



Godalming
Town Council

NEWS

- Summer 2017 -



Annual Report 2016/2017

It has been a very rewarding and humbling year serving as Mayor of Godalming. I should like to take this opportunity to say thank you to my fellow councillors for granting me the honour of serving as Mayor for the year 2016/2017.



Cllr David Hunter
Town Mayor 2016/17

Following on from the success of the refurbished Wilfrid Noyce Centre, the residents of Godalming have been able to use the Centre for a multitude of different functions, weddings, concerts and plays to name but a few. Due to this success, the Council has decided it would like to go ahead with building the third hall; this will enable the Centre to cater to the needs of even more residents.

In June I attended a service at Guildford Cathedral to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday. Having been Mayor for just a year has made me appreciate just how hard The Queen works every day of her life.

August brought with it, the annual Staycation week, which featured so many different activities for people to do whilst holidaying at home. I visited as many different Staycation events that I could and was amazed at the diversity and enthusiasm shown by all the wonderful people that put on the extensive programme. One event particularly sticks in my mind; I visited Ladywell Convent for a Tour and Cream Tea, but also got the opportunity to watch an old Pathe Newsreel showing the nuns of yesteryear mixing cement in their long white habits for the building of the convent. Quite remarkable!

Another Staycation event that I enjoyed was the Churches Together Open Air Service held at the Bandstand; the weather was perfect and was very well attended. The beautiful surroundings made it very special.

In September I was able to visit our twin town, Mayen, for the celebration of the 750th anniversary of the signing of their charter. They hosted a four-day event in the town centre attended by mayors from Germany, France, the Czech Republic as well as the UK. The camaraderie and friendliness of our hosts reassured me that even with Brexit on the horizon, the relationship between Mayen and Godalming is still strong and I believe will remain so for many years to come.

I have enjoyed countless musical events held in the town from opera, choral, orchestral right through to Americana and stomped up pop. Godalming is well known for its annual Music Festival, which has been even bigger and better this year. So big in fact that it has had to use additional venues to accommodate everyone who wanted to take part.

I have enjoyed visiting many schools throughout my year and especially enjoyed seeing the children running the annual pancake races held in the centre of town – I even won my race!!

Throughout my mayoral year I have held a number of charity events, including a fashion show, quiz night, a musical band night and themed film night; it was great to see everyone who had dressed up as a T Bird or Pink Lady for the showing of Grease. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has assisted with the organising of these functions. The funds raised from these events will go to my nominated charity, Skillway.

Skillway was founded in 1997 to fill the gap where mainstream education was unable to provide for the complex needs of every young person being educated in a strict academic environment. Their work is continued

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

today through their team of dedicated and highly experienced skilled craftsmen and women to inspire young people to discover their true capabilities and to apply these in a disciplined but exciting workshop environment. I am pleased to announce that I have raised over £5,000 this year, which I hope will assist Skillway in the wonderful work they do.

As is a constant stream through life in Godalming, the volunteers are ever present. These individuals who selflessly give up their time for the benefit of the community are the unsung heroes of our town. I express my gratitude and thanks to each and every one of them and am pleased to be able to publicly acknowledge a handful of deserving recipients with a Mayor's Volunteer Award for 2016/17.



My year as Mayor has been a whirlwind of sporting events, concerts, the performing arts and festivals; two of which are organised by the Town Council and have become permanent fixtures in the town's calendar of public events. The hard work that goes into organising any public event is no mean feat and I should like to thank all those that work behind the scenes to make our town the vibrant place it is to live; ranked number 6 in the country according to the The Times newspaper.

I can honestly say I have enjoyed my year as Mayor and have been proud to be Godalming's First Citizen. Thank you.

Councillor David Hunter
Mayor of Godalming 2016/17

Review

For 2016/17 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:

- Worked with the Round Table, 41 Club, Rotary Club of Godalming and the Godalming Woolsack Rotary Club to move the November Firework Celebrations into the Town Centre, which saw over 1000 people in the torch-lit procession through the town centre to join 1000's more on The Bury's Field for a spectacular Musical Firework Display;
- Supported numerous voluntary organisations in the town with grant aid totalling £51,440;
- Continued the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming & Farncombe;
- Continues to support the work of the Farncombe Initiative
- Worked with the Environment Agency and the Godalming & District Allotment Association to prepare Catteshall Road and Meadow Allotments for deployment of temporary flood defences, culminating with a successful test deployment of the defences on 5 April;
- Worked, as a leading partner with the Environment Agency and others to ensure Godalming will be the first community to benefit from the wider Wey Valley Flood Defence Program;
- Upgraded the Christmas Lights in both Farncombe Village and Godalming Town Centre.
- Completed street scene enhancement works at the lower end of Church Street
- Launched a highly successful public subscription fund to create a single, permanent war memorial commemorating all those from the town who died during 20th century conflicts;
- Continued to work with Waverley Borough Council, The Godalming Trust and the Godalming Museum Trust to support the town's cultural heritage.

Grants

As stated earlier in the report, Godalming Town Council has supported a wide range of organisations in the town with grant aid totalling over £51,000. 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 2016/17 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 Sport Godalming. A number of organisations were also given grant aid in the form of free use of one of the Town Council's buildings for meet-

ings 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 2016/17 included payments to 1254 (Godalming) Squadron Air Training Corps to purchase archery equipment, Godalming & District Scout Canoe Club to help fund repairs to their canoe store, Roots for the Future for planting new trees at Aarons Hill and Northbourne, St Peter & St Paul Scout Group to repair the Roof of their HQ – an important community space within Charterhouse ward and Farncombe Day Centre for a much needed new kitchen facility.

Below is a full list of all grants made by Godalming Town Council in the financial year 2016/17.

Summary of Grants Awarded 2016/17

	£
Godalming & Farncombe Bowling Club	500.00
Godalming Museum Trust	5,000.00
Skillway	1,500.00
St Peter & St Paul Scout Group	2,226.00
Friends of Broadwater Park (Premises use Grant aid)	93.00
Godalming Trust (Premises use Grant aid)	208.00
Godalming & District Community First Responders (Premises use Grant aid)	126.00
Age Concern Farncombe (Farncombe Day Centre)	5,000.00
Citizens' Advice Waverley	28,000.00
Guildford & Godalming Croquet Club	1,000.00
Roots for the Future	1,015.00
SERFCA & Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment Museum Fund	250.00
The Cellar Café	825.00
Waverley Borough Council	300.00
Farncombe & District Allotment Association (Premises use Grant aid)	21.00
Go Godalming Association (Premises use Grant aid)	42.00
Churches Together in Godalming & District	650.00
The Eikon Charity	500.00
Godalming & District Scout Canoe Club	1,000.00
Godalming Trust	1,000.00
Revitalise Respite Holidays	500.00
Sport Godalming	1,000.00
1254 (Godalming) Squadron Air Training Corps	923.08
Kids Out/Rotary Club of Farnham	500.00
	51,439.08

Full details of the Council's grants scheme can be found on the Town Council's website at <http://godalming-tc.gov.uk/grants/>

Annual Accounts

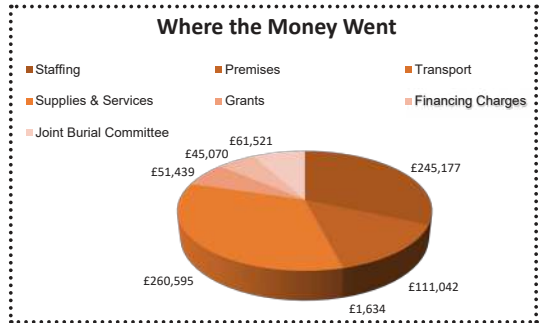
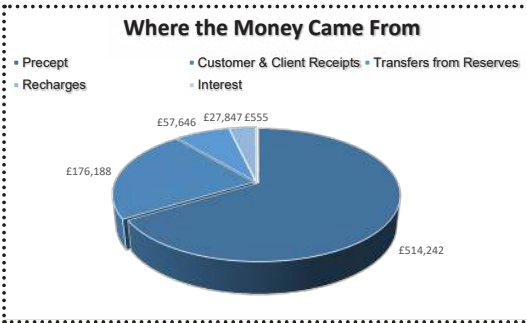
The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2015.

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 website.

Below is a summary of how the Council's budget (including overheads) was spent in 2016/17. 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 2016/17 accounts have not yet been finalised.



Mayors Awards For Volunteers 2017

Presentations were made at the Annual Town Meeting by the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor David Hunter, for this year's recipients of the annual Mayor's Award for Volunteers.

The Volunteers' Award is given to recognise service to the community; the four recipients of this year's awards were all nominated for their outstanding contribution to the community of Godalming.

The recipients were Mr Andrew Fergusson for his support with town events; Mrs Cath Lovell for her extensive support of local organisations; Mr Ray Pont for his committed support and involvement in the Godalming Band and Mrs Alison Sargeant for her dedicated support, through girlguiding, of girls and young women. All were presented with their framed certificates and small token of gratitude for their hard work and dedication.

Full details of the Mayor of Godalming Awards for Volunteers and how to nominate someone for the 2018 awards can be found on our website at <http://godalming-tc.gov.uk/mayors-volunteer-award/>



Photo left to right: Ray Pont, Cath Lovell, Cllr David Hunter, Mayor of Godalming, Alison Sargeant, Andrew Fergusson.