

Mayor's Column October 2015

The Town Council would like to thank Mike Penprase for his commitment to the Town for thirty seven years as Town Crier. It is quite simply hard to imagine the Town without his presence in full costume and bell, welcoming visitors and dignitaries to Fowey or supporting the many charity events that he has been involved in over the years, with this unique sense of occasion, usually a twinkle in his eye.

Mike's involvement in Fowey will be hard to beat! In his position as Town Crier, Mike has seen many notable events, as well as many changes (I don't know many people who have at least two pages of Google just for themselves!). Thirty seven years is quite an achievement, all for no payment, many congratulations Mike. I'm sure I speak for many people in Fowey wishing you and Celia all the very best in your deserved retirement.

Congratulations also go to Commander Tony King on his award of the British Empire Medal in the Queen's recent Birthday Honours for his many years of service to maritime safety in the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI). The NCI is an excellent organisation, especially in our port of Fowey where so many people enjoy sailing, gig rowing and canoeing as well as many offshore sailors who also rely on the volunteers from the NCI to keep watch in all weathers. Watchkeepers are the eyes and ears along the coast, keeping a visual watch, monitoring radio channels, using radar and providing a listening watch in poor visibility. Surveillance work is mainly routine but Watchkeepers are trained to act in an emergency, report to the MCA and, if required, co-ordinate with the search and rescue services. Commander King was one of the "founding fathers" of the NCI, which was set up in 1994 after many small Coastguard stations were closed. This honour is justly deserved, well done.

The Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan steering group are thrilled to receive £10,000 funding from "Awards for All, Big Lottery". This will enable the steering group to move the Neighbourhood Plan onto the next stage with an exhibition, questionnaire and workshops planned for 2016.

You will, hopefully, have received your copy of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, which we hope will put the views of the community at the heart of our Plan. The launch of the Questionnaire will be at Fowey Primary School on Thursday 15th October where we will have a presentation of art work by Year 6 children called "What Makes Fowey Special", maps and information about Fowey Parish. We hope the exhibition will be well attended by the residents of Fowey who come along, have a cup of coffee and a slice of cake, and find out about the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Fowey River Lions Triathlon celebrated its thirtieth anniversary this year and has raised thousands of pounds for charities during this time. The weather checks were taken at 8.00am on the morning of 20th September, the river at 15°C was warmer than on dry land. With over one hundred competitors the race, now in its thirtieth year, is proving as popular as ever. Local glass designer Jo Downs had kindly sponsored the Triathlon which meant that this year's chosen charity, Cornwall Blood Bikes, would benefit from all the hard work of the Fowey River Lions.

The Blood Bikes offer a free service to provide an "out of hours" delivery service to the NHS throughout Cornwall. Besides blood, they also carry pathology samples and medication. All carried by volunteer motorcyclists.

Good news, the Sports Hub is finally to open on September 28th. The new opening times are as follows:

Monday – Friday: 6.30am to 8.00am and 5.00pm to 10.00pm
Saturday: 8.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am to 3.00pm

And, finally, I mentioned at the beginning that finding a new Town Crier would be hard to do, but if you are interested in finding out more about this role please contact the Town Clerk.

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.foweyfuture.co.uk (Neighbourhood Plan)

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