**Mayor’s Activity Report 11th April 2017 – 9th May 2018**

**Wednesday 12th April**: attended the OALC meeting of larger councils with the Town Clerk in Thame Town Hall.

**Saturday 15th April: attended the monthly Saturday Market.**

**Friday 21st April: attended the Mayor of Carterton’s St Georges’ Celebration Charity Dinner at the Officer’s Mess, RAF Brize Norton.**

**Saturday 22nd April: attended the Lord Mayor of Oxford’s Charity Dinner in Oxford Town Hall.**

**Sunday 23rd April:** led Faringdon’s Civic Service in All Saints’. After a reception in the Jubilee Room, the service was conducted by the Rev Dr Stephen Bellamy followed by refreshments in the Barber Rooms. This was attended by Deputy Lieutenant Col. Neil Sutherland OBE, Deputy Lieutenant Brian Crossland, The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Miss Jane Cranston, Chairs of OCC and VoWHDC, Deputy Chair of WODC, Mayor of Highworth, the former Mayor of Bicester, CCllr, guests and representatives from the maintained and voluntary organisations in the town.

**Sunday 23rd April: attended the St George’s Day Parade by Faringdon Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and following service and reception in All Saints’.**

**Saturday 29th April:** welcomed the French visitors, from our twin town of Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe, in the Catholic Church Hall and attended the evening soirée in the Pump House Project. Twelve adults and five children visited, but this included two new families.

**Monday 1st May**: said farewell to the French visitors for their return to France.

**Tuesday 9th May**: attended the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) Annual Awards Meeting in Oxford Town Hall.

**Wednesday 10th May**: attended a governor’s meeting at Faringdon Infant School.

**Monday 15th May**: attended the funeral of Mr William (Ren) Reynolds in All Saint’s.

**Monday 15th May**: attended the promotional event in aid of the Town Centre and the Blackbird Day Market at Waitrose.

**Monday 15th May**: attended the installation of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Oxford in Oxford Town Hall.

**Friday 19th May**: attended Faringdon Country Market in the Corn Exchange to judge a display of nursery school children’s art.

**Saturday 20th May**: attended the Blackbird Day Saturday Market and judged a display of pictures of blackbirds coloured by children from the Infant School.

**Saturday 20th May**: ‘The Mayor Rocks the Place’ disco in the Corn Exchange.

**Tuesday 23rd May**: attended Faringdon’s Blooming Market.

**Tuesday 23rd May**: attended the Pop-Up Market at Ferendune Court.

**Wednesday 24th May**: attended the ‘Faringdon Scenes’ exhibition of work, depicting scenes of Faringdon done by the U3A Patchwork and Quilting Group, in the Old Town Hall

**Thursday 25th May**: travelled to our twin town of Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe for the 50th anniversary of their twinning with Falkenstein in Germany and greeted the delegation (136 strong) from Falkenstein in Le Mêle Fire Station. Faringdon was represented by David and Mary Tutt, and Lynn Williamson of the Faringdon Twinning Association, Ingrid and me.

**Friday 26th May**: attended a concert given by the Mandolin Club of Falkenstein in Notre Dame de l’Assomption church in Le Mêle.

**Saturday 27th May**: at the invitation of the President of the Council of the Department of Orne, M Christophe de Balorre, visited the Departmental Council Offices in Alençon with representatives of the Department of Orne, the town of Königstein and chairmen of our respective twinning associations, partook of a lunch and visited the Lik’Orne Festival held in the grounds of the Council Offices.

**Saturday 27th May**: attended the Official Ceremony to renew the terms of the twinning in the Salle Daniel Roualt in Le Mêle and after giving a speech in French and German to our hosts and guests, on behalf of the people of Faringdon, presented the Twinning Association of Le Mêle and the Communité de Communes with a commemorative jug made by Uffington Pottery showing the White Horse.

**Saturday 27th May**: attended the soirée and dinner at Bazoches sur Hoëne in the evening.

**Sunday 28th May**: together with the mayors of Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe and Königstein, laid floral displays depicting our national flags at the War Memorial in Le Mêle.

**Sunday 28th May**: attended a commemorative mass in Notre Dame de l’Assomption with representatives of the twin towns.

**Tuesday 30th May**: attended Faringdon’s Children’s Market.

**Tuesday 30th May**: attended the Pop-Up Market at Ferendune Court.

**Thursday 1st June**: attended a meeting of the Twinning Association with Cllr Greenwood.

**Friday 2nd June**: attended Faringdon Country Market in the Corn Exchange to present a birthday card to Johnny Curtis for his 50th birthday.

**Tuesday 6th June**: observed a minute’s silence in the Market Place for victims of the London Bridge and Borough Market attacks together with DCllr Roger Cox, CCllr Judith Heathcoat and Ed Vaizey MP.

**Wednesday 7th June**: attended a supper with the Bishop of Oxford courtesy of the VoWH Deanery, Lay Chairman, Mr Jeremy Twynam at Woolstone, followed by a Q&A session at the Thomas Hughes Hall in Uffington.

**Sunday 11th June**: represented the town at the Mayor of Henley on Thames’s Civic Service at Mill Meadows Bandstand, Henley on Thames.

**Sunday 11th June**: attended the 100th birthday celebration of Mrs Gladys Fisher at Ferendune Court.

**Tuesday 13th June**: attended the Oxfordshire County Youth Big Band Concert at the County Music Service, Bayards School, Oxford.

**Friday 16th June**: attended the ‘Lives of Young Carers Meeting in England – Insights for Health and Education’ meeting at Boundary Park Pavilion, Didcot.

**Saturday 17th June**: attended the Saturday Market for ‘Young Traders’.

**Sunday 18th June**: attended the ‘Great Get Together’ in memory of Jo Cox on the new green area at the Pump House Project.

**Monday 19th June**: represented the town at the Armed Forces’ Flag Raising Day in Oxford.

**Tuesday 20th June**: attended the Wantage Independent Advice Centre AGM at the Beacon, Wantage.

**Friday 23rd June**: attended a talk by Brigadier Robin Draper, ‘Recoats to Riflemen’ in the Corn Exchange.

**Sunday 25th June**: attended the Freedom of the Vale Parade held in Faringdon for the 7th Battalion, The Rifles.

**Tuesday 27th June**: attended the Lord Lieutenant’s Dinner for Mayors and Chairs in Dorchester Abbey.

**Thursday 29th June**: represented the town at the Interfaith Friendship Walk in Oxford, from the Synagogue in Jericho to the Central Mosque in Manzil Way.

**Saturday 1st July**: represented the town at Banbury’s Armed Forces Day and Parade.

**Saturday 1st July**: attended the Ferndale Choir evening of words and music in the Pump House Project.

**Sunday 2nd July**: represented the town at the Mayor of Bicester’s Civic Service and Parade at St Edburg’s Church, Bicester.

**Friday 7th July**: attended the Oxfordshire County Music Service Summer Celebration of Music at Dorchester Abbey.

**Sunday 9th July**: presented the awards for the Faringdon in Bloom competition in the Jubilee Room.

**Monday 10th July**: attended the 1st Faringdon Scout Group AGM in the Barber Rooms.

**Saturday 15th July**: attended the Saturday ‘Strawberry Fayre’ Market.

**Tuesday 18th July**: judged the Scouts’ Soapbox Derby at the RAC yard.

**Thursday 20th July**: walked the grounds of Faringdon House with the Friends of the Folly.

**Friday 28th – Sunday 30th July**: attended events at FollyFest and made the closing speech.

**Sunday 30th July**: represented the town at a service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) at St Faith’s Church, Shellingford.

**Saturday 5th August**: opened the Macmillan Charity Jumble Sale in the Corn Exchange.

**Tuesday 8th August**: visited the Tuesday Market.

**Thursday 17th August**: represented the town at the Chairman of the VoWHDC’s charity event in aid of the Alzheimer’s Society and the Children’s Air Ambulance at the Northern Neighbourhood Community Centre, Great Western Park, Didcot.

**Saturday 19th August**: attended the Saturday ‘Vintage’ Market and had the pleasure of opening Granny Beesley’s sweet and ice cream shop, and activity centre.

**Thursday 24th August**: attended a Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall, Oxford, for a Faringdon resident who has become a UK citizen.

**Sunday 3rd September**: raised the Red Ensign over Folly Tower at a ceremony to commemorate Merchant Navy Day.

**Friday 8th September**: with Millie Bryan and her extended family, formally named Bryan Way between Gravel Walk and Meadow Bank, to commemorate her contribution to the town.

**Saturday 9th September**: attended the last Night of the Proms event in the Corn Exchange. This was a superb event; the sound and projected image were excellent.

**Sunday 10th September**: represented the town at the Mayor of Abingdon’s Civic Service at St Helen’s church, Abingdon, followed by the Civic Lunch.

**Sunday 10th September**: represented the town at the Mayor of Thame’s Civic Service at St Joseph’s church Didcot.

**Monday 11th September**: represented the town at the Chairman of the VoWHDC’s charity Aunt Sally event in aid of the Alzheimer’s Society and the Children’s Air Ambulance at the Hart, Harwell.

**Friday 15th September**: attended the Twinning Association’s French Film Night in the Corn Exchange.

**Sunday 17th September**: represented the town at the Banbury Battle of Britain Civic Service at St. Mary’s church, Horsefair, Banbury.

**Tuesday 19th September**: represented the town at the Oxfordshire County Scout Council AGM at Kirtlington Village Hall.

**Saturday 23rd September**: represented the town at the Oxfordshire County Music Service Music Hub Gala Awards at the Centre for Music, Bayswater Rd, Oxford.

**Monday 25th Tuesday 26th September**; met Peggy Trotter, born Ashbury 1927, visiting Faringdon with her family who had lived in the Pump House until 1946 when it was the Institute and Services Club and her father was the manager.

**Wednesday 27th September**: gave eleven members of Bicester U3A Bus Pass Adventure Group, who were visiting Faringdon, a history tour of the town.

**Friday 29th September**: attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Faringdon United Church.

**Sunday 1st October**: represented the town at the Mayor of Didcot’s Civic Service at St. Peter’s church, Didcot.

**Wednesday 4th October**: attended the Larger Council’s meeting of OALC with the Town Clerk at the Garth, Bicester.

**Wednesday 4th October**: attended a Governors’ meeting at Faringdon Infant School.

**Tuesday 10th October**: represented the town at the High Sheriff’s Law Lecture at the University of Oxford Examination Schools and the Court Sermon at Christ Church Cathedral.

**Thursday 12th October**: introduced the first Science and Faith: Big Questions Lecture in the Corn Exchange.

**Saturday 14th October**: hosted the second ‘Mayor Rocks’ Disco in the Corn Exchange with DJ Cllr Al ‘Citizen’ Cane in the Corn Exchange. The theme was the ‘Mayor Rocks 1967 in music in film’ in aid of The Place, Children’s Centre and raised £270.

**Monday 16th October**: attended a meeting of the Faringdon Twinning Committee with Cllr Greenwood.

**Tuesday 17th October**: represented the town at the Chairman of OCC’s reception in County Hall, Oxford.

**Tuesday 17th October**: represented the town at the St Frideswide Civic Service ‘A Celebration of Good Parenting’ at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

**Thursday 19th October**: welcomed the members of the Faringdon Day Centre to a showing of the ‘Viceroy’s House’ in the Corn Exchange and presented a cheque for monies raised at the ‘Last Night of the Proms’ event.

**Sunday 15th October**: attended the Faringdon Twinning Association’s Musical Evening in Blessed St Hugh’s Church in aid of a family from our French Community who lost everything in the Hurricane Irma disaster on St Martin in the French Antilles. The event raised £1,100.

**Saturday 21st - Tuesday 24th October**: visited Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe with members of the Faringdon Twinning Association and attended the annual Joint Committee Meeting. We were able to present the cheque to the family from St Martin as a contribution towards their disaster fund.

**Tuesday 26th October**: represented the town at the Chairman of SODC’s charity fund raiser in aid of Oxford Homeless Pathways at the Swan, Tetsworth.

**Saturday 27th October**: attended the 53rd Faringdon Art Society Annual Exhibition in the Corn Exchange.

**Tuesday 31st October**: represented the town at the Oxfordshire Lord Lieutenant’s Awards Ceremony for the South East Reserve Forces’ and Cadets’ Association and the presentation of BEMs to local residents.

**Thursday 2nd November**: represented the town at the High Sheriff’s Reception at the School of St Helen & St Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon. There is an on-line charity auction to raise money for Aspire, YoCo and Safe.

**Friday 3rd November**: represented the town at the Chairman of WODC’s Charity Dinner in aid of Friends of the Young Musicians’ Association, at Eynsham Hall, North Leigh.

**Wednesday 8th November**: represented the town at the repatriation ceremony for Royal Marine James Holloway, of 42 Commandos, Royal Marines at the Memorial Garden, Carterton.

**Friday 10th November**: manned the Memorial Exhibition in the Old Town Hall.

**Friday 10th Novembe**r: attended the Royal British Legion’s 7th Annual Festival of Remembrance in the Corn Exchange.

**Saturday 11th November**: manned the Memorial Exhibition in the Old Town Hall.

**Saturday 11th November**: attended the Ceremony of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

**Saturday 11th November**: attend the Chairman of the VoWHDC’s charity 70s disco in aid of the Children’s Air Ambulance, the Alzheimer’s Society and the Pump House Project in the Pump House Project.

**Sunday 12th November**: attended the Remembrance Day Parade and Service in All Saints’ Church.

**Tuesday 14th November**: attended the exhibition mounted by Welbeck in the Football Club on the potential extension of the Steeds Farm development.

**Tuesday 14th November**: attended the exhibition at 4:30 pm and subsequent meeting at 7:00 pm hosted by the VoWHDC on the Local Plan Pt 2 in the Corn Exchange.

**Saturday 18th November**: attended the Faringdon Community Ball at the Sudbury House Hotel.

**Saturday 25th November**: represented the town at the Mayor of Bicester’s Charity Dinner at Whitelands Farm Sports Pavilion, Bicester.

**Saturday 2nd December**: attended Festive Faringdon and helped turn on the Christmas lights.

**Sunday 3rd December**: attended the Wantage Silver Band and Cotswold Voices concert in the Corn Exchange.

**Monday 4th December**: helped decorate Ferendune Court’s Christmas Cake for the Anchor Trust competition to be held in London.

**Monday 4th December**: attended the 52nd Annual Christmas Carol Concert in aid of NSPCC at All Saints’, Faringdon.

**Thursday 6th December**: attended the Faringdon Community College Presentation Evening for GCSE students and presented two awards.

**Friday 8th December**: attendedthe Nativity Play in the Market Place.

**Saturday 9th December**: attended the Chairman of OCC’s Charity Dinnerat County Hall, Oxford.

**Monday 11th December**: attended the Lord Mayor of Oxford’s Christmas Reception in Oxford Town Hall.

**Wednesday 13th December**: attended a Christmas Lunch at Faringdon Infant School.

**Friday 22nd December**: visited Ferendune Court with officers of the Town Council to present Christmas gifts to the residents.

**Tuesday 26th December**: attended the annual Boxing Day Mummers Play, presented by the Wantage Mummers, in the Market Place. From their three performances (Faringdon, Wantage and Childrey) £2,000 was donated to the British Heart Foundation and £300 to Root & Branch.

**Thursday 4th January**: attended the Faringdon Community College 6th Form Presentation Evening and presented the FTC Staff Award for Outstanding Academic Support to Mrs Suzie Galliford (Mathematics – KS4 Coordinator) and an additional award to Mr John Butler (Deputy Headteacher, Standards - Science P/T) who is retiring after many years of service.

**Thursday 11th January**: introduced the third ‘Science and Faith: Big Questions’ Lecture in the Corn Exchange given by the Rt Rev Dr Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon on ‘Designer babies: should we play God?

**Saturday 20th January**: attended the Saturday market in the Corn Exchange.

**Saturday 20th January**: attended the SODC Chairman’s Charity Concert at the Cornerstone Didcot given by the Oxfordshire Youth Big Band and Didcot Gospel Choir.

**Thursday 25th January**: attended the AGM of the Faringdon Community Bus in the Jubilee Room.

**Friday 26th January**: attended the Holocaust Memorial Day event in Oxford Town Hall.

**Friday 26th January**: attended the Oxfordshire County Music Service Schools’ Concert given by the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra in the Sheldonian Theatre.

**Wednesday 31st January**: presented Mrs Pam Wade with flowers and chocolates on behalf of the Town Council to commemorate her 20 plus years of service as a crossing warden.

**Thursday 8th February**: represented the town at the funeral of Mrs Sue Cotterill, wife of Cllr Derek Cotterill, the former Chairman of WODC at the church of the Holy Rood, Shilton.

**Thursday 8th February**: represented the town at the repatriation ceremony for Captain Dean Sprouting, Army Adjutant General Corps, Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland at the Memorial Garden, Carterton.

**Thursday 8th February**: introduced the fourth ‘Science and Faith: Big Questions’ Lecture in the Corn Exchange given by Dr Rodney Holder on ‘God or the Big Bang’.

**Saturday 10th February**: represented the town at the Vale of White Horse Chairman’s Charity Dinner in aid of the Children’s Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer’s Society at the Milton House Hotel, Steventon.

**Saturday 17th February**: attended the Saturday Market in the Corn Exchange.

**Friday 23rd February**: attended the Oxfordshire Youth Big Band concert at Chipping Norton Theatre organised by the Chairman of WODC in aid of the Friends of the Young Musicians Association.

**Saturday 24th February**: attended ‘An Evening at the Proms’ given by the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles at the Bicester Mayor’s Charity Band Concert in support of Soldiers of Oxfordshire and the Royal British Legion.

**Sunday 25th February**: represented the town at the Mayor of Witney’s Civic Service at St Mary the Virgin, Witney.

**Tuesday 6th March**: inaugurated the celebrations for the 800th anniversary of the Market Charter.

**Thursday 8th March**: represented the town at the High Sheriff’s Awards Evening at the Michael Dummett Lecture Theatre, Christ Church, Oxford on behalf of recipient PCSO Kerry Davis.

**Saturday 10th March**: attended the Chairman of Cherwell District Council’s Charity Dinner at Exeter Hall, Kidlington.

**Thursday 15th March**: attended the launch meeting of YoCO (Young Challenge Oxfordshire) in the Jubilee Room.

**Saturday 17th March**: attended the Saturday Market in the Corn Exchange.

**Tuesday 20th March**: gave 90 Year 1 children from Faringdon Infant School a talk about Faringdon in the Corn Exchange as part of a history project.

**Saturday 7th April**: took part in the Litter Pick with fellow councillors and residents; 70 people took part.

**Sunday 8th April**: welcomed guests and residents to the Corn Exchange prior to the Civic Service in All Saints’. In attendance were the DL, Mrs Diana Bagnall; the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Miss Jane Cranston; the Chairman of OCC; the Chairman of WODC; the Chairman of VoWHDC; Mayors of Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Witney and Deputy Mayor of Carterton, all with their consorts; County Councillor, District Councillors and Town Councillors; representatives from Thames Valley Police, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Library Service; 12 other Faringdon organisations including the First Responders, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, W.I., Art Society, U3A, Twinning Association, RBL, Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Beavers, and Dramatic Society. The Civic Service, conducted by the Rev Dr Steve Bellamy, was followed by refreshments in the Barber Rooms.

**Saturday 14th April**: attended the Saturday Market.

**Saturday 14th April**: attended the Mayor of Thame’s Charity Dinner at the Spread Eagle, Thame.

**Friday 20th April**: attended the Mayor of Bicester’s St George’s Day Dinner at the Bicester Garrison’s Officers’ Mess, Ambrosden.

**Saturday 28th April**: travelled to Falkenstein (Hesse, Germany ~25 km NW of Frankfurt) to represent Faringdon at the 50th anniversary of their twinning with our twin town, Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe; this was the return visit to complete the celebrations held last May in France. Administratively, Falkenstein is now a part of Königstein im Taunus, their larger, contiguous town although they were originally separate communities each with its own (now, ruined) 14C castles and rivalries. After the welcome meeting in the primary school. The day was concluded with a communal dinner in the Christkönig church hall. One hundred people took part, with chairs and members of the twinning associations from Le Mêle, Le Canot (France), Faringdon (11 of us), Libcany (Czechia) and Poland together with five mayors from the CDC and the respective Presidents of the Council of the Department of Orneand of the Council of Königstein.

**Sunday 29th April**: the formal celebration of the 50th anniversary took place in the morning in the Falkenstein Grand Kempinski Hotel including music from the Mandolin Club of Falkenstein, choirs and children from the primary school.

This was followed by a formal lunch for the civic dignitaries and chairs of the twinning associations hosted by the Mayor of Königstein at the Grand Kempinski Hotel.

The day closed with a vin d’honneur and formal banquet at the Communal Hall at the Bürgerhaus in Falkenstein at which, with David Williamson (Chairman of the Faringdon Twinning Association), I gave a brief speech in German and French and we presented a framed print of Faringdon to the people of Falkenstein /Königstein to mark the occasion.

**Monday 30th April**: with other the visitors we went on a guided tour of the historic towns Aschaffenburg in Bavaria and Seligenstadt in Hesse.

In the evening we joined with the local population in a ‘Welcome Spring’ entertainment in the Bürgerhaus Hall where we celebrated May Day with food, drink, music and dancing.

**Tuesday 1st May**: we attended a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial in Falkenstein, followed by a church service in the Christkönigkirche then a communal brunch in the church hall before we all went our separate ways.

**Tuesday 2nd May**: represented the town at the funeral of Cllr Jolanta Lis, Vice Chairman of Cherwell District Council and Mayor of Bicester, 2016-17, at St Edburg’s Bicester.

**Thursday 3rd May**: attended an event at the invitation of the the Trustees of Youth Challenge Oxfordshire to celebrate the first successful year of YoCO in The Barn at Southlawn, Appleton.

**Saturday 5th May**: attended the Mayor of Banbury’s charity Dinner and Quiz in the Town Hall, Banbury.

M L H Wise
21-5-18