

# Town Mayor's Report

## 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**29/11/18** Deputy Mayor Richard Crumly and I judged the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition and chose a lovely rendition of St Mary's Church from the over 18's category and a cute fireplace picture from the under 11's category.



**01/12/18** I went to a lovely evening reception at Health Watch West Berkshire's premises at Lower Henwick Farm to celebrate their first birthday.

**02/12/18** I was honoured to be asked to do a reading at Swings & Smiles Carol Concert at St. Mary's Church. There were carols and songs sung by the children, readings and the patrons, one of whom was Chris Tarrant, talked about the fantastic work that Swings & Smiles does.

**04/12/18** I attended a multi schools' concert at St Nicolas Church, Newbury in aid of Save The Children. It was a lovely concert to attend and all the schools sang beautifully, but the children from Castle School had the most cheers and brought everyone to their feet.

**05/12/18** I was pleased to attend afternoon tea at AB Walker Funeral Directors in Thatcham Broadway along with members of the local churches as the team thanked the Council and churches for their help and cooperation throughout the year.

**06/12/18** In the evening I attended Kennet School's Christmas Fayre which was absolutely packed with people and goodies for sale, a lot of which were made by the pupils. I treated myself to a lovely spray of flowers made from paper and a caricature drawing of myself done by a pupil. I even managed to take a selfie with the Head Teacher and Father Christmas.



**07/12/18** In the afternoon, Deputy Mayor Richard Crumly and I judged the Town Centre Businesses Window Dressing competition. 14 businesses entered and after lots of deliberating we chose Picture It in 1<sup>st</sup> place, Charles Hairdressers in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Thatcham Kitchen Designs in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

I was back in the evening for the Thatcham Christmas Lights Switch On. I visited all of the stalls and enjoyed the performances from Spurcroft and Kennet Schools, KATS, St Mary's Church Choir and Cold Ash Brass. I was delighted to share the stage with Eric Bailey, Chairman of Thatcham Town Football Club and Danny Robinson, Team Manager of the Football Club for the big switch on at 7pm.

**08/12/18** I had a very pleasant evening at Hungerford Town Band's Christmas Concert at Hungerford Town Hall, accompanied by Mr Jeff Beck. The band played well and there were plenty of corny jokes told by the conductor.



**09/12/18** In the morning it was the Great Thatcham Santa Fun Run, organised by Thatcham Rotary. I was there at the countdown at the start and then as they returned, some looking warm, but all still smiling. Deputy Mayor Richard Crumly and I presented them with their medals and well done to Thatcham Rotary for all the money they raised for charity, it was a really "fun" morning!

In the late afternoon was my Civic Carol Service at St Mary's Church. A huge thanks to Revd. Mark Bennet, St Mary's Church Choir and Barfield Handbell Ringers for the music and to the Head Boys of Kennet and Trinity Schools and representatives from my nominated charities for the readings. It was a truly lovely service.

**10/12/18** I was pleased to be invited to the Early Years department at Spurcroft Primary School to join in with their Christmas Crafts. Some children were painting Christmas trees using green paint and a fork, some were cooking gingerbread men and others making Christmas cards, all were having fun and learning new things.

**12/12/18** I attended a lunchtime memorial service at the American Memorial at Greenham Common. It was a touching and rather nice commemoration of those who helped us in the war and who lived or settled here for many years.

Afterwards I went to West Berkshire Community Hospital with Jeff Beck for Donnington Ward's Christmas Party.

There were carols and cake and the opportunity to chat to the patients and I was delighted to see the Mayor of Newbury there as well.



**13/12/18** 7pm at Trinity School for their Winter Concert accompanied by Jeff Beck. As usual it was a well thought out and brilliantly performed concert.





**14/12/18** In the afternoon I enjoyed some time at Thatcham Christmas themed Market. I chatted and thanked all of the stall holders who had donated items into a hamper which was raffled for my Mayor's nominated Charities and raised a fantastic £48. The hamper was won by a gentleman working in one of the town centre businesses.

In the evening, accompanied by Jeff Beck, I went to Kennet School's Christmas production of The Canterbury Tales. It was a highly original performance and their Arts department are certainly not afraid of taking challenges on. Well done to all concerned.

**16/12/18** in the afternoon I was pleased to attend Newbury Town Council's Carol Concert at St John's Church. There were some lovely songs from the choir and mulled wine and mince pies after.

**17/12/18** In the morning I presented the prizes to the two winners of the Mayor's Christmas Card competition who were both delighted to win and the young winner who was only aged 9 couldn't stop smiling.

**18/12/18** In the morning I was at St Mary's Church for Spurcroft Primary School's Carol Service and then back in the evening for Kennet School's Carol Service. Both concerts were lovely and the pupils performed well.

**19/12/18** Accompanied by Jeff Beck, I attended a presentation evening at Kennet School. I found it very uplifting, seeing the rewards for all the hard work put in by the pupils and staff and how the winning of the certificates and trophies is a great motivation to them.

**25/12/18** I spent a lovely Christmas Day morning, accompanied by Jeff Beck, visiting the Wards at West Berkshire Community Hospital and talking to the patients. Some patients were going home that day and some were being allowed out for Christmas dinner with their relatives but unfortunately there were a great many that had to remain in hospital on Christmas Day. All of those patients praised the staff for their kindness and for the great treatment they received. The Mayor of Newbury and her husband were also in attendance. It was a special, if slightly sobering morning and highlighted how lucky we are to have this local hospital.

**10/01/18** I attended a meeting of the Berkshire Grandparents Group. I had previously met the founder, Debi, back in the autumn. She has set up the group for grandparents who are unable to see their grandchildren, commonly after the parents have separated. Unfortunately that particular session wasn't very well attended as it was just after Christmas but it was good to see where they meet.

**11/01/18** I attended Trinity School's presentation evening, accompanied by Jeff Beck and the Mayor of Newbury was also in attendance. It was great to see all the proud parents in the audience and the hard work by the pupils.

**13/01/18** In the afternoon, Jeff Beck and I went wassailing at the Community Orchard at the Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre. After crowning the young wassail King and Queen, we followed the Kennet Morris Men, making as much noise as possible in the orchard. Wassailing songs were sung, ribbons and toast dipped in cider were tied onto the apple trees. It was very eccentrically English and a lovely community event, enjoyed by young and old.

**14/01/18** Accompanied by Councillor Marigold Jaques, I completed a section of the sponsored walk of the parish boundary challenge that we had to previously miss due to access. I will be completing my walk on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February and will be grateful for any sponsorship money received.

**18/01/18** I enjoyed the House Dance and Art Competition at Kennet School.

**20/01/18** I was delighted to pop up to Holly Grange Nursing Home for local resident Rona's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday- something I know a few of my predecessors have done before me. She was born in 1916 and has lived such an interesting life.

**25/01/18** I joined United Nations Newbury for a short ceremony outside Newbury Town Hall commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day.



**26/01/18** I attended the rematch of the History Duel between Dr Nick Young, representing Thatcham and Dr David Peacock, representing Newbury, which was held at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall. At the end of the exchange the Mayor of Newbury and I exchanged rather tongue in cheek gifts!

**Cllr Jan Cover**  
**Town Mayor of Thatcham 2018-19**