

## **Cumulative Chairman's Activity Report 2020 - 2021**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May:** laid a wreath at the War Memorial and spoke the commemorative poem 'For the Fallen' and the Kohima Epitaph on behalf of the Town and the Royal British Legion to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE-day. This was done during lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic when public meetings were not permitted.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August:** attended the Saturday Market.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August:** led the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ-Day and the end of World War II at the Faringdon War Memorial. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal British Legion and the People of Faringdon and gave a short address to mark the occasion. This was done during lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic when public meetings were not permitted.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August:** using Microsoft Teams, presented the views of Faringdon Town Council and Great Coxwell Parish Council on P18/V0259/O – Land South of Steeds to the VoWHDC Planning Committee.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August:** telephoned Faringdon Viral Kindness on their last day of operation to thank them on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Faringdon.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** to mark the closing down of Faringdon Viral Kindness Team presented awards to the team of volunteers in the Bell Hotel to acknowledge their work in supporting people who were self-isolating during lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September:** attended the Saturday Market.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September:** cut the ribbon to open the new nets at Faringdon Cricket Club.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September:** represented the town at the (virtual) Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire County Scout Council and open forum on Oxfordshire Scouting.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October:** attended the Saturday Market.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** with the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, met the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Mrs Amanda Ponsonby, over lunch. We then showed the High Sheriff some of the success stories of the Town Council including the Food Bank, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Information Centre, the museum and Berners Exhibition in the Pump House, the Corn Exchange and the newly renovated space for The Place. We then walked to the Cycle Park to see the facility created by Farcycles.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October:** attended a meeting with Rebecca Chandler and the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the Solar Streets Project. Henley Town Council have promoted this through their Climate Emergency Working Party and are willing to share their experience with us.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** represented the town at the (virtual) Annual General Meeting of Citizens Advice.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October:** using Microsoft Teams, presented the views of Faringdon Town Council on P20/V0658/RM (Reserved Matters) - P20/V0277/FUL: Land South of Highworth Road, Faringdon to the VoWHDC Planning Committee.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October:** represented the town at the Annual Lord Lieutenant's (virtual) Presentation of Awards to members of the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November:** attended the (virtual) Trustees' Meeting of the Folly Tower Trust.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November:** attended the (virtual) AGM of The Place Family and Children's Project.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** provided a recorded Bible reading for the (virtual) All Saints' Remembrance Sunday Service.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November:** laid a wreath at the War Memorial to commemorate those members of the armed forces from Faringdon and District who had given their lives in the course of duty during the two World Wars and whose names are recorded there.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** attended the Saturday market.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December:** sent out virtual Christmas cards to all the mayors and chairs in Oxfordshire and to all our twinning mayors.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** signed 90 cards for 'Boxes of Joy' for local residents on behalf of 'Flowers from Molly'

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** took part in a virtual meeting of The Place Steering Committee.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January:** took part in a virtual meeting of the Folly Tower Trust as a Trustee.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February:** sent a letter of thanks to the White Horse Medical Practice thanking them for their efficient and speedy Covid-19 vaccination process.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** had virtual meeting with Lisa Stead and Town Clerk regarding publicising the census on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** assisted in the opening of Home Bargains on Faringdon Park.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February:** took part in a virtual meeting regarding the new primary school on Sandhill with Faringdon Learning Trust.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February:** submitted nominations for The High Sheriff's Awards.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February:** took part in a virtual meeting with the USAF regarding future developments at RAF Fairford. RAF Mildenhall is not closing so the RC-135 aircraft will remain there. RAF Fairford will be expanded with new building by 2024 and an increase in US personnel to 1,114 with 441 family members, most of whom will require accommodation off-base. It will create 124 local jobs.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February:** took part in the Lord Mayor of Oxford's virtual European Reception. 71 participants from across Europe and Oxfordshire celebrated Oxford's European links.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** had a tutorial with a Faringdon student undertaking a final year project on Neighbourhood Planning.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** judged Perry Bishop & Chambers' children's Mothers' Day painting competition.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March:** took part in a virtual meeting of the Folly Tower Trust as a Trustee.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** took part in a virtual OALC Larger Councils' meeting.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March:** 2-5pm, with the Deputy Town Clerk, took part in a professional practice workshop for 3rd year BA Urban Design students at Oxford Brookes on the public consultation participation process. The topic chosen was to promote and encourage ways of travelling to school in Faringdon without using cars.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March:** welcomed the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Mrs Amanda Ponsonby, to Faringdon where she presented High Sheriff's Awards to both of my nominees: Faringdon Viral Kindness (represented by Al Sylvester) and Flowers from Molly (represented by Rebekah Pugh). The High Sheriff also visited the Farcycles Pop-Up Bicycle Shop and the market.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April:** the Faringdon Community Bus AGM had to be postponed because it was inquorate. 19<sup>th</sup> May at 14:30 is proposed for the rescheduled meeting.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April:** 5-6 pm, observed the swearing-in of the new High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Imam Monowar Hussein.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April:** 6-8 pm, with the Deputy Mayor as Chair of Facilities, took part in the (virtual) annual Trustees' Meeting of the Pump House Project.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April:** I took the opportunity to be the first customer of the Faringdon Library at 10 a.m. on its re-opening after lockdown. Congratulations to Sheena Gutteridge and Debbie and all at the Library Service who have worked to make it Covid-safe. I visited the market and was delighted how busy it was and to see new stall holders. The seating on the Old Town Hall apron has been a great success.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April:** attended the Saturday Market.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April:** attended the virtual planning appeal for Land South of Steeds Farm, Coxwell Road, Faringdon, SN7 7SN, P18/V0259/O and gave an address on behalf of Faringdon Town Council. There were no questions. This was postponed in the afternoon because of a worldwide problem with MS Teams.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April:** attended and contributed to the virtual Planning Appeal concerning the appeal by Welbeck Strategic Land against the rejection of planning application P18/V0259/O, Land South of Steeds.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April:** attended the cortege at the funeral of former District and Town Councillor, Roger Cox.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May:** attended the Saturday Market. It was a pleasure to see so many people out and about and to feel the vibrancy that had been created by the stalls and the music. I'd like to thank Al Cane for arranging the performers, who were outstanding, and for all of his efforts on this and other market days in livening the town with music.