

Mayor's Column December 2015

Season's Greetings to all Fowey residents and in the parish of Fowey, also Welcome to the many visitors we have over this Christmas period.

On Sunday, 15th November, it was with great pleasure that the Town Council recognised the work of Michael Penprase as Town Crier after 37 years of service to the Council and the town of Fowey, and to mark this significant contribution with the honour of the Freedom of Fowey. At a reception in the Town Hall, held in his honour, there were many memories and laughter with Michael over the thirty seven years he has been Town Crier which not only show his commitment to the Town but also his involvement in the many charity events he has supported.

There was a packed church for the memorial service of Martine Luke on Monday, 9th November, to celebrate the life of the well-loved and much respected lady in our town, who very sadly died recently. The church was full of her favourite music and memories from the many people who knew her. Our thoughts are with her husband Neil, family and friends, at this difficult time.

I attended a meeting of Mayors who represented larger towns in Cornwall at Bodmin Shire Hall. The Mayor of Bodmin put forward the motion that Mayors in Cornwall support the Police and Crime Commissioner in his efforts to increase government funding and operational officers. The perception from the Mayors present, which was borne out by conversations with the Chief Constable, was that community policing was very low on the agenda.

There were two lovely events held recently in support of the proposed Squires Field Community Centre. A quiz at the Safe Harbour and then, a couple of weeks later, a coffee morning. Both events were very well attended and raised hundreds of pounds for the new Community Centre. Well done Heather Hunt and her team.

Squires Field, which should be returned to Fowey Town Council within the next few weeks, comprises a football pitch which is used by our local junior football team, a sports pavilion, the old Bowling Club premises, a children's playground and the car park. This important, open, green space is a well-used amenity for the people of Fowey but, of course, comes with significant costs in maintenance for the sports field, the children's play area and the buildings on the field, all of which the Town Council will need to tackle as a matter of priority.

Whilst I don't wish to be political at this seasonal time of year, the return of these "assets" from Cornwall Council – which is happening in towns and parishes up and down the country as part of the devolution process, is putting an increasing burden on local tax payers. All of these assets come with costs and have to be paid for and the question which has to be asked is "How should we pay for returning assets like the toilets and Squires Field which will cost thousands of pounds to maintain per year?"

The Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire deadline was November 26th and there will be a prize draw of all completed questionnaires held in the Town Council meeting on December 9th. Thank you to all those who returned the questionnaire, your ideas and comments are most helpful in shaping the future of Fowey.

I am looking forward, as I write this, to the Christmas Market, the lantern parade and, of course, switching the lights on. Good Luck and well done to the Chamber of Commerce and Lynn Goold who have put so much effort into making this a success.

Finally, can I say a big “Thank you” to all the volunteers who make Fowey a special place to lie in, your support of all the Festivals, Regatta, sailing events, flower tubs, firework displays, hog roasts, drama and musical events, as without you these events would simply not happen. To the local businesses who keep our town so lively and vibrant, and to all the residents of Fowey Town and Parish who support these events

From the Town Council, can I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas

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 January Council meeting in the Town Hall is on January 20th 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)

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