

NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 18TH JANUARY 20TH 2016

MAYOR'S REPORT

Good evening and happy New Year to those I have not met since our last meeting.

It has been 48 days since we last met and I hope you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year celebrations.

This is my report of some of the events that I have attended.

There have been three Saturday coffee mornings . The one on the 19th of December being for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund.

There were eight carol services . A schools' service at St Nicholas's Church on the 1st followed by a service the next day at the Royal British Legion. There was a carol service on the 9th for the WB Hospital League of Friends at St Mary's church Thatcham. On the 11th a carol service was organised by the Co-operative Funeral Services at the Clock Tower with the Salvation Army Band in attendance. On the 12th there was a service with the Hungerford Town Band at Hungerford and on the 13th Thatcham held its own Civic Carol service at St Mary's church. On the 19th St Nicholas's Church held the Newbury Civic Carol service. On Christmas Day I attended a carol service at West Berkshire Hospital before beetling off to Kent to get my Christmas dinner.

On the 4th of December I went to the York Nativity Play at Aldermaston. A fascinating recreation of how the birth of Jesus may have been enacted in medieval times.

On this day also I visited the Victoria Park School and was later present at the launch of the Food Parcel Appeal.

On the 5th of December I attended the Cancer Charities Concert at St Nicholas' Church.

On the 6th of December I helped with the Over 80s Parcel Fund packing operation. My gratitude goes out to Sainsbury's for the space and personnel they gave in helping the scouts to pack the 2000 plus parcels. I managed to fill 71. These were palletised and held in refrigerated trailers for the distribution that took place on the 12th from the Fairclose Day Centre from where volunteer drivers took the parcels to the people whose names had been supplied. A fantastic operation involving many people using their cars to transfer the Christmas fare all over West Berkshire. My personal thanks go to all those involved.

On the 8th I visited the Duchess of Kent Hospice at the WB Hospital and after participated in the Xmas Party for the Newbury Blind at St Johns Hall. In the evening I was at Newbury College for the graduation ceremony.

On the 11th of December I was invited to St Paul's Primary School in Tilehurst to accompany a lay teacher in meditation when he visited the children's classes and taught them the art and peace of meditation. This was a very pleasant and educational day.

The 12th was a bright day when a ceremony took place to remember the glider pilots and air force bomber crews that perished in crashes in the second world war at Greenham Common airbase.

The 16th was the Fairclose Day centre Christmas lunch where many single old people were brought to the centre from both Newbury and Thatcham to get lunch, see father Christmas and receive presents.

On the 17th I was at the KS5 awards at St Barts School and was taken by the achievements of the pupils and their now adult postures and presence and determination to succeed.

December the 18th saw me at a Kintbury School for the presentation of £100-00 to the school by Max Perry an 8 year old, very talented, grass track rider who had won for the second year running the top prize in the country's racing and had decided to donate the winnings to his school. A very modest and delightful lad.

Later in the day I was at WB Hospital again for a patients concert.

To end the year I was up in the bell tower of St Nich's church at midnight as the old year was rung out and the new year rung in. I adventured further up to the church roof to be able to see an amazing clear sky full of stars giving rise to hopes for the New Year.

These are the highlights of the past 48 days omitting Council meetings, discussions on the proposed Sandford Development and planning issues etc.

Here ends my report up to January 18th.