

**Councillor David Harman
Mayor of Newbury
2025 – 2026**



Official Record of Year in Office

11th May 2025 – 10th May 2026

Date of Mayor Making: 11th May 2025

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Sarah Slack

Mayoress: Rosalind Harman

Chaplain: Rev Joy Mawdesley

Cadets: Leading Cadet Lizzie and Able Cadet Oliver

Civic Manager: Joanna Aylott

Civic Officer: Amy Xing

Civic Staff

Mayor's Attendant – Garry Poulson

Town Crier – Steve Wallis

Town Marshal – Innes Mason

Mace Bearer – Anthony Hewitt

Mace Bearer – David Risley

Keeper of the Robes – Joyce Lewis

Mayor's Chosen Charity

Berkshire Youth

A Taste of the Civic Year 2025 / 2026

I recall the great honour placed upon me a year ago, having been voted in by my fellow councillors to serve as Mayor of Newbury. The role of 'First Citizen of Newbury' has certainly proved immensely illuminating and I have had the great pleasure of becoming more familiar with many of the charity organisations that work wonders in our community, and have been grateful to represent the town at civic functions in and around Newbury and Berkshire.

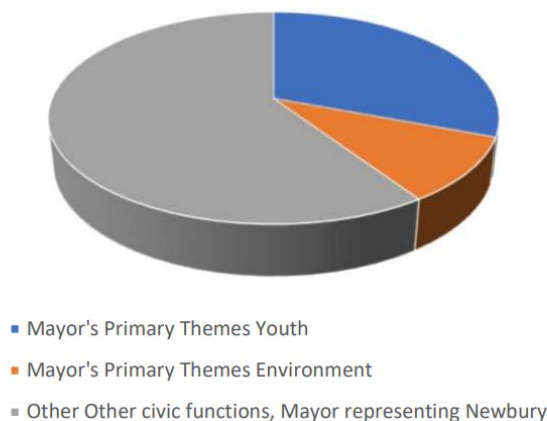
Over the course of my Mayoral year, I had the pleasure of a full and diverse schedule of engagements, with the additional focus on my themes for the year, Youth, and the Environment. In addition to ceremonial responsibilities, my activities were in support of community cohesion, education, heritage, and support for local charities. My activities were also aligned to support Newbury Town Council's strategic goals, ensuring that civic representation translated into tangible support for Newbury's residents.

My utmost praise goes to the Lady Mayoress, Rosalind Harman, who joined me at almost all the events, bringing her enthusiasm and interest in the charities to the forefront. I am also grateful for the support from the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Slack, and other councillors during this Mayoral term.



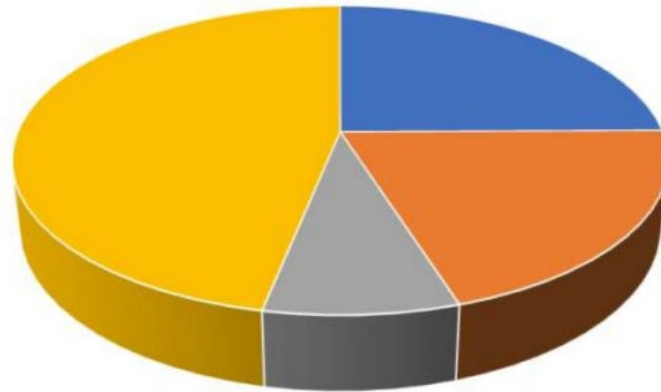
Of the 173 total engagements, the largest thematic segment was dedicated to '*civic functions and representing Newbury*', accounting for 59% of events, reflecting the traditional ceremonial obligations of the Mayor. In addition, a significant portion of the remaining schedule was dedicated to '*youth*', 31%, and '*environment*', 10%.

Relative Split of Mayor Engagements by Theme



When aligned with Newbury Town Council's (NTC) Strategic Goals, the engagement attendance underscores a commitment to the town's social fabric, with 47% of events dedicated to 'providing focused support for young people, the elderly, minorities, and the vulnerable', and 25% aimed at 'help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe, and well-cared-for town', with the remainder focused on 'Being the Voice of the communities in Newbury' and 'actions to address the climate emergency'.

Relative Split of Mayor Engagements by NTC Strategic Goal



- Newbury Town Council's 2024-8 Strategic Goals Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town
- Newbury Town Council's 2024-8 Strategic Goals To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury
- Newbury Town Council's 2024-8 Strategic Goals Take actions to address the climate emergency
- Newbury Town Council's 2024-8 Strategic Goals Provide focused support for young people, the elderly, minorities and the vulnerable

I approached commitment to youth through two lenses, firstly direct community support, and secondly, education regarding civic responsibility. I maintained a close relationship with Berkshire Youth, attending several milestone events:

- In August 2025, the I celebrated the 4th anniversary of Berkshire Youth's involvement at the Waterside Centre, even participating in a canoe ride;
- In October 2025, I attended a celebration in Reading marking 85 years of Berkshire Youth's impact, where awards were presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Royal Berkshire to young people and volunteers; and,
- In 2026, support remained consistent, including a fundraising concert at the Waterside Centre, a one-year anniversary celebration for the group's management of the Greenham Community Centre, plus a Quiz Night at the Waterside Centre.



Youth leaders volunteered at the event, which gave them a sense of responsibility and purpose by running the activities and refreshments.

Local Democracy presentations, whilst concentrated in October 2025, were held throughout much of the term, designed to highlight the role of Newbury Town Council and the function of the Mayoralty to our younger residents. This initiative continued into early 2026, with the Mayor and fellow councillors leading similar presentations for iCollege, primary schools and various Scout groups, providing pupils with direct insight into civic duty. I also supported other educational visits, one example being *'Bytes & Build'*, a robotics and coding workshop hosted by Kairali UK, which championed technological education.

The Mayor's office frequently championed the needs of the elderly and those with health challenges, aligning with the strategic goal of supporting the vulnerable. In the summer of 2025, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Slack, provided vital support by attending several healthcare-focused events. This included a visit to the West Berkshire Community Hospital's Therapy Garden to celebrate volunteers. Further support for dementia care was shown at the opening of the Camelia Club at Fair Close Centre and the inauguration of a sensory garden at the Willows Edge Care Home.



The Mayor acted as a *'Voice of the communities'* by participating in diverse cultural celebrations. In October 2025, the Mayor attended a Diwali event organised by Community United, which featured traditional candle lighting, dancing, and crafts. In early 2026, the Mayor joined the local Tamil community for the Pongal festival at Shaw House, an event celebrating multicultural unity. Additionally, the Mayor engaged with groups marking World Parkinson's Day, further highlighting a commitment to residents in need.

Environmental initiatives throughout the year proved highly engaging, many with significant prestige for the town. I joined the celebrations of Newbury achieving unprecedented success in the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom competition. For the first time, the town was awarded a Silver Gilt Award in the Large Town category and won the overall Best Large Town Trophy. The Secret Garden Project at Lock Island was also recognised with a *'Special Recognition'* award for its community spirit and creativity.

In November 2025, I represented Newbury in the planting of a *'Tree of Hope'* at Greenham Common's Control Tower. This was one of only 49 saplings from the famous Sycamore Gap tree, gifted by the National Trust to the *'Greener Greenham'* initiative.



During the Mayoral term, I had the honour of representing the people of Newbury during various commemorative events. Ceremonial duties included the Royal Engineers Armed Forces Day Freedom Parade in June 2025, and the Trafalgar Parade



with the Sea Cadet Corps in October. A major highlight was Remembrance Sunday, a very moving event, with much support from the Royal British Legion, with a parade involving veterans, active armed forces personnel, and youth organisations, and a service at St. Nicolas Church. Later, in 2026, I attended a memorial service for the 101 Squadron at RAF Welford, reaffirming the town's bond with the Armed Forces.

I supported arts events during the year, a few highlights being:

- *'Are We There Yet?'*, a theatrical performance by refugees;
- Art on Park, showcasing local artists at Victoria Park;
- The Newbury Symphony Orchestra's Spring Concert and the 'Watership Brass and Brasserie' collaborative concert.

To honour the town's artistic and entrepreneurial history, I participated in the unveiling of a Blue Plaque for Alphonse Cary on Northbrook Street, celebrating the musician's contribution to the local landscape.

With much support from the Lady Mayoress, councillors, and civic officers, I have worked to ensure that the office remained grounded in respect for history, with a focus on the welfare of all residents, whilst looking to the future by promoting positive outcomes for young people in our town and raising awareness of broad environmental issues.



It has been a wonderful experience and a great honour to serve as Newbury's Mayor, thank you.



TRAFALGAR DAY PARADE



LADY MAYORESS AND I CUTTING CAKE AT BERKSHIRE YOUTH



MAYOR'S CONCERT AT BERKSHIRE YOUTH



HONOURING ARMISTICE DAY



ON STAGE FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON



CHRISTMAS – HELPING AT ST GEORGES CHURCH

Newbury Town Council recorded its Thanks to

Councillor David Harman

on behalf of the people of Newbury in recognition of his

Year in Office as Town Mayor

11th May 2025 to 10th May 2026

Present when the Seal of
Newbury Town Council
was affixed

Leader of the Council:
Gary Norman

CEO of Newbury Town Council:
Toby Miles-Mallowan

Dated 10th May 2026

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

15th June 2025

This report provides a summary of Mayoral engagement over the period indicated above. The report is intended as a summary, and whilst in most cases an engagement may address multiple Mayoral goals, and also support Newbury Town Council's goals, the primary themes are selected for each engagement below (This may include more than one goal).

Date	Name of Event	Organisation	Narrative	Mayor's Primary Themes	Other	Newbury Town Council's 2024-8 Strategic Goals	Provide focused support for young people, the elderly, vulnerable
				Health Environment	Other civic functions, Mayor representing Newbury	High make Newbury a vibrant, welcoming and well served town To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury To address the climate emergency	
23/05/2025	Nationwide Building Society, post-refurbishment launch event	Nationwide Building Society	Deputy Mayor attended. Nationwide Building Society has a new look! Modernised, accessible and inviting. Customers are welcome, without an appointment, to speak with a human being at the counter, or in the welcoming ambience of a sitting room, where their 'daily visitor continues to feel at home in their special chair, checking their mini - statement'		Y		
26/05/2025	Newbury 10k		Deputy Mayor. The 15th Newbury 10k race - Ideal weather conditions and a vibrant atmosphere in Newbury Market Square. There were two pre - race fun runs for the under 15 yrs. age group. Over 1,200 participants raised over £1,200 for Eight Bells for Mental Health and Newbury Cancer Care.		Y		
31/05/2025	SEWA Day charity coffee morning	SEWA	A very busy coffee morning was held by SEWA, raising Funds for outdoor play equipment for Victoria Park School.		Y		
31/05/2025	Arigato - Japanese restaurant opening	Arigato Restaurant	Return of a well-loved Japanese restaurant to Newbury, re-launch event.		Y	Y	Y
01/06/2025	Family Fun Day, Victoria Park	Newbury Town Council	A splendid event, with a wide variety of stall holders, including youth groups and charities, and our emergency services to name just a few. Fun was had on the boats in the lake, and also the climbing wall and caving adventure.	Y	Y	Y	
05/06/2025	RNA Monthly Meeting, Royal British Legion	Royal Navy Association	A splendid evening, the RNA are growing their local presence in Newbury and are seeking to expand membership. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane.		Y	Y	
05/06/2025	Newbury Mobility Awareness Day	Volunteer Centre, Newbury Mobility.	Promotion of electric scooter and wheelchair hire. The Deputy Mayor, and the Chairman of WBDC, Cllr Vickers met a great team from the Volunteer Centre heading up this charity based in Northbrook car park. They each drove an electric scooter into Camp Hobson's Department store and swiftly headed straight up to the restaurant area. The Deputy Mayor and WBDC Chairman discovered some of the access challenges that scooter users face in shops. A valuable, affordable service facilitating independence, freedom and accessibility to shops and attractions in and around Newbury. Newbury mobility has been operating for over twenty years. The awareness day attracted a resident who enquired about hiring a motor scooter for her husband who had recently broken his leg.		Y	Y	Y
06/06/2025	Service of Commemoration for D-Day	Royal British Legion	A touching tribute to the fallen and all those that have served, British, Commonwealth and US forces, particularly in relation to the D-Day Operations.		Y	Y	
07/06/2025	Sustainability Fair	Corn Exchange Theatre	An event hosted at the Corn Exchange Theatre, promotion of environmental sustainability with exhibitors from Newbury Town Council, GreenFest, Hungerford Food Community, Alline Jewellery (recycled materials), Beds Berks Bucks Wildlife Trust, The Base (Wildlife Photographer of the Year 80), plus a house plant cuttings swap initiative.	Y			Y
07/06/2025	World Environmental Day	Kairali UK, West Berkshire	A litter pick was arranged at Greenham Common, with a focus on reduction of single use plastic, and plastic production and waste in general.				Y
14/06/2025	Newbury Cycling Festival	Newbury Road Club	A true 'celebration of cycling', a wonderful event started with a mass cycle through town, to Victoria park. Promotion of cycling initiatives, and groups such as Spokes, Substrans, Newbury Road Club, Newbury Velo, Cycling UK, plus many others.	Y		Y	
15/06/2025	10 Years of Razzamatat	Razzamatat Theatre School, Newbury	A celebration of 10 years of Razzamatat in Newbury, at the Arlington Arts Centre. Excellent performances from the children, spanning many different styles of dance, drama, recitals and signing: the students gave very strong performances.	Y			Y
20	Total Engagements						

Date	Name of Event	Organisation	Narrative	Mayor's Primary Themes	Other	Newbury Town Council's 2024-8 Strategic Goals	Provide focused support for young people, the elderly, vulnerable
				Health Environment	Other civic functions, Mayor representing Newbury	High make Newbury a vibrant, welcoming and well served town To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury To address the climate emergency	
11/05/2025	Mayor Making	Newbury Town Council	Ceremony at Corn Exchange Theatre, Cllr Harman and Cllr Slack signed Declarations to Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively. Thanks given to outgoing Mayor, Cllr Moore OBE. An excellent musical performance by Trinity School which was very well received. West Berkshire Youth confirmed as Mayor's charity for 2025/26. Civic service at St. Nicholas Church.		Y	Y	
11/05/2025	Thatcham Mayor Making	Thatcham Town Council	Supported neighbouring council's civic event.		Y		
13/05/2025	Street Pastors AGM	Newbury Street Pastors c/o Newbury Baptist Church	A summary of the year's events, and voting in of committee members for the year ahead. Street Pastors provide well needed support to patrons of the night-time economy in the centre Newbury, providing assistance to those in need, whilst freeing up resources of our local police.		Y	Y	Y
14/05/2025	Wessex House, A Bridge for Young People	Wessex House, owned and converted by Greenham Trust	Deputy Mayor attended the opening of a new bridge in Newbury! Newbury's first A Bridge for Young People; Wessex House, Oxford Road. Wessex House provides a home for 13 young people, 6 within the beautiful Georgian House, and 7 more in the attached one bedroom flats. The service provides a home that is safe, fully furnished as a family home with vital practical, emotional and social support. The simple model means that young people aged 16 - 25 years, who are leaving care or who are homeless are provided with emotional and practical support as they transition into adulthood. They don't have to go it alone before they are ready for full independence. The house was already fully occupied on the day of opening. There are three other such houses in Thatcham, West Berkshire, Cornerstone, Rebecca House and Hope House.	Y			Y
15/05/2025	Funeral of former Newbury Town Council Mayor, Ieuan Tuck	Tuck family, St. George the Martyr Church, Was Common	A touching ceremony, paying tribute to the life and community commitment from former Mayor Tuck.		Y		
17/05/2025	Surfers Against Sewage	National protest, locally organised by Ecofriends Plastic Free, Newbury.	Event centred on the Kennet & Avon Canal at Victoria Park, highlighting water quality pressures and impacts from sewage discharges.			Y	
20/05/2025	Community Furniture Project	Newbury Community Resource Centre	Deputy Mayor attended the Newbury Community Resource Centre (NCRC), celebrating their 25 years of charitable work. Initially set up as a charity for women suffering domestic abuse, to today's evolving multi - faceted charity touching most people's lives in Newbury from donors, volunteers, learners, and recipients. The charity helps local people in need by reason of their youth, infirmity, disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances. NCRC promotes independent living by providing re-used furniture and household goods and opportunities for volunteering, training and work experience including making up linen flat packs, bicycle repairs, cooking skills and general repairs. In addition, they seek to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment via their Growing2gether horticulture project and their Renewal Project in Newbury where members care for the River Lambourn in Newbury. The Deputy was impressed with the teaching concepts and methods; eg learners absorb mathematical concepts and other skills unconsciously, through real-life scenarios and everyday experiences eg; sawing wood in half, learning to drive a forklift truck, road safety skills when collecting orders. Also, the community aspects was noted, where everyone stops work for a collective lunch break; to eat, mingle and chat together.	Y		Y	Y
22/05/2025	Meeting Newbury College	Newbury College	Deputy Mayor attended Newbury College. Students were selling their hanging baskets and vegetables they had nurtured at the College. The students clearly enjoyed interacting with buyers and were delighted to have buyers. Our Deputy bought a healthy looking courgette, cabbage, chilli and tomato plant!	Y			Y

Cllr David Harman, Mayor of Newbury

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

20th October 2025

68 engagements, with much support gratefully received from Deputy, Cllr Slack. A wider variety of events as listed in report, a few highlights:

- i. **Care Homes / Hospitals, dementia care**
- ii. **Youth, schools, colleges**
- iii. **Arts**
- iv. **Ceremonial, representing Newbury Care Homes / Hospitals, Dementia Care**

22 July Deputy Mayor attended West Berkshire Community Hospital's Therapy Garden. A 'thankyou' event to celebrate the volunteers at West Berkshire Community Hospital.

30 July, Camelia Club Opening at Fair close Centre, Deputy Mayor attended, a local resource for people living with dementia.

18 August, Willows Edge Care Home, opening the sensory garden....thank you to the work from Berkshire Youth and Waterside Centre Volunteers.

Youth, Schools, Colleges

1 July, Deputy Mayor attended University College Newbury's Expo event, bringing together employers, students and apprentices in the wonderfully engaging event.

2 August, Berkshire Youth's 4th anniversary of their involvement at the Waterside Centre, showcasing what they have on offer for the community. The Mayor and Lady Mayoress enjoyed the canoe ride!

7 July Air Cadets Open Day, and annual event highlighting their achievements over the last year, awards presentation.

27 Sept, Berkshire Youth's Greenham Community Centre Open Day, highlighting their work in the community, with the recently opened facility in the heart of East Fields Ward. Thank you for ongoing engagement with the Greenham Community Centre from Cllrs, and in particular, P and V, Barnett, and Drummond, and O' Keeffe.

Arts

26 June, Are We There Yet? A theatrical performance from refugees, a strong display of courage and desire for a sense of safety and belonging – thank you to Cllrs Masters and Slack for bringing this to my attention.

24 August, Art on Park – local artists, hosted at Victoria Park.

Ceremonial, representing Newbury

28 June Royal Engineers Freedom Parade, Lord Lieutenant of Royal Berkshire, Parade through Northbrook Street and Market Place.

10 October, High Sherrif of Royal Berkshire's Judicial Service at Reading Minster

12 October, Trafalgar Parade, Sea Cadet Corps. Newbury and District SCC hosted, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Royal Berkshire in attendance to receive the salute.

Cllr David Harman, Mayor of Newbury

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

26th January 2026

53 engagements, with support gratefully received from other Cllrs. A wider variety of events as listed in report, a few highlights:

- i. **Youth, schools, colleges**
- ii. **Environmental initiatives**
- iii. **Ceremonial, representing Newbury**
- iv. **Arts and culture**

Youth, Schools, Colleges

15 October, presentations to Fir Tree School, as part of NTC's Local Democracy engagement, to highlight the role of Newbury Town Council, local democracy and the role of the Mayor.

23 October, celebration event in Reading, marking 85 years of Berkshire Youth's impact. Award ceremony with presentations by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Royal Berkshire to young people, youth workers, volunteers, supporters and partner organisations.

Environmental initiatives

3 November, Thames and Chiltern in Bloom, Lock Island. The Secret Garden Project, Lock Island, was awarded a 'Special Recognition' award from Thames & Chiltern, recognising dedication, creativity and community spirit. Newbury was awarded a Silver Gilt Award for the first time in the Large Town category, and won the Best Large Town Trophy.

22 November, Tree of Hope, Greener Greenham. Planting of a sapling from the Sycamore Gap tree, Greener Greenham had been selected by the National Trust to receive one of the 49 saplings. The sapling was planted at Greenham Common's Control Tower.

Ceremonial, representing Newbury

9 November, Remembrance Sunday. NTC Officers and Royal British Legion. A commemoration to remember those who gave their lives in conflicts around the world. A very well attended event with a parade from the Royal British Legion at Pelican Lane through to the Market Place. The Royal British Legion, veterans, serving military personnel, cadet units and uniformed organisations, including scouts and cubs, took part in the parade. Following the Service of Remembrance in Market Place, the parade marched past the War Memorial, wreaths were laid, and the event finished with a service at St. Nicolas Church.

23 November, Santa Fun Run, Rotary Club. A fun, energetic event from Newbury Rotary, supporting Berkshire Youth and other charities. Start and finish at Markey Place, with strong participation, and excellent weather for this fun event.

25 December. Christmas greetings to our blue light services, ambulance, fire and police.

Arts and culture

18 October Diwali event organised by Community United. Celebration to welcome Diwali, lighting of candles and dancing, and stall holders with crafts and foods.

CLlr David Harman, Mayor of Newbury

Town Mayor's Report to Full Council

6th May 2026

The period from January 16, 2026, to May 4th, 2026, was marked by a diverse range of mayoral engagements reflecting my commitment to community cohesion, education, heritage, and support for local charities. My thanks as always goes to the Lady Mayoress, whom has supported me on >95% of functions, plus Cllrs and civic officers, who work tirelessly for the benefit of the people of Newbury. A few highlights are summarised below:

Heritage and Commemoration

The year began with celebrations of Newbury's cultural identity and history. In January, I participated in the Pongal festival at Shaw House, celebrating multicultural unity with the local Tamil community. Heritage remained a priority with the unveiling of a Blue Plaque for Alphonse Cary at Northbrook Street, honouring the musician and entrepreneur who helped shape the town's artistic landscape. I also honoured Newbury's military ties, attending the Royal British Legion's AGM and, later in the spring, a poignant 101 Squadron memorial service at RAF Welford, reaffirming the town's enduring bond with the Armed Forces.

Community Engagement and Local Democracy

Education on civic duty was a recurring theme. I, and fellow councillors led Local Democracy presentations at schools and other youth groups, for example, iCollege and scouts, providing pupils with insight into the role of the Town Council. This commitment to local engagement extended to supporting organisations like the Newbury Twin Towns Association, highlighting the importance of international collaboration, and participating in the Newbury Town Civic Awards, which celebrated the town's unsung heroes.

Supporting Youth and Vulnerable Groups

A significant portion of my calendar focused on youth and community support. Activities included:

- **Berkshire Youth:** I provided consistent support, notably hosting a fundraising concert at the Waterside Centre and attending the one-year anniversary celebration of Berkshire Youth managing the Greenham Community Centre.
- **Skill Development:** I championed technological education by attending the "Bytes & Build" robotics and coding workshop hosted by Kairali UK.
- **Charitable Work:** Throughout the spring, I engaged with various groups dedicated to those in need, including marking World Parkinson's Day.

Cultural and Sporting Life

Newbury's vibrancy is certainly kept alive by our cultural and sporting events. Highlights included the Newbury Symphony Orchestra's Spring Concert at St. Nicolas Church and the collaborative "Watership Brass and Brasserie" concert, which celebrated musical friendship with a Belgian ensemble. Furthermore, the Mayor supported the ThruDark Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race, emphasising the town's role in facilitating major sporting events.

Across these engagements, I reinforced our vision of Newbury as a welcoming, inclusive, and forward-looking town, grounded in respect for our history, with a dedicated focus on the welfare of all our residents.

CLlr David Harman, Mayor of Newbury