

Mayor's Message and Newsletter – October 2021

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Michael Greenfield as the new Clerk for Newent Town Council. Michael comes to us from a local government background and has very many strings to his bow. We are sure this will be of great benefit to the Council. Thank you for joining us, Michael.

Saturday 4th September was the first ever Love Newent Fayre. This event was made possible by the Welcome Back Fund, a government incentive for the market towns to hold events and promote and showcase their businesses. Newent was decked out with bunting in the town and at the Lake area. The event was all about Newent, its local businesses and organisations. We are very grateful to the many members of the public who gave up their time to come along and assist. We also thank the staff for their tireless input towards the event, they all worked over and above to make it possible, smiling all the while.

On display were vintage tractors, classic cars, fire engine, children's entertainment, clay shooting, face painting plus a living statue and much more. Pudsey Bear made an appearance to introduce the new chat bench donated to Newent Town Council by Rotary - well done Pudsey Bear. There was singing and music under the Market House all day, lifting everyone's spirits & creating a happy community ambience; it was just the day to sit with a drink & listen to the music. The sun shone, the music played and the people came.

The Peace Tree

The Council was successful in securing a grant to plant trees in an area near the Lake, just off Court Road, some time ago. Some of you may have noticed the trees planted there. There is still some funding left available for the planting to be finalised in the autumn. One of the trees is a peace tree. It was proposed at a Council meeting and the Council was very happy to support this purchase for the Royal British Legion. The Legion supplied a plaque which is placed at the bottom of the tree to remember all those who gave their lives and those who returned.

The Legion has now been able to meet to perform the dedication ceremony, and this took place on a September evening presided over by branch Padre Simon Mason and deputy Padre Pat Phillips. During the dedication the names of Newent's fallen from the two World Wars were read out, followed by a minute's silence. I was privileged to attend. Please take a minute to walk to this area to see the tree. I am sure you will find it quite moving.

Visit to Lydney

On 29th July, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were invited by the Mayor of Lydney to attend an evening of Military Music in Bathurst Park, Lydney. It was a quintessentially English summer evening with drinks and refreshments taken to the background of the Nottingham cavalry Unit band playing a selection of military music and themes from the shows. There was also a fantastic bands-woman who sang some Vera Lynn songs – bringing a tear to the most hardened eyes! The band was beautifully turned out in their scarlet tunics and polished spurs. The final part of the evening included "beating the retreat" and the bugler playing the Last Post.

It was a superb evening involving some networking. It was lovely to see the Army Cadets and the Air Training Corps there. There is a possibility that an Army cadet unit may be starting again in Newent in the near future.

Chill Out Zone

The Community Cafe and chill Out Zone is now open again on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Local produce van which grew out of the Friday market itself arrives in the Good News car park on 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. The Friday market itself has restarted organised by the Memorial Hall Committee.

Youth Action Group

Now the full Council has approved the Youth Action Group's project to install an information board in the phone box at Vauxhall in the Tythings, plans are progressing. After an initial tidy up, YAG is aiming to begin painting week commencing 25.10.21. When the work is finished there will a board with the Town Council news, dates of meetings etc, making it easier for the local residents to access this information.

Fishing at the Lake

Permission has been given by the Town Council for the Junior Level competitions to be free of charge for the young people. Hopefully this will encourage even more young people to join in, and learn how to fish correctly, and enjoy the sport.

Clifford's Mesne

At the end of September there were 2 events in the Village. First was a community picnic, postponed from 2020. The Events group prepared 106 picnic boxes for the residents and there was a very happy gathering on the Common as the newer residents were able to meet the longer established residents, many for the first time. Despite a shower at the beginning and a power cut, the afternoon went well and was declared a great success. The following week there was a two-day Tractor weekend at the Manor Farm in the village to raise funds to support the Village Hall and Church.

In warm sunshine a multitude of lovingly restored and polished vintage tractors arrived in the village, along with vintage cars. The arrival was preceded by a drive around the area. There were also stationary steam engines to delight the more mechanically minded. Both days were well attended with a burger van and ice cream man adding to the holiday atmosphere. There was even live music of a suitable era. The day was declared such a success that it is hoped to have a repeat in 2022.

Neighbourhood Development Plan News

The latest in our themed surveys has just been launched. It concerns the Human Impact on the Environment. Please fill it in online at newentourfuture.co.uk or pick up a paper copy at the stand behind the tills at the large Co-op. The previous survey of Services and Amenities is almost finished following a doorstep session in Picklenash Grove.

If you are interested in joining the Steering Group, we meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Further details from the Town Clerk. This is the best chance of having a say in the future planning of our town.

Climate Change

A meeting was held on Tuesday 7th of the newly formed Newent Climate Emergency Forum. Our first task was to respond to the Forest of Dean District Council's Strategy and Action Plan. Next, we want to look at what we can do locally.

Questions include:

How can we learn from other organisations?

How do we take this to the wider community?

What will make it easy for people to change to a more environmentally friendly lifestyle?

What are we doing well already?

What could we do better?

Interested? Please contact Cllr Gill Moseley or Cllr Kay Selwyn through the Town Clerk:

townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

01531 820638