

Council meeting 22nd November 2023 - Report from Mayor

Volunteer Bureau AGM Monday 2nd October

This AGM was well attended. We all met at the Town Hall and the event started with a talk about all their work, which was interesting, but the bottom line is they need more volunteers, especially for their gardening helpers. There were refreshments afterwards that look very appetizing but unfortunately I had to leave to go to my volunteering job at a Reading based charity shop, especially as it was my last day with that Charity.

Berkshire Judicial Service Friday 13th October

This event takes place every year at the Minster in Reading. It is to mark the opening of the Crown Court in Reading at the start of the judicial year and is a long tradition dating back to the Middle Ages. It is attended by many of the Berkshire Mayors who all met in the Civic Offices in Reading and then proceed to the Minster in St. Marys Butts. This year they had a guest from the youth criminal system who spoke eloquently about many children in the criminal system, which I was surprised by the scale. There was tea refreshment back at the Civic Centre but once again had to leave, this time for a meeting.

Woodley and Lions 41st Charter Night Dinner and Dance Friday 20th October

This was a lovely evening and of course a new dress was needed. It was a great honour to be asked to take part and also to give a toast to this great organization – they have raised over £1,000,000. Also, at this evening they held a raffle of which half the proceeds went to my charity Link (£190). I attended on my own and was made very welcome by everyone and it was lovely to see everyone in evening dress and dinner jackets. The event was held at the Sonning Golf Club so the food was great and the disco was also very good, I danced too much and had problems next day walking.

Rainbows visit Tuesday 7th of November.

This afternoon visit to the Council Offices and Chamber by the Rainbows group is one the best parts of being the Mayor. This visit was about how the Council meetings work so all the Rainbows sat in the main chair and tested the Gavel and very good they were too – Emma (Deputy Town Clerk) and myself spoke about how meetings work and took questions and posed for photos.

Earley Crescent Community Association AGM Tuesday 7th November

This was also an AGM where the Chairman gave his annual report and the Independent Examiner gave a full report on the financial situation of the Chairty. Earley Crescent is facing financial challenges going forward with the loss of a major user. This was followed by a Management report by the Manager Kate Long. A bit of a theme here, we had refreshment afterwards and this time I was able to stay and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

Remembrance Sunday Earley St Peters 12th November

This is a sombre occasion at which many attended, and the Earley Town Council wreath was the first to go onto the memorial. I gave a reading at the Service.