



Godalming
Town Council

NEWS

- Summer 2016 -



Annual Report 2015/2016

It has been a very rewarding year as the Mayor of Godalming. Thank you to my fellow councillors for granting me the honour of the historic role of Mayor of Godalming for the year 2015/16.

Many will be aware of the almshouses in Meadow – a significant part of Godalming’s history. The Worshipful Company of Carpenters administer the bequest of Richard Wyatt, a freeman and Master of the Company. A successful businessman in the 17th Century, he used his riches to provide ‘social’ housing for the poor through the provision of the almshouses. I was pleased to make a welcome speech to the Worshipful Company on potentially their last visit to Godalming. I am proud to say that my speech reflecting on their long association with the Town has found its way into their archives.

Another honour for me was being part of the opening of the newly refurbished Wilfrid Noyce Centre – a flagship in the Town Centre. Through naming one of the facilities the Wyatt Hall we have ensured that Richard Wyatt’s memory lives on into future generations. The Centre, built in the early 1960s, also has an historical significance. It was opened in 1962 for the youth of the Parish by Wilfrid Noyce – a Charterhouse teacher and renowned mountaineer. He presented the first youth awards there. It has since provided a wide range of community services and it is, therefore, very appropriate that it should be re-opened by the late Wilfrid Noyce’s sons, Jeremy and Michael. The main hall has been named the Caudle Hall in memory of another stalwart of our town, the late Peter Caudle,



Cllr Anne Bott
Town Mayor 2015/16

whose Trust has enabled funding for enhanced facilities in the Centre.

In June we marked the 30th anniversary of the Town’s twinning with Joigny. Our French visitors enjoyed a sunny weekend attending my Civic Service at Ladywell Convent followed by a social gathering later in the evening. In August the Mayor of Godalming was again invited to open the Thai Festival in Milford which was a wonderful, colourful and cultural event.

We are fortunate to boast a plethora of organisations and talent that makes Godalming so vibrant and the envy of many other towns and villages. I and Steve, my Consort, have attended the various events of many organisations and individuals who have tirelessly worked within our local community to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be involved and not be isolated. Many come under the umbrella of the aptly named ‘Go Godalming Association’.

It is not possible to mention all the Volunteers individually in this Report which, in itself, is a great reflection on the extent of the voluntary provision across Godalming and Farncombe. However, in the course of the year as the Mayor, I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to acknowledge our appreciation of them when attending their events or through the Volunteer Awards.

We have seen improvements to our environment both in Godalming and in Farncombe in which the Council has been proud to be involved. It is all about pride in where we live and it is rewarding to see the

Photos by Phil Kemp. www.theshutterbox.co.uk

commitment from volunteers and organisations who have helped to drive forward these improvements.

Our annual events – markets, fairs, and festival - have gone from strength to strength. The annual firework display and Christmas Festival continue to be well received and supported. This is due to the commitment from the Lions, the Town Council staff, the Chamber of Commerce and other organisations. On behalf of the Town I thank you.

No Annual Report would be complete without mentioning the 'August Week' otherwise known as Staycation. Yet another successful event, again only achievable with the support of businesses, organisations and volunteers. There is something for all ages, but, of course, the main focus is to ensure that our 'youngsters' have a good time 'rain or sunshine' and the opportunity to try out new experiences.

Sport and performing arts also feature in no short measure. 'Sport Godalming' plays a major role in supporting local sportsmen and women. I was delighted to be among those presenting the well-



deserved awards at their Annual Awards Evening in January. There are always new initiatives such as the Annual Run which has become an established fixture.

Performing arts are so well represented in theatre and music with amazing talent from every age

and every genre of music. Steve and I have thoroughly enjoyed all the events. We were delighted to join the Godalming Operatic Society to celebrate their 90th anniversary and I was also able to join the Godalming Gospel Choir who were finalists in the BBC's Songs of Praise 'Gospel Choirs' Competition.

We can certainly boast that we are not a standstill Town. Some visitors to the Town remarked to me 'I hope you all realise just how lucky you are to live in a place that is so welcoming and cares about its community'. I believe this sums up the spirit of Godalming and, more importantly, a wonderful commendation for every organisation and individual who contributes to a place in which I have been very proud to be Mayor.

Cllr Anne Bott
Mayor of Godalming 2015/16

Review

For 2015/16 Godalming Town Council agreed that it had three priorities for the town:

- to support the development of services for young people;
- to enable all residents to share in the advantages of living here; and
- to preserve the town's heritage.

Bearing these priorities in mind here are some of the things that Godalming Town Council has achieved in the past year. We have:

- Refurbished the Wilfrid Noyce Centre as a modern, flexible and affordable community venue at the heart of the town;

- Supported numerous voluntary organisations in the town with grant aid totalling £55,000;
- Continued the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming & Farncombe;
- Undertook a Neighbourhood Plan consultation by sending a questionnaire to all households in the town (9,300), achieving a 20% response rate;
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with other agencies to provide the best opportunity for a flood defence scheme along Hell Ditch and agreed a significant contribution of money and land towards the scheme;
- Commenced a programme of enhancing street furniture.

Grants

As already stated, in the past year Godalming Town Council has supported numerous organisations in the town with grant aid totalling over £48,000. This is an important part of the Town Council's work recognising the huge contribution that these organisations make to the quality of life in our community.

In 2015/16 the largest of these grants was to the Waverley Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to ensure the continued provision of a CAB service in Godalming. This Council has provided a significant grant to the CAB for more than a decade. The Council has also continued to provide on-going support to Godalming Museum and Hospital Hoppa.

A number of organisations were also given grant aid in the form of free use of one of the Town Council's buildings for meetings or to facilitate an event (those grants are included below and a cash value put on the grant so that the support is properly accounted for).

One-off grants in 2015/16 included payments to help refurbish Moss Lane School's playground and to the National Autistic Society to help provide a sensory room at the Old Mill Day Service.

Below is a full list of all grants made by Godalming Town Council in the financial year 2015/16.

Summary of Grants Awarded 2015/16

	£
Churches Together in Godalming & District	600.00
Citizens Advice Waverley	28,000.00
Friends of Broadwater Park (Grant aid in the form of free use of premises)	93.00
Godalming & District Community First Responders (Grant aid in the form of free use of premises)	126.00
Godalming Museum Trust	5,000.00
Godalming Round Table (Grant aid in the form of free use of premises)	200.00
Godalming Trust	1,000.00
Godalming Trust (Grant aid in the form of free use of premises)	208.00
Moss Lane School Association	2,000.00
National Autistic Society	2,500.00
Sport Godalming	1,000.00
St Johns Spring Fair (Grant aid in the form of free use of premises)	132.00
The Cellar Café	800.00
Victim Support	100.00
Waverley Borough Council	2,000.00
Waverley Hoppa Community Transport (Hospital Hoppa)	5,000.00
	<u>48,759.00</u>

Full details of the Council's grants scheme can be obtained from the Town Clerk (contact details at the back of this report (regrettably the website is unavailable at the time of publication of this report – www.godalming-tc.gov.uk).

Annual Accounts

The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2015. They are subject to internal audit (by an independent auditor appointed by the Town Council) and to external audit (by a different independent auditor).

Every year local government electors are given an opportunity to examine the Council's accounts and financial records and the accounts will be published

on the Town Council's new website (currently under construction).

Below is a summary of how the Council's budget (including overheads) was spent in 2015/16. Note that these figures are based on the most up to date actual figures available at the time of writing, but that they may be subject to change because the 2015/16 accounts have not yet been finalised.

