year's Festive Afternoon Tea for the over 75's, taking place on Tuesday 17 December at St Nicolas Church Hall. A press release was issued on the 18 November for the event, inviting residents to contact the Civic Office to book their place to attend, Councillors were encouraged to share this event with anyone they thought may be interested.

The Civic Officer reminded Councillors that we are looking for volunteer support for the event.

**50. Update from the VE Day & VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Working Group**

Cllr Jo Day advised the Committee that we have had the first meeting of this Working Group to discuss general ideas. The group was renamed to reflect VE and VJ day, and we are working in cooperation with other bodies.

The Working Group Terms of Reference were reviewed.

**Proposed:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**Seconded:** Cllr David Harman

**Resolved:** The Terms of Reference for the VE Day & VJ Day 80th Anniversary Working Group were approved.

A budget for 2025-2026 was discussed. The CEO advised that an indicative budget figure of £1,500 was taken from our D-Day commemoration events. The Committee noted that as we have two dates and we will be having events on multiple dates, this budget would need to be increased, also bearing in mind the cost of a brazier. It was noted we would also look to match fund from other organisations.

**Proposed:** Cllr Gary Norman

**Seconded:** Cllr Phil Barnett

**Resolved:** The Committee agreed to recommend a budget of £3,000 for VE Day & VJ Day 80th Anniversary Events.

**51. Civic Awards 2025**

The Committee briefly reviewed the annual Civic Awards, noting the usual proceedings. A date for the ceremony in 2025 was put forward by the Civic Manager.

**Proposed:** Cllr Jo Day

**Seconded:** Cllr Vera Barnett

**Resolved:** The committee resolved to host the next Civic Awards ceremony on Wednesday 19th March 2025.

**52. Civic Pride, Arts and Culture Committee Budget 2025-2026**

The Committee reviewed a draft Civic Pride, Arts & Culture budget for 2025-2026.

As per previous discussion, it was agreed to recommend an increase in the VE and VJ Day budget to £3000 in 2025-2026.

Cllr Gary Norman voiced that he would like to support the Newbury Road Club centenary event in 2025. The Committee agreed to recommend £1500 in the 2025-2026 budget.

It was noted that in future years, Remembrance Sunday events will need to be compliant with Martyn's Law, with additional safety provisions. Therefore, the Committee agreed to recommend an increase in the Remembrance Sunday budget to £3500 in 2025-2026.

The CEO noted that 'Welcome to Newbury' signs are currently under budget consideration by the Planning & Highways Committee, and therefore it was not required to include provision for them in the Civic Pride, Arts & Culture budget. This Committee will be involved in the design, as well as the Twin Town Signage we are investigating within the existing Committee Fund.

It was noted that the grant Newbury Town Council donate each year to the Newbury BID for the 'Christmas Light Switch' on does not currently sit under a committee for approval. It was suggested that this grant should be put within the Civic Pride, Arts & Culture budget for 2025-2026, and the agreement be reviewed.

**53. Newbury Town Flag Display**

Cllr Jo Day noted that the Newbury Town Flag display unveiling took place on 17 October at the Town Hall and was a very pleasant occasion in memory of Rod Thomason. The display is now on the Civic Staircase, for all visitors to see.

**54. Flying the Town Flag from the Town Hall**

The Committee reviewed the amended Town Council's Flag Flying Policy.

It was requested that a mechanism for approval out of committee (section 7) be subtitled for clarity and made clear that in exceptional circumstances a joint decision can be made without holding a committee meeting.

**Proposed:** Gary Norman

**Seconded:** Vera Barnett

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the Town Council's Flag Flying Policy, with the amendment listed above.

**55. Twin Town Signage & Trail**

It was noted that the 'Welcome to Newbury' road signs are being explored by the Planning & Highways Committee, but that the Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee would be involved with the designs.

At our last meeting, a small working group was formed to look into the possibility of Twin Town signage in Victoria Park, ideas are still being discussed. The group will meet with Planning & Highways to coordinate ideas and will report back.

The Committee agreed that it was still worthwhile exploring Twin Town signage in Victoria Park as it is possible the Twin Towns will be removed from the 'Welcome to Newbury' signs.

**56. Service at War Memorial for Afghanistan**

It was noted that the Newbury Royal British Legion will be holding a Memorial Service for Service Personnel who served in Afghanistan on Sunday 15th December at 11:00am, at the War Memorial. All Councillors were encouraged to attend this service.

**57. Newbury Road Club 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2025**

It was noted that Victoria Park has been booked on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for this event.

**58. Community United Event**

It was noted that Victoria Park has been booked on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for this event.

**59. Newbury Town Band**

It was noted the agreement Newbury Town Council has with Watership Brass, Newbury's Town Band, has been renewed for 2025/2026 at £800, to be reviewed annually.

**60. Civic Manager's Reports**

The Committee received the list of Mayoral letters sent since the last meeting.

Cllr Jo Day requested to add what each letter is for next to the name, the Civic Manager agreed to action this going forward.

**61. Civic Events**

The information regarding the Annual Bowls Match, (4 September), Heritage Open Day (14 September) Local Democracy Events (from 7 October), Mayor's Coffee Morning (12 October) Town Flag Display Unveiling (17 October) and Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service (10 November), held since the last meeting of this Committee was received and noted.

Regarding the Bowls Match, Cllr Gary Norman Gary suggested we play socially and mix teams with Cllrs and Bowls Club members to make the occasion more fun. We could still play for a cup with one team. The Civic Manager agreed to request this with the Bowls Club next year.

Information relating to future Civic Events was noted including the Mayor's Festive Afternoon Tea (17 December), Civic Carol Service (22 December) and launching of the 2025 Civic Awards (27 January).

**62. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee meetings 2024/25**

The Committee requested to add the following to the Forward Work Programme:

- Update on Welcome to Newbury Signage – July 2025.

**There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 20:32.**

**Chairperson:**

**Date:**



## Civic Pride, Arts &amp; Culture Committee

Date: 25 11 2024

ACTION SHEET

Item	Resolved	Actions	Who	When
Agenda Item 1 – Apologies	Apologies – Cllrs Billy Drummond, Andy Moore, and Graham Storey.	Write up attendance register.	CC	As soon as possible
Agenda Item 3 – Minutes	Approved and signed.	Send signed minutes to Committee Clerk.	CM	As soon as possible
Agenda Item 4 – Questions and petitions from members of the public	To recognise that Newbury was the second largest resettlement centre for Ugandan Asian refugees in 1972.	Arrange a follow up meeting with Pragna and relevant members of the committee to discuss ideas.	CM	As soon as possible
Agenda Item 5 –Members’ questions and petitions	Question from Cllr Meg Thomas.	Answer to be relayed to Cllr Meg Thomas. Item to be added to the Agenda of the next LDWG meeting. Civic Manager to investigate costs.	CM	As soon as possible
Agenda Item 5 –Members’ questions and petitions	Question from Cllr Sarah Slack.	Answer to be relayed to Cllr Sarah Slack. Item to be added to the Forward Work Programme for July 2025, working alongside P&H.	CM	As soon as possible
Agenda Item 8 – Update from Local Democracy Working Group	Events that will be taking place before the next Committee meeting.	The Civic Manager to rearrange visits that were postponed once works in the Town Hall are complete.	CM	Once Town Hall works are complete
Agenda Item 12 – Civic Pride, Arts and Culture Committee Budget 2025-2026	Recommendations made for the 2025-2026 CPAC budget.	The Civic Manager to discuss with the RFO.	CM/RFO	December
Agenda Item 14– Flying the Town Flag from the Town Hall	Councillors approved the policy with one minor amendment.	Refine the policy and circulate to members.	CM/CEO	As soon as possible
Agenda Item 15 – Twin Town Signage & Trail	New Ideas to feature and highlight our Twin Towns within the parish. Cllrs Billy Drummond, David Harman and Gary Norman have formed a Working Group for Twin Town Signage.	Working Group to arrange meeting, co-ordinating with Planning & Highways and to report back.	BD/DH/GN	May/June 2025
Agenda Item 22 – Forward Work Programme	Add the following: - ‘Welcome to Newbury’ signs.	Add for meeting in July 2025.	CM	June 2025

**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts and Culture Committee**

**17 February 2025**

**Agenda Item 7: VE Day & VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events**

Following on from the success of D-Day 80 (6th June 2024), in which the nation commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, through the lighting of over one thousand beacons and five hundred lamp lights of peace throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK overseas territories that night, national organisers are now focusing efforts on the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8th May 1945, in a similar way.

On Thursday 8th May 2025 national organisers are encouraging the lighting of Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace at 9.30pm, the raising of a unique VE Day flag at 9am and, where possible, holding parties of celebration throughout the day.

**Current Position**

It is proposed that on Thursday 8th May 2025, Newbury Town Council host a beacon lighting event in Victoria Park between 7pm and 10pm. The event will encourage families and residents of all ages to come to the pond area of Victoria Park to listen to music from local groups in the lead up to the beacon lighting ceremony.

A second event is proposed on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, from 11am to 3pm in Victoria Park with family activities, music, food and displays to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Fair Close Day centre will host a tea party for their residents during the day and will bring residents to the Park to enjoy the entertainment if possible.

**Risk Assessment**

A full risk assessment will be carried out for this event and the Safety Advisory Group will be informed. The event will follow the same format and safety proceedings that were used in 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting event.

Weather permitting will always be a risk on any outdoor event. In the event of forecasted heavy rain, the event(s) will be cancelled the day before and all volunteers and stakeholders will be notified.

JA  
Civic Manager  
10.02.2025

**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee**

**17 February 2025**

**Agenda Item 9: Newbury Town Civic Awards 2025**

The Newbury Town Civic Awards 2025 launched on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. These awards provide an excellent opportunity to celebrate and show appreciation for the outstanding contributions made by individuals and groups in our community. The awards have been widely advertised, with information and nomination forms distributed to local organisations, youth groups, charities, and schools. A press release was issued and printed in the Newbury Weekly News, and posters and flyers have been displayed on noticeboards and bus stops. Additionally, information has been shared on our website and social media platforms.

Nominations are being accepted across five categories:

- The Newbury Town Civic Award
- The Young Persons Civic Award
- The Business Civic Award
- The Environmental Contribution Civic Award; and
- The Local Community Group Civic Award

The Civic Office will continue to advertise the awards throughout the nomination period, ensuring that community members are encouraged to participate.

Key dates for the 2025 Civic Awards:

- Nominations Opened – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Nominations Close – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- Judging Panel – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Awards Take Place – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

St Nicolas Church hall has been booked for the awards evening, and due to ongoing works on the Civic Staircase we will likely not be able to host a reception in the Town Hall this year.

Invitations to the awards evening have been sent to local dignitaries, and invitations will be extended to all nominees once the nomination period has closed.

We encourage everyone to submit their nominations as a great way to show appreciation for the incredible efforts of individuals and groups who make Newbury such a wonderful place to live and work.

JA

Civic Manager

10.02.2025

**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee**

**17 February 2025**

**Agenda Item 10: Mayor Making 2025**

Mayor Making is the one of the biggest public events for the Town Council. Our next Mayor Making ceremony will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

We expect to welcome around 200 guests to join the ceremony at the Corn Exchange, including dignitaries, press, local charities and organisations, schools, the armed services, friends and family. We gratefully receive considerable support from the technical team at the Corn Exchange, St Nicolas Church, and the Combined Cadet Force.

The format of the day will follow that of previous years; however, this year's event will not constitute the Annual Town Meeting and will be purely ceremonial. This will allow us to focus on celebrating the tradition and importance of the Mayor Making ceremony itself.

This year's ceremony will hold additional significance, as we take a moment to celebrate the incredible service and dedication of our Town Marshal, Barry Digby, who has decided to retire following this year's event. Barry has been a central figure in ensuring the smooth running of our town's major events for many years. His commitment and leadership have been invaluable, and his presence at the Mayor Making ceremony will be a lasting reminder of the contributions he has made to our community.

As part of the ceremony, we will take the opportunity to honour Barry for his many years of service and celebrate the impact he has had on our town. We hope all attendees will join us in expressing our gratitude and admiration for Barry, marking the end of an era as we wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

Although the event has a long-standing tradition, it remains crucial that everyone involved is clear about their roles and responsibilities on the day. This requires thorough preparation to ensure that all logistical arrangements are in place. A detailed blueprint will be provided to everyone involved, and rehearsals will be held in the lead-up to the event.

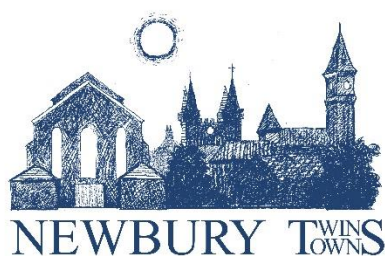
The Civic Office will also work closely with the incoming Mayor to accommodate their preferences regarding the ceremonial and religious elements of the occasion.

Every effort will be made to ensure the event runs smoothly and efficiently, providing the Mayor, their guests, and all other attendees with the opportunity to fully enjoy the day.

JA

Civic Manager

10.02.2025



### A Brief Outline of the Newbury Twin Town Association

Newbury Town Council has twinned with 5 European towns:

Braunfels in Germany	since 1963/64
Bagnols-sur-Cèze in France	since 1971
Eeklo in Belgium	since 1977
Feltre in Italy	since 2002
Carcaixent in Spain	since 2019

Unusually (possibly uniquely) all of our Twin Towns are twinned with each other, and a couple of other towns are also involved in our twinning activities: Kiskunfélegyháza in Hungary and Zamosc in Poland. Shortly after the first twinning with Braunfels, the Twin Town Association was formed to develop and maintain links to our Twin Towns, on behalf of the Town Council. Without the Association it would be the responsibility of the Town Council to organise twinning events.

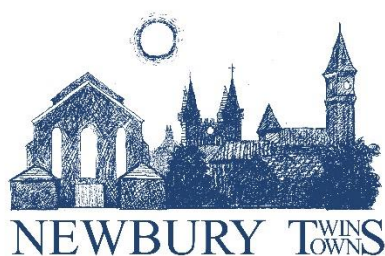
All our members (we have around 70) are volunteers and pay £12 each or £24 for a family each year as a subscription. Our members are a friendly bunch and generally share a love of travel and meeting people. The Association has not received any funding from the Council for many years now, and is currently self-sufficient, although following Brexit, grants from the EU will no longer be available.

### NTTA activities since February 2024 and forthcoming events

- Twenty members, including the Mayor and Mayoress travelled to Bagnols-sur-Cèze in France in May to celebrate 50 years of twinning. We visited a disused colliery and some spectacular caves and had a memorable and typically French picnic in a shaded arbour in a wildflower meadow on the banks of the Cèze River.



- In July we welcomed nearly 40 visitors: 28 from Braunfels in Germany and others from all of our Twin Towns and associated towns, for a long weekend in Newbury. Guests were shown around Oxford by members, then had a river cruise on the Thames to Abingdon. We had a dinner with line dancing at Stockcross Village Hall, attended by the mayor, and the following day a celebration of 60 years of twinning at the Town Hall and a barbecue in the Chairperson's garden. On Sunday evening there was



a farewell drink with our guests at the Bowlers Arms. The event was to celebrate 60 years of twinning with Braunfels.



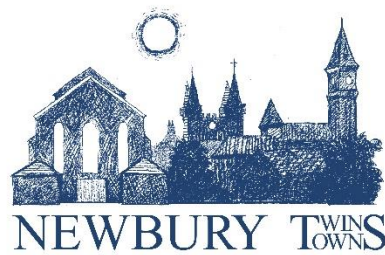
- In August four young people travelled to Feltre in Italy for a week for the annual 'Youth for Europe' event, with 18 to 25-year-olds from 8 countries taking part.
- Members enjoyed a number of social activities in 2024 including regular coffee mornings in Angelica's Café, Camp Hopson, two quiz nights and a well-attended Christmas Dinner at the Fox and Hounds.
- On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February we will be hosting a coffee morning at the Town Hall, and the Association would like to thank the Mayor for gifting the use of the Council Chamber. On the same day we hold our Annual General Meeting, attended by the Mayor and typically around 40 members of the Association. After the business part of the meeting, we will enjoy a variety of home-made stews prepared by members.
- In March a group of teenagers from Bagnols-sur-Cèze are visiting the area on a school trip and will be meeting up with their peers at Newbury College studying T level construction.
- In May Carcaixent will be hosting the international reunion – the annual event when representatives from all of the twinned towns get together
- In August four young people (18–25-year-olds) will be staying in Kiskunfélegyháza in Hungary for four days for the annual 'Youth for Europe' event.
- At the end of November/early December there will be an event in Eeklo, Belgium to celebrate a number of twinning anniversaries.

#### Membership

Membership is open to all local residents who enjoy taking part in visiting our Twin Towns or welcoming visitors to Newbury, and some town councillors are members – but we would welcome more! Activities are publicised in our newsletters, social media and by email. Members are entitled to a 10% discount at Angelica's Café in Camp Hopson.

#### Clubs and Societies

We are also very keen to hear from organisations within Newbury who would like to know more about our Twin Towns, or are keen to visit. In the past we have helped arrange concerts for choirs and exchanges for individuals and groups, including some local golf courses. This year some Newbury Road



Club members will be cycling all the way to Eeklo to celebrate their centenary, and we are currently helping the 1<sup>st</sup> Newbury Scouts to link up with scout troupes in our Twin Towns, so the cubs can email their peers, and the troupe will be studying our twin towns as part of this year's Thinking Day.

Our Twin Towns all have interesting things to see and do, for example Feltre has an exciting running race each September, the 'Giro della Mura' which is run at night with headlamps around the ancient city walls <https://www.giodellemura.it/> and Carcaixent takes part in the thrilling Fallas festival each March <https://www.cendradigital.com/2024/08/12/fallas-de-carcaixent-2024> .

#### NTTA and NTC

The Association is still looking forward to seeing Carcaixent added to the Newbury 'welcome' signs, following the twinning in 2019, or recognised in some way in the town. We are excited to hear that the Council is considering a trail in Victoria Park incorporating the Twin Towns – it will be Newbury's turn to host the International Reunion for all the Twin Towns in July 2027 – it would be super to be able to show them the trail as part of the celebrations.

Gillian Durrant  
Chairperson (until 8 February!)  
Newbury Twin Town Association

5 February 2025

**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee**

**17 February 2025**

**Agenda Item 13: Civic Manager's Reports - Mayor's Festive Afternoon Tea**

The Mayor's Festive Afternoon Tea took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024, at St Nicolas Church Hall. 50 guests, all over the age of 75, were warmly welcomed by the Mayor and Mayoress upon arrival and treated to a festive welcome drink before enjoying afternoon tea.

The afternoon featured a variety of treats provided by the Empire Café and Bakery, as well as sandwich platters, teas and coffees. Guests were entertained with festive music, engaging games, and carol singing by the pupils of St Nicolas School.

The Town Crier, Steve Wallis, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event, hosting a bingo game and encouraging guests to participate in a Christmas quiz, with prizes for the winners. Special gifts were presented to the oldest gentleman and lady in attendance.

A press release was issued five weeks prior to the event, inviting residents to book their place. Ticketed entry was required, and the 50 available spots filled up quickly. Ticketing was managed efficiently, with most attendees receiving their tickets well in advance. For those who registered closer to the event, details were noted on a guest list to ensure proper entry. A key condition for attending was that guests arranged their own transport to and from the venue, as no transport was provided.

The venue was beautifully decorated, with individual table decorations handmade by Cllr Vera Barnett, which contributed to the festive atmosphere.

This year there was a fantastic level of support from councillors and the Civic Team, which made light work of setting up and clearing away. Their involvement was invaluable.

Verbal feedback from attendees as they exited the event was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing how much they had enjoyed the day. The event successfully created a warm, festive atmosphere and brought the community together. With a manageable number of 50 guests, volunteers were able to provide personal attention and ensure that everyone felt included in the experience.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers whose support made this event possible. Without their dedication, events like this would not be feasible.

JA

Civic Manager

10.02.2025



**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee**

**17 February 2025**

**Agenda Item 13: Civic Manager's Reports - Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community**

**Background**

In accordance with the Newbury Town Council Strategy, Other Objectives No. 5  
"Acknowledge the contributions made by those who improve Newbury life."

**Objective**

To raise the profile of all the positive things that happen in the community and, wherever possible, to acknowledge them.

**Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community**

The total number of letters of congratulations sent since the last meeting of this committee is 12 (as of 10/02/2025):

2024 11 28 **The Soup Kitchen** – On the success of their fundraising event.

2024 12 06 **Jones Robinson** – Congratulating their award for customer service.

2024 12 06 **The Charlie Waller Trust** – Congratulating their fundraising Christmas appeal.

2024 12 12 **Amelia Piper** – Qualified for the Thaiboxing World Championships.

2024 12 12 **Izzy Fry** – For winning the Silver Medal as part of team Great Britain at the 2024 European Cross-Country Championships.

2024 12 12 **Over 80s Parcel Fund** – Congratulating their efforts for this year's parcel fund.

2024 12 14 **Newbury Bridge Club** – For raising £4,734.55 at charity events and donating to the West Berkshire Community Hospital League of Friends.

2024 12 19 **Corn Exchange Newbury** – Success of the 'Festival of Light'.

2024 12 23 **Newbury Fire Station** – Red Watch team receiving the 'Watch of the Year' Award at the 2024 RBFRS Awards.

2024 12 23 **Razzamatazz Theatre School Newbury** – Congratulations for receiving the 'Business Mum of the Year' award at The Women's Business Awards.

2024 12 31 **Thames Valley Coalition of Motorcycle Clubs** - Congratulating their fundraising.

2024 12 31 **Valarie Jerome Optometrists** – Congratulating their 5<sup>th</sup> year of business.

JA

Civic Manager

10.02.2025

**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee**

**17 February 2025**

**Agenda Item 14: Civic Events Report**

- a. To review civic events since the last meeting of the Committee
  - b. To note the programme of civic events until the next meeting
  - c. To receive ideas for suggested or potential future events or activities.
- 
- a. **To review** civic events since the last meeting of the Committee:
    - Mayor's Festive Afternoon Tea – 17 December 2024.
    - Civic Carol Service at St Nicolas Church – 22 December 2024.
    - Civic Awards Launch – 27 January 2025.
  - b. **To note** the programme of civic events until the next meeting:
    - Civic Awards Ceremony – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025
    - Mayor's Fundraising Gig – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025
    - Mayor's Coffee Morning for West Berks Foodbank – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025
    - VE Day 80 Events – 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025
    - Mayor Making – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025
    - Royal Engineers Association Parade – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025
  - c. **To receive** ideas for suggested or potential future events or activities.

**Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee****17 February 2025****Agenda item 15: Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee Meetings****Standing Items on each (ordinary meeting) agenda:**

1. Apologies
2. Declarations and Dispensation
3. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting & update of actions
4. Questions/ Petitions from members of the Public
5. Questions/ Petitions from Members of the Council
6. Work programme and future business
7. Civic Managers Reports
8. Civic Events
9. Discussion on Potential Future Civic Events

<b>November</b>	Remembrance Sunday Report Heritage Open Day Report Local Democracy Events Report Festive Afternoon Tea Civic Awards Planning VE & VJ Day Working Group Service at War Memorial for Afghanistan Twin Town Commemorations Flag Flying Policy Review Budget 2025/26
<b>February</b>	Civic Awards Mayor Making Festive Afternoon Tea Report Local Democracy Working Group VE & VJ Day Working Group Community United Event Newbury Road Club 100th Anniversary Royal Engineers Association Parade
<b>July</b>	Election of Chairperson Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civic Awards</li> <li>- VE Day</li> <li>- Mayor Making</li> <li>- Royal Engineers Association Parade</li> </ul> Heritage Open Day Planning Local Democracy Working Group VE & VJ Day Working Group Update on Welcome to Newbury Signage Twin Town Commemorations/Trail