

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL
THE MAYOR'S 2018 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

For most of us, this is a special time of year, and I would like, on behalf of the Members and Officers of New Milton Town Council, to offer sincere greetings to all our residents.

I have been proud to represent New Milton as Town Mayor this year, for a second term, and even more proud of the people in this community, and what we all achieve when we work together for the benefit of our town, and of course ourselves and our neighbours.

Looking back on 2018, as well as remembering a glorious summer, we have enjoyed many community events in New Milton throughout the year, including the New Milton Music Festival in March at the Arnewood School, the Lions Annual Carnival in May, the New Milton Town Show on the Recreation Ground in July, the Sunday Afternoons of Music at the Performance Pavilion, including a visit from The Band and Bugles of The Rifles to commemorate Armed Forces Day.

We were honoured to host a special commemorative event at the Indian Memorial Obelisk in July at Barton on Sea, remembering the contribution of the Indian Army during the first world-war, with the Obelisk unveiled on 10 July 1917. It was a pleasure to preside over this prestigious occasion and receive, on behalf of New Milton, a ceremonial Kirpan sword presented by the Sikh Council Hampshire.

I was overwhelmed by the community support shown during the town's special 100th year anniversary of the end of the first world-war and the various Remembrance commemorative events arranged by local people for local residents. The Pack up your Troubles concert was a real gem of entertainment and the Beacon-lighting parade was an outstanding achievement especially considering it was taking place on a potentially stormy night in November.

The Town Council continues to be extremely busy, ensuring where possible accessibility for all to enjoy - making improvements to facilities, maintaining amenities and working with volunteer groups. We are certainly very lucky to have some wonderful green spaces in our town, with both the coast and New Forest on our doorstep.

Provision of youth activities in the town remains high on our agenda and we are delighted to be working with, and listening to, our young people - particularly Youth Voice New Milton - and hope to share exciting news about a new Youth Club facility in the new year.

Everybody in our town is important; we have talented young people, hard-working families and individuals, innovative schools and businesses, and a great number of fantastic independent traders in town who care so much about customer service.

I have been raising awareness and fund-raising for my nominated charities, Scarf New Forest and New Forest Young Carers, both charities working hard to support young people with additional needs and stresses in their lives. By hosting the Mayor's Annual Charity Ball, Annual Civic Service and Annual Carol service, and through the generosity of guests and residents, we can all make a difference.

Another charity I am keen to mention is New Forest Nightstop, that help young people in crisis, providing emergency accommodation and supporting them through difficult times. As a Council that is working towards being more environmentally aware, we do not send Christmas Cards but chose instead to support this worthwhile local charity.

At this festive time of year we have to remember those in our community who find it challenging emotionally and experience hardship financially. I am heartened that our community continues to provide and support wherever they can and I thank you all.

On behalf of myself and the Mayoress, and all my colleagues at New Milton Town Council, I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Cllr David Rice-Mundy
New Milton Town Mayor
& Chairman of New Milton Town Council

December 2018

