

Mayor's Column September 2015

Huge congratulations to the Regatta Committee and everyone involved in organising Fowey Royal Regatta for 2015. Grahame Jane has completed his final Regatta after 25 years on the Regatta Committee, with 20 of those as Chairman. Not only is Fowey Regatta hugely successful, it brings many visitors to Fowey, and is the highlight of many family holidays. This is a splendid achievement Graham and Tracey, well done.

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped throughout the week, standing at the gates of Place House on Monday and Tuesday evening to direct visitors onto the beautiful lawns to watch the crowning of the Fairy and Carnival Queens or to listen to the Royal Signals concert, also to those who shook buckets on Carnival night.

Also, what a wonderful sight to see the Falmouth Working Boats sailing in the harbour and all the racing which did manage to take place despite the light winds or the fog! Well done Gallants Sailing Club and the Royal Fowey Yacht Club.

Earlier in August I had the pleasure of being part of the opening ceremony for the new Windmill House together with our MP Steven Double. It was a beautifully sunny afternoon to look at this wonderful new build. There are twelve new affordable homes; ten are for rent and two for "Homebuy" shared ownership. The scheme was jointly funded by Ocean Housing and the Homes and Communities Agency and is a big change from the old Windmill House which was built in 1966. Nothing could be more different to the 2015 Windmill House; we were shown into two flats and these are bright, airy, pleasant flats suitable for 21st century living, no shared bathrooms here.

Over a pasty and a cup of tea, it was a delight to meet Jean Cooper, a resident of Windmill House, who remembers being crowned Fairy Queen in 1938 and then Carnival Queen in 1948. She said they were given a small amount of money to help make their dresses and is something she has remembered all her life.

It was with great relief that Fowey Town Council were able to open the toilets at Caffa Mill on August 10th. This has taken far longer than was expected or is reasonable but, please be aware, there are other town and parish councils who are still struggling to get their toilets transferred from Cornwall Council and returned to local ownership. This is not a perfect system! Huge thanks for sheer dogged determination must go to our Town Clerk Sally Vincent who has been emailing Cornwall Council almost on a daily basis to be able to get the toilets transferred to Fowey in time for Regatta.

The toilets in the Main Car Park and at Readymoney beach are, however, still in the ownership of Cornwall Council, who will stop operating these and most of the toilets in Cornwall by March 2016. There will be some hard thinking to see if the people of Fowey can afford these toilets as well.

Good news for the Neighbourhood Plan; we have applied for a bid for funding which, if successful, will provide £10,000 from the Big Lottery. This money will mean we will be able to fund a number of activities to push forward our Neighbourhood Plan for Fowey Parish onto the next stage without putting a financial burden on the people of Fowey.

And, finally, the Sports Hub will remain closed to the public until the end of September. I contacted Kathy Kirkham, ALAT Chief Operating Officer, to clarify the situation and was told staffing problems

following resignations have added to the delay in opening the sports facility. It does seem to be a sorry tale of confusion, let's hope this is the last deadline we are given.

You can contact the Town Council through our Clerk Sally Vincent, or myself as Mayor. Where we have Councillors who are at work, in Town, please respect their business priorities.

The Council welcomes comments from residents and you are always welcome to come to Council meetings and raise any concerns you may have during "Public Questions".

The September Council meeting in the Town Hall is on September 15th starting at 7.00pm

Also contact us by:

www.facebook.com/Fowey-Town-Council/408736029293341

www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk

www.foweysfuture.co.uk (Neighbourhood Plan)

Ruth Finlay, Mayor
ruthfinlay@live.co.uk
01726 832762