



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM NEW MILTON TOWN MAYOR



Looking back at my festive message from last year, I was reminded about all the wonderful things that had happened in 2019 in New Milton, bringing back some fantastic memories. I also mentioned all the events we were looking forward to this year, the VE75 and VJ75 community events, New Milton in Bloom, the centenary anniversary of the War Memorial, to name just a few.

Well that didn't work out as planned did it!

The Covid pandemic has given us many challenges this year, lockdown and restrictions, bubbles, wearing masks, social-distancing and no social gatherings. But I am so pleased as a community we have responded to those challenges and I applaud the resilience we have adopted. The New Milton Covid Support Group rallied good neighbours and residents to support the vulnerable in our community; Lions Club arranged the Feed the Families initiative in partnership with New Milton Town Council and the Basics Bank; the Rotary Club got stuck in with their Sewing for the NHS project. I know that there are many others out there who are unsung heroes, all doing their bit for their neighbours, shopping, collecting prescriptions, listening and helping wherever and whenever they could. I have so much gratitude and admiration for everyone who responded so positively during these difficult times. It just proves the point that our community is kept going by selfless volunteers.



I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and continued efforts of our front-line and back-office workers, and especially our NHS, the care-workers, home-help, teaching staff, pre-school workers, cleaners, waste & refuse collectors, shop workers, delivery drivers, Police, Paramedics, and the emergency services. They literally kept going to ensure we kept going.

If we all do a little, collectively we can achieve a lot.



As a Town Council, the vast majority of our activities are centred around public health and well-being of our residents and visitors, but we should also be aware of our responsibilities to the financial health and vitality of our town. The health and safety of our community, being of utmost importance, has driven many of the difficult decisions we have had to make this year. The traffic diversions, signage and cancelling community events.



We know not all of those decisions have been popular, but they were made in good faith with the best of intention in line with latest government guidance and prevailing restrictions. I appreciate your continued cooperation and understanding.

New Milton Town Councillors work on behalf of our residents and we want to hear from you. Please contact us directly with your concerns, comments, queries and we will listen, respond and act as necessary on your behalf. Communication is an important aspect of our relationships so *please don't be shy!* Contact details for councillors can be found on our website <https://www.newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk/service/councillors/>

You may be interested in some of the projects our Councillors and Officers are working hard on bringing to fruition in 2021. *Again, we welcome your questions and comments on these projects*

- *Improvements to Ashley Recreation Ground Playpark*
- *Installation of a Youth Facility*
- *Planting a Memorial Rose Garden and introducing a Fairy Door Walk*
- *Promoting safer walking routes around New Milton*
- *Neighbourhood Plan*
- *Plant a tree initiative - part of the Town Council Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan*

The Christmas lights will be glowing and flashing again this year and I know our residents and visitors always appreciate the dazzle that brightens up our lives. We are very grateful for all the donations received to ensure that this amazing display happens year after year.



My nominated charity Ashley Family Hub has had a challenging year, but they continue to support our families in need, working with them to ensure their well-being. Unfortunately, the Mayor's Charity Ball was cancelled at short notice this year but many of my guests generously donated their ticket money to my charity and I will be pleased to present Ashley Family Hub with a cheque in the near future. The collect coppers for charity yielded £550 and I thank you all for digging deep in supporting this cause.

Let's continue to think positively, working together, looking out for one another, all doing the right thing to get us through this pandemic.

On behalf of myself, my Consort Finley (pictured), Councillors and Officers of New Milton Town Council, I would like to offer sincere greetings to all our residents and to wish you the very best for the new year 2021.

CLlr Alvin Reid
Town Mayor & Chairman
New Milton Town Council

