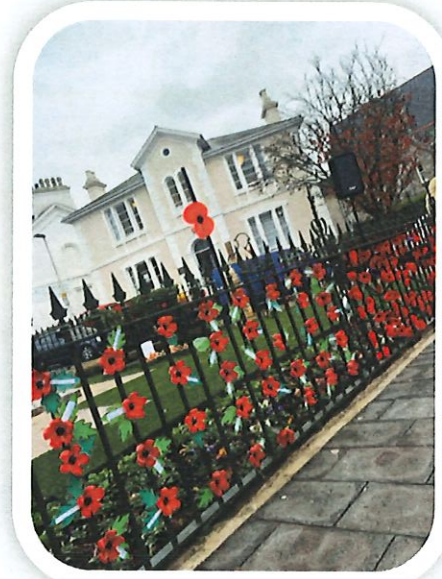
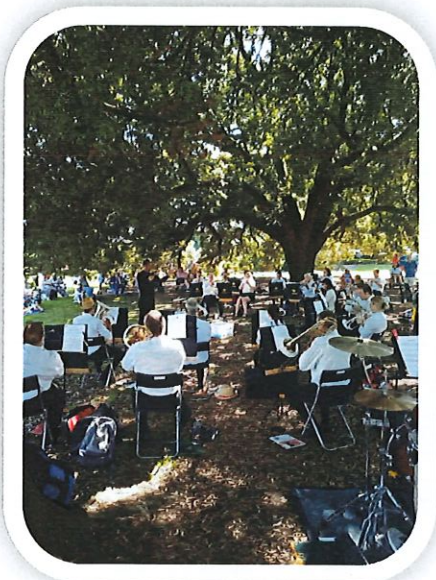




ANNUAL REPORT

2021 / 2022



Councillor Mike Joyce

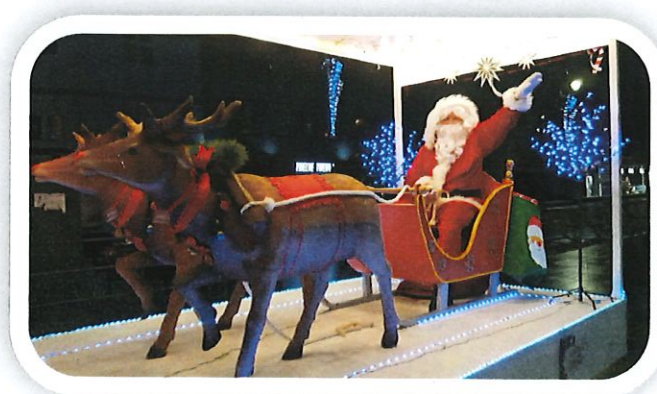
Mayor - 2021/ 2022



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

Phil Rowe

Town Clerk



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REPORT FROM THE MAYOR OF NEWTON ABBOT, COUNCILLOR MICHAEL JOYCE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

2021 – 2022

Introduction and the Pandemic

2021/22 has been a challenge for individuals, businesses, groups and indeed Council and councillors.

We've seen many changes many stops and starts, easing of restrictions and a hope of returning to normality, whatever the new normality may look like.

As Mayor I've been fortunate to be part of the opening up and easing of restrictions. I say fortunate, because my predecessor Councillor Richard Jenks, saw the pandemic in its entirety, from lockdown to lockdown, families parted and families losing loved ones without being able to grieve as most of us would wish for.

If anything, the last 12 months has shown me that, our town, Newton Abbot, care's about each other, there is an unspoken bond that somehow we look after our own, we look after our town and when I say our town I include everyone residents and businesses.

I was drawn to a comment made in a discussion with some residents in town which I have to say I chuckled about but I'm sure the comment was sincere when they said "it's okay for we who live or work in our town to criticise and moan but it is not okay for those who live outside or just visit our town to criticise it, we take exception to that and are not backward in coming forward in telling them"

Newton's Place

Our new Community Hub and the Town's new Museum grows from strength to strength with visitor numbers far exceeding even our own expectations. The feedback that we are getting in many forms is how marvellous the setting for the museum is, the knowledge of the staff and the welcome from both the staff and volunteers to all those who set foot in it.

There have been visits from the Bishop of Plymouth and from the High Sheriff of Devon all of whom I have had the honour to greet and then hand them onto our Curator and others to show them the delights of the museum.

We sadly had to say goodbye to our Curator Felicity Cole early this year, but we've been fortunate, in my opinion, to fill that vacancy with Dr. Charlotte Dixon who was Felicity's assistant for many years and therefore had the museum close at heart.

I am always struck when fortunate enough to visit Newton's Place with the enthusiasm that exudes from everyone who comes through the doors and marvels at what this town has. Without all those volunteers and other staff working tirelessly behind-the-scenes our museum, and I use that term in its true reflection "OUR" I am confident that we would not have what we can all see today so to them I express my sincere thanks.

Events

The Mayoress and I have been fortunate to be able to take part in numerous events this year and have been supported by our Cadets from the local Air Training Corps squadron. People thanked them for their support and dedication at these events, some of the highlights of which were, the reopening of the band concerts in Courtenay Park, where because of the

renovation plan for the bandstand, a new phenomenon was experienced, namely to have the visiting bands out in the open with the public close at hand. In my opinion, this new format for the band concerts seemed to work very well and from what I was able to ascertain, it was well received by all those attending to listen to the music

We were also fortunate enough to visit St Luke's Church in Milber on several occasions for the summer fair and concerts

The new "doggy carol concert" a combined effort by Rev Gareth Regan and our Town Development Manager, was a first. It was extremely well attended and enjoyed, and I am certain this may become a regular occurrence.

The Victorian evening was a tremendous success in my opinion with many stallholders doing extremely well, so I'm led to believe during the night. The Mayoress and I were suitably attired and with the attendance of BBC Spotlight brought an additional perspective to our yearly event. Again, we were supported by our Cadets who, in between manning their own stall, supported the Mayoress and I as we did a walkabout.

To touch on one further highlight, it was the invitation from the Mayor and Mayoress of Newport Pagnell to join them for the fifth round of the FA vase where Buckland Athletic FC were playing. The Mayoress and I had a superb trip up with the supporters being serenaded by some singing which if I'm honest probably not got past the first round of Britain's Got Talent or the X Factor. We were entertained by the Mayor and Mayoress of Newport Pagnell and though the result was not what we would have wanted or wished for, the players of Buckland Athletic did themselves and our town proud.

The Town Team

I and every single Councillor of Newton Abbot Town Council is fortunate to have a great support network around us.

Our town clerk, Phil Rowe and deputy town clerk/RFO Sam Scott, have proved to be a source of advice, support and always willing to provide information and direction as and when required.

Our town clerk has seen to fruition the completion of Newton's Place as well as many other challenges that had to be faced by the town during the past year. It is never easy to balance the needs and wishes of residents and businesses to that of a council whose councillors are always on the frontline facing the many expectations and requests from residents and businesses.

Carla Winsborrow, the Mayor's Secretary, who over many years has supported the various Mayors and Mayoress in the role that they embark on. Without her knowledge and expertise our lives would be a lot more difficult so to Carla we express our sincere thanks.

Part of a change that happened partly through this year was our principal administrator, Alex Robinson, left to take up the deputy clerk's role at Cranbrook. Our new principal administrator Linda McGuirk has joined our team and is, in these early days, proving to be a considerable asset to the council. I wish a well in her role.

Another part of this wonderful team is Natalie and Kelly who are our events team. The preparation for each year's events in association with the chairman of the events sub-committee, is a remarkable feat one that I've always admired as the events come together during the year. I appreciate there are a lot of obstacles and challenges along the way but somehow, they seem to always have a smile on their faces even though I expect behind-the-scenes there is a lot of head scratching and frustration.

I have enjoyed and found enlightening the discussions that I have had with the Town Development Manager, Sally Henley. Sally's insight to the intricate parts of the town, what makes it work and tick for many businesses that operate within our sphere and the knowledge that she has is, in my opinion, invaluable to NATC and its councillors.

As my term as Mayor comes to an end, I am looking forward to returning to work with everyone as a councillor, to continue to promote and face the many challenges that our town of Newton Abbot faces as it moves forward

I would also like to thank Michelle our housekeeper, who has looked after Newton's Place and particularly ensured that at meetings, we as councillors are supported.

The two facilities maintenance officers have been visible throughout the town with the new weed/cleansing machine as well as carrying out other duties in and around the town to ensure as far as is practical that our town is looked after. They will be joined next year by two other facilities maintenance officers to enable even a greater emphasis to put on in maintaining our town, addressing the particular emphasis on what our residents have been pointing out to us on many occasions, weeds and litter.

I cannot stress too highly the support I have had from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Carol Bundy, as the council has faced many challenges over the last 12 months it has been a pleasure and honour to work alongside the Deputy Mayor.

My fellow Councillors have provided great support to myself, both personally and in debate, though our opinion sometimes differs, in my view this is good for democracy, NATC and our town.

There is no way that I can thank the Mayoress, my wife Sue, enough, for the support and encouragement that she has shown me in the last year. Sue has accompanied me on many Mayoral duties, and it has been an honour to have her at my side supporting and encouraging me as we went about our duties.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the support and work of my Chaplain, Ben Maynard who stood in the last minute when Rev Patrick Parkes moved on to pastures new. Ben has been an inspiration to me both spiritually and personally and I know his passion for his Church, the Council, and our town will continue even after being the Mayor's chaplain finishes

Conclusion

I find it difficult to put into words the privilege and honour that my fellow Councillors have bestowed on me, and it never fails to inspire me when I look at the commitment and dedication they do for our town, for no payment or reward other than for the satisfaction of serving their community.

Whatever the future holds, I will always look back on the past year as something very special to me and to sue. We will never forget this last year for we were given the opportunity as your Mayor and Mayoress to represent this wonderful ancient town of ours, Newton Abbot and for that we both truly thank you.

Mayor of Newton Abbot 2021-2022
Councillor Mike Joyce

MAYORAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

ENGAGEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY MAYOR – COUNCILLOR MIKE JOYCE

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic some of the engagements in the diary had to be cancelled.

Those that did take place were done following the restriction guidelines, via zoom or after restrictions had been lifted.

2021

9 th May	Teignbridge District Council Civic Service
17 th May	Opening of the Museum
18 th May	Devon Air Ambulance
19 th May	Visit to Horsemanship for Health
26 th May	Ribbon Cutting for Shaldon Bakery new shop
27 th May	Presentation of Plaque for defibrillator
6 th June	Royal British Legion Decoration Day
10 th June	Visit to 1 st Great Western Platform 9/10
24 th June	A382 Celebration Event
4 th July	Band Concert
18 th July	Band Concert
31 st July	St. Luke's Church Summer Fayre
5 th August	Devon Home Care Car Promotion
20 th August	Teign U3A Summer Picnic
22 nd August	Band Concert
9 th September	Teignbridge District Council Emergency Services Day
11 th September	Town Criers Competition
12 th September	Band Concert
16 th September	Police Cadet Evening
25 th September	ACT Big Green Week Event
26 th September	Dawlish Civic Service

27 th September	Opening of "The Gym"
30 th September	British Heart Foundation 27 th Birthday Celebration
10 th October	Newton Abbot Civic Service
14 th October	Teignbridge District Scout Council AGM
18 th October	ATC President Inauguration and AGM
6 th November	Newton Abbot Rugby Football Club Firework Evening
11 th November	Armistice Day Service
14 th November	Remembrance Day Service
18 th November	Launch of Salvation Army Toy Appeal
20 th November	Royal British Legion Centenary Pie & Mash Night
21 st November	Royal British Legion Dedication of Standard
21 st November	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert
24 th November	Christmas Lights Switch on
27 th November	St. Luke's Christmas Fayre
28 th November	Teignbridge District Council Civic Service
1 st December	Victorian Evening
2 nd December	Domestic Abuse Initiative Training
5 th December	Teignmouth Civic Service
6 th December	St. Benets Court Christmas Reception
6 th December	ATC Christmas Dinner
10 th December	100 th Birthday celebration, Southlands Care Home
11 th December	Canine Christmas Carol Service
12 th December	Friends of Rowcroft Celebration of Christmas
15 th December	Newton Abbot Town Council Carol Service

2022

13 th January	NADMCS Civic Performance "Aladdin"
14 th January	Ribbon Cutting for new Co-op at Hele Park
16 th January	NADSA Concert

12 th February	Visit to Newport Pagnell for the FA Vase match
14 th February	Opening of new offices for Simply Green Estate Agents
17 th February	Visit from High Sherriff of Devon to Newton's Place
20 th February	NADSA Concert
11 th March	Unveiling of plaque for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy
17 th March	Opening of Mid Devon Advertiser new offices
18 th March	NADSA Concert
19 th March	Past Mayor's Dinner
23 rd March	Teignbridge District Council Planting of Memorial Tree
25 th March	Opening of new shop Passion for Pies
6 th April	Presentation of cheque from Tuckers Maltings
7 th April	Choir 86 Easter Concert
Friday 8 th April	Launch of "Picturing the Past" Exhibition

ENGAGEMENTS CARRIED OUT BY DEPUTY MAYOR – COUNCILLOR CAROL BUNDAY

18 th May	Finish of Virtual Cycle-thon at Southlands Care Home
16 th September	Community Transport AGM
17 th September	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert
15 th October	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert
24 th November	Historic Walk and Mince Pie
21 st December	Opening of Meddy Grill
7 th April	Choir 86 Easter Concert

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Councillors, Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers

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For details of the Devon County Councillors representing the two Newton Abbot electoral divisions and Teignbridge District Councillors representing the four Newton Abbot wards see final page.

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Monday – Thursday

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Mayor's Secretary

Mrs Carla Winsborrow

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Miss Kelly Burridge

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Office Administrator

Miss Kelly Burridge

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Principal Administrator

Ms Linda McGuirk

(Monday - Thursday)

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Facilities Maintenance Officers - Mr Harry Rodgers and Tony Little 07850 795072

Housekeeper

Mrs Michele Webber

Newton Abbot and Great Western Museum.

Curator: Mrs Charlotte Dixon

Telephone: (01626) 201121

Email: museum@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.museum-newtonabbot.org.uk and www.devonmuseums.net

Newton Abbot Museum Assistant Job Share

Charlotte Edwards – Part Time 3 days a week
Katie Petley-Jones – Full Time

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Town Development Manager

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Newton Abbot Community Interest Company

Business & Community Development Officer - Emily Farrell
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Town Crier

Mr Nigel Kenneison

Email: nigelk57@gmail.com

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council and its Committees and Sub-Committee would normally receive presentations and reports on a variety of subjects, however due to the Government Restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 Pandemic this has been severely limited for a second year. However, work has continued with many local organisations to ensure that local issues are reviewed and moved forward despite the difficulties faced during these difficult times.

The Council received presentations from a few organisations, just prior to the first National Lockdown and at some online Meetings of the Council on the following:

Mr Michael Watts, Market Director for Barclays Bank attended the Council's meeting in July to update Members on Barclays' plans for Newton Abbot post the closure of the branch scheduled for November 2021. This was sad news indeed to lose a main high street bank from the town, however, some services are being provided in the Passmore Edwards Library.

Mr Andrew Wilson, Chairman Citizen Advice Teignbridge attended the Council's meeting in September whereby the Mayor presented Mr Wilson with a Certificate of Excellence to record the Council's appreciation for the continued service provided by the CAB for the residents of Newton Abbot throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Mayor welcomed Inspector David Hammond the November Council meeting who provided an update for Members on local policing in the town. The Council congratulated Inspector Hammond on his commitment to the newly introduced Police Advocates Scheme whereby parish and town councils are able to appoint Police Advocates among their number who are able to have regular dialogue with both the local policing team, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Newton Abbot's fortnightly meetings with Inspector Hammond have been held up to the remainder of Devon & Cornwall as best practice.

The October meeting of the Community & Heritage Committee welcomed Mr Andrew Rothery and Mr Simon Heath, Green Futures co-ordinators who updated Members on the projects Green Futures have been working on in the community. A brief background to the formation Green Futures was provided and its focus to provide environmental regeneration work.

- 1.2 The other significant developments in the town include:-

- Progressing the Council's main priority, delivering Newton's Place, a community space. Work on the Heritage Fund supported £2.2m Project to deliver community rooms; a new town Museum and offices for the Town Council at the former St Leonard's Church in Wolborough Street was completed in June 2021. Along with plans to introduce a 'cultural quarter' in the town of Newton's Place, the Passmore Edwards Centre and St Leonard's Clock Tower;
- Ongoing involvement in the economic vitality of the town by the Town Development Manager, Mrs Sally Henley;
- The operation of the activities of the Community Interest Company Chairman via Mrs Lynn McElheron;

- Issues with the ongoing development/use of the Community Garden on Town Council land at Vicary's Field by Transition Newton Abbot;
- Continued maintenance of Victoria Gardens (the Rose Garden) following the delivery of the project to totally transform the area into a beautiful and tranquil town centre amenity space, with views of the River Lemon;
- Ongoing maintenance of two areas of the Mill Leat adjacent to Bradley Manor/Allotments;
- Ongoing delivery of the contract for Christmas Illuminations in Newton Abbot with bespoke features procured by the Town Council delivering striking Christmas displays;
- Ongoing maintenance of the Town Quay. Sat in the shadow of the cycle/footbridge over the River Teign. The mobile refreshment facility continues to operate from The Quay during the Spring/Summer months since it commenced operation in July 2015;
- Ongoing maintenance of the refurbished Golden Lion Square at Bank Street, which this year saw the introduction of a new centrepiece bench designed and constructed by the students of South Devon College; with colourful backrest designs by pupils of Wolborough Primary School;
- The Council was extremely pleased to complete the total restoration of the historic. Grade II Listed War Memorial at junction with The Avenue and Queen Street.
- Regular updates at Council meetings by County and District Councillors on their activities as they affect Newton Abbot.

1.3 The work of the Council is carried out by delegation to various standing Committees which, in turn, delegate powers and duties to Sub-Committees. The Council has continued to operate a new streamlined Committee structure with ever evolving terms of reference, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. From May 2016 it has continued to operate a revised Committee Structure with more emphasis on community, heritage and improved financial reporting. This new structure was reviewed in late February 2017 when it was decided to continue with the revised structure. Members were of the view the new structure had worked well, and better reflected the current and future vision, aims and objectives of the Council.

1.4 The Council continues to undertake numerous activities and puts forward a number of representations which are suggested for detailed consideration and in many cases actioned by Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council and other public utility services. In the past 7 years the Council has been partnering with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce on delivering CCTV through a Newton Abbot Security Trust. The Partnership has worked extremely well. Since 2015, the Town Council has funded the cutting of all grass verges throughout Newton Abbot arising from Devon County Council as Highway Authority cutting the service other than visibility splays for road safety purposes. For 2018, the Town Council operated a contract to maintain all areas of grass verges (including the visibility splays) and has agreed to continue with the increase of the number cuts from 4 to 6 throughout the year. From November 2014 the Town Council took over the leasehold ownership and operation of the Newfoundland Way public conveniences. The conveniences have subsequently been redecorated inside and out and continue to provide a valuable facility for residents and visitors alike.

In 2021 the Council has embarked upon the review of its Newton Abbot & District Community Plan, first published in 2008. The consultation exercise is being driven by the Newton Abbot Community Interest Company (CIC) with the aid of the Council's Community Engagement Officer, Kate Green. The original document was the precursor to many projects identified for the public for delivery through the 20 year life of the Plan such as the refurbishment of the Rose Garden (Victoria Gardens); Golden Lion Square public open space; and the community hub (Newton's Place). It is hoped that this review will be shaped by the feedback received from the people of Newton Abbot, so if you have an opportunity to respond to the Plan review, please do so.

2. INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

The Town Council has once again supported a number of community groups around the town, including Newton Abbot Community Interest Company.

Newton Abbot Community Interest Company is a local community organisation that seeks to improve the quality of life for people living and working in the town. We do this by asking people for their views and opinions, and then delivering solutions in response to the issues identified. We also support other organisations where we can. Much of our work is directed by the Newton Abbot & District Community Plan published in 2008. Examples of the CIC's work include running the Buckland and Courtenay Community Centres, working with volunteers on gardening projects in the town, managing the Newton Abbot Community Fridge and providing the Base Youth Club. You can find out more by visiting our website at www.bucklandcentre.org

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR, COMMITTEE BY COMMITTEE

- 3.1 **Finance & Audit Committee** (Chairman, Cllr Colin Parker; Vice-Chairman, Cllr David Corney-Walker) and **Policy & Resources Committee**, (Chairman Cllr David Corney-Walker, Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Karen Crout).

These are the main Committees of the Council which meet on a regular basis to consider:

- ◆ Month by month income and expenditure statements and other detailed financial reports;
- ◆ Annual Governance and Accountability Return and internal audit reports;
- ◆ Recommend policy to the Council;
- ◆ Recommend budget and Precept to the Council;
- ◆ Consideration of all aspects of the maintenance of property and assets of the Council;
- ◆ Deals with all matters relating to the staff of the Council;
- ◆ Reports from Council representatives that serve on various outside organisations;
- ◆ Regular updates by the Police Inspector based in Newton Abbot;
- ◆ Applications for financial support.

This year detailed consideration has been given to various issues, including the following:

- ◆ The opening / management of Newton Abbot's new Community Hub, Newton's Place and it's fantastic museum;
- ◆ Involvement in Newton Abbot Community Trust to own, and maintain the public space, 'Golden Lion Square';
- ◆ Awarded a number of Shop Front Improvement grants to local business owners;
- ◆ Ongoing contributions to the funding and management of CCTV facilities in Newton Abbot;
- ◆ Refining relations with the local press;
- ◆ Review of the Town Council's Vision & Priorities;

- ◆ The management of the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group, following the successful outcome of the Referendum for the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan for Newton Abbot;
 - ◆ Review of the Council's Standing Orders and other strategic and operational policies pertaining to the work of the Council;
 - ◆ The management of the ever-growing threat of 'cyber-security';
 - ◆ The management and reporting of Community Infrastructure Levy income
 - ◆ Continuation of the Localism Act and its various Regulations;
 - ◆ The budget provides for grants and financial assistance to various organisations in Newton Abbot.
- This year, we tried to assist as many organisations as we could, as many were suffering the effects of the pandemic.

This year grants were made to local organisations including;

↓ Citizens Advice Teignbridge	£5,500.00
↓ Newton Abbot Community Transport	£3,300.00
↓ Action on Climate in Teignbridge CIC	£1,500.00
↓ 5 th Newton Abbot Brownies	£ 901.50
↓ Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts	£ 600.00
↓ Green Futures	£ 500.00
↓ The Clay Ball	£ 250.00
↓ 1 st Highweek Scouts	£ 250.00

- 3.2 **The Strategic Planning Forum** has concentrated not only on current budget performance but also budget strategy and the Precept for 2022/2023, together with setting out guidelines for all committee future budgets over the short and medium term. The overwhelming response from Councillors during this year's discussions was to be able to support the economic recovery and vitality of the town now that the Government restrictions due to the COVID pandemic had been lifted.

- 3.3 **Community and Heritage Committee** - (Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lesley Sheffield; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Ann Jones) has the responsibility for the Events, Museum, Newton in Bloom, (via the Community Engagement Group) and Allotments Sub-Committees, together with environmental issues and Town Council amenities.

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the committee has not been as active as it normally would have.

However, this year the committee has:

- ◆ Approved budgets for its Sub-Committees, (Events, Museum and Newton in Bloom);
- ◆ A Community Resilience Forum to undertake the development of an Emergency Plan for Newton Abbot Town Council;
- ◆ Responsibility for maintenance and provision of street furniture within the town;
- ◆ The authorisation of Pavement Cafe Licence applications (for various town centre establishments). For the past two years, the council has agreed to waive the renewal fees in an attempt to support our traders in what has been, (and continues to be) a very difficult trading period for businesses;
- ◆ The management of the Newfoundland Way Public Conveniences, (a devolved service from Teignbridge District Council);
- ◆ Collaboration with Green Futures who have supplied the allotment sites with purpose-built fences and gates;
- ◆ The facilitation of grass verge cutting, (a devolved service from Devon County Council);
- ◆ The maintenance of 40+ public footpaths within the Newton Abbot parish boundaries;
- ◆ The management of the oasis that is Victoria Gardens;
- ◆ Complete refurbishment of the town's war memorial;

- ❖ Numerous floral displays within the town centre.
- ❖ The successful opening of the Museum which has been attracting an average of 1000 visitors per month, even in the restricted visiting times that were imposed for the pandemic;
- ❖ The additional family sessions and themed workshops are run by the Community Engagement Officer, to provide more suitable times for families;
- ❖ Regular quiet sessions are provided for those with sensory needs.

3.4 Community Engagement Group (Chairman, Cllr Mrs Ann Jones; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mike Ryan) has the responsibility for matters relating to community engagement within the town and wider community.

The Community Engagement Group would usually meet on a regular basis to discuss matters relating to the Museum, Newton in Bloom, the Allotments, CIC and other community issues, however the Council suspended all committee and sub-committee meetings in the light of the Government restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, work has continued, and the Museum team have been preparing the revised policies and the five-year forward plan for the Newton Abbot Town Museum and St. Leonard's Tower's activities and events.

The Newton in Bloom Gardening Competition had been suspended with the ongoing Newton's Place Project and unfortunately the government restrictions for schools meant that the Children's' Painting Competition had to be suspended as well; the theme was set to be 'Climate Change' and we were looking forward to the array of colourful and varied paintings submitted by all the local primary schools. This will be resumed once it safe to do so.

Whilst meetings have been suspended work has continued alongside under the canopy of Community Engagement, the focus of which is currently the Newton Abbot & District Community Plan:

- ❖ It had been agreed to carry out a review of our Newton Abbot & District Community Plan, which was first published in 2008. Some of the projects contained with the 2008 plan had been achieved, some had been superseded and others remained outstanding.
- ❖ Following the publication of the Community Plan in 2008, the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan (NANDP) was published in 2016. Both important documents for the town but the NANDP largely dealt with planning policy.
- ❖ A review was needed to refresh the views and aspirations for the town.
- ❖ The plan was hoped to be published by July 2022.

Newton Abbot Town & GWR Museum Annual Report 2021/22

Following an uncertain year of closures we were delighted to be able to reopen the Museum on 17th May 2021. Since then we have welcomed an incredible 7,622 visitors into the Museum. By comparison, at the previous museum visitor numbers were around 2,000 a year (open from Easter to October). Thank you to everyone who has visited and supported the Museum. If you haven't yet had a chance to visit do pop along, we are FREE to visit and there is often something new to see and different events going on. See the 'upcoming dates for the diary' section for more details.

The team have been busy facilitating a wide range of visits and events, with an increasing demand for community engagement through outreach visits, workshops, school visits and group visits to name a few. We are delighted to be welcoming a wide range of visitors to the Museum and continue to develop new ideas and activities to encourage new and repeat visitors.

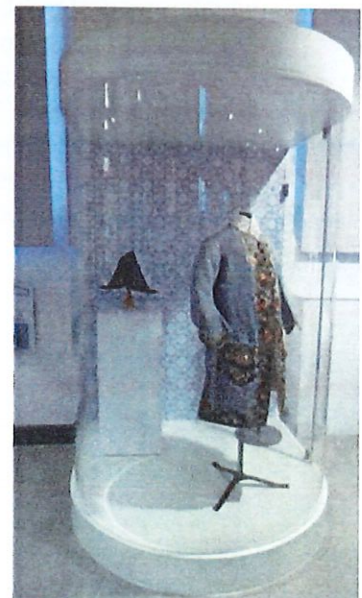
Exhibitions and changing displays

There's always something new to see at Newton Abbot Museum with changing displays and temporary exhibitions. In January 2022 the following displays were changed:

- Early History and Growth of the Town displays:
 - Throughout 2022 you can see a Medieval crucifix figurine on loan from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter City Council. This incredibly detailed figure of Jesus, with one glass eye still intact, dates between 1100 and 1230 AD and would likely have been attached to a wooden crucifix. It was discovered near Ashburton Road in Newton Abbot by a metal detectorist and it is remarkable that more of it was not damaged and lost over the years.
 - While two of the Iron Age figures from Milber Down were returned to Torquay Museum we have had the loan extended for the bird to the end of the year and a replica of the stag and duck are now on display alongside it.
- Costume displays:
 - The costume case now showcases a sleeved gentleman's waistcoat dating from the 1740s. This was made possible thanks to generous donations made by two of our volunteers to have it conserved. This beautiful waistcoat is on display until the end of the year alongside an 18th century bicorne hat.



Medieval crucifix figure on display



Costume case changes

Object of the Month

The object of the month case continues to be a success with different groups choosing an object to be displayed. The March object (floral embroidered silk cigarette cards) was chosen by a Brownies group and the next object has been chosen by a Scouts group who recently visited.

If you would like your group to choose an object of the month, please do get in touch:
groups@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Your Space Community Cabinet

The 'Your Space' cabinet in the community area of the Museum currently has a wonderful display of teddy bears, all from the collection of local craftswoman and artist Jan Newton.

Your Space is bursting at the seams with all sorts of teddy bears - large and small, old and new, (the oldest bear in the case is over 100 years old) and all of them loved and cherished. Jan spent many hours making collector's bears and restoring antique ones.

Not only is this handcrafted collection of teddy bears the first collection from the public on display, Jan also held the first lunchtime talk in the Museum. Following feedback from the talk on social media from those unable to attend Jan has kindly recorded her talk which we have shared on our Facebook page.



Jan Newton delivering a lunchtime talk in the Museum

The Your Space display changes regularly and in April the display will feature personal memory boxes made by local Syrian refugee families exploring memories and thoughts about home. This will connect with the April Museum: Make and Create family workshop.

Working with local groups

Community Engagement Officer Kate Green has been working with Newton Abbot Art Group to display the groups 'Field of Flowers' artwork that was produced by members during lockdown. This is now on display on the stairs and can also be seen on our Facebook page.

Loaning objects

We loaned a selection of railway memorabilia from the museum collection to Edward Passmore Library as part of their 'Railway Studies and Modellers Show' in December 2021. The display was available to view for just over a month.

We have recently loaned a box of glass eyes to the Valiant Soldier Museum in Buckfastleigh to display in their temporary exhibition about the history of health.



Box of glass eyes from the premises of ophthalmic optician, Mr Eubulus Williams

Family workshops

"Museum: Make and Create workshops" are sessions designed to encourage families to work together and are led by Kate Green. The free sessions take place on the first Saturday of every month (pre-booking is highly recommended) and have a two-hour duration.



Recycled Art sculptures and canvases on display in the Your Space Community Case

The workshops always have a link to the Museum's collections and the activities cover a wide range of mediums including clay, writing, planting seeds and digital formats. To take an example, in November 2021 the theme of the workshop was Recycled Art, linking endangered animals (such as the butterflies and sawfish in the collection) and the COP26 event in Glasgow. This concept developed from meetings with Mabel Harris, who approached us to collaborate on an event following her success in the WWF-UK Just Imagine art competition.

Occasionally we also run 'special' make and create sessions, including creating Christmas crackers in the town centre and running workshops where people create trains and bridges using Lego. The latter workshops have been run in collaboration with Brickideas, a local company that works with Lego to create children's workshops (www.brickideas.co.uk), and there was a small charge to attend the sessions (October half-term 2021 and February half-term 2022) to cover the cost of the workshop. We ran morning and afternoon sessions, each of which could accommodate 30 people. Both dates had full attendance and we received very positive feedback.

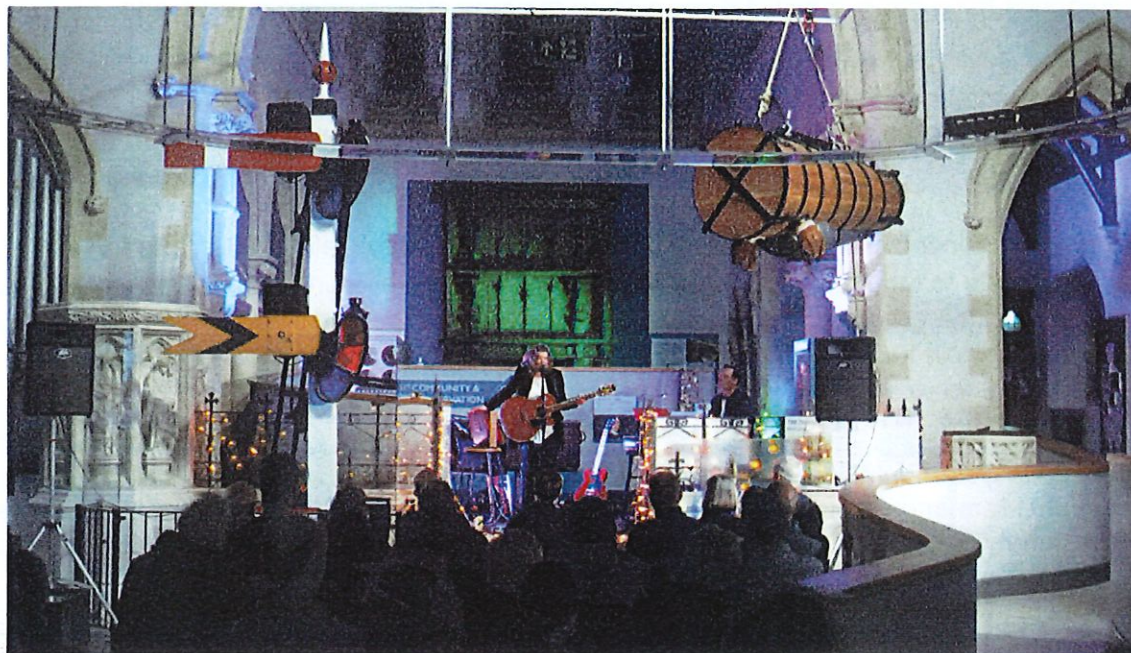
Events

Nicky Swann Concert

Singer-songwriter Nicky Swann performed in the Museum on Saturday March 19, in an evening billed as Songs from a Market Town. The tracks, all from her 2012 album 'How Does Your Land Lie?', were inspired by the museum's collection and demonstrates Nicky's connections to her home town.

This was the first time we had live music in the new museum and it was fantastic to hear, for example, Nicky singing about John Lethbridge alongside the replica of his diving engine hanging above the audience.

The concert was very well received by all those who attended.



Nicky Swann performing at the Museum

School and educational visits

We are receiving enquiries for school and educational visits which is fantastic. In 2021 we had 5 school visits towards the end of the year. So far in 2022 we have welcomed 263 children and teachers to the Museum from 5 school visits. As well as supported visits to the Museum the team have been developing workshops and a handling collection so the children can have a unique learning experience to their usual classroom-based learning.

So far this year we have also welcomed 2 Brownies groups, a Scouts group and a Cubs and Beavers group to after-hours evening visits to the Museum.

Home Education

The Museum has partnered up with Brickideas to put on a series of workshops using Lego focusing on different subjects for home education groups. Our first of these sessions saw families coming from as far as Looe in Cornwall to attend.

Our High Street course

Newton Abbot Museum are partnering up with Learn Devon to deliver a free family learning course over four weeks called 'Our High Street'. This course explores the past, present and future of the high street using photos, objects and stories.

Community Engagement Outreach visits

Community Outreach

The Community Engagement Officer recently visited Bradley Court and Mapleton Close community rooms taking the handling collection and a broad range of photographs that focused on the history of Newton Abbot which was well received. We hope to continue a series of regular visits.

Schools

There have been three outreach visits to primary schools this year so far, one of which a member of the newly formed Education Volunteer Team attended to support the Community Engagement Officer. The primary format of these visits is a specially designed handling collection and activity,

which have focussed on the Industrial Revolution, World War Two and Childhood Toys. Each of these outreaches have been to two classes with an average of 30 children in each one.

The Museum is collaborating with Newton Abbot College to deliver lunchtime History Club sessions. The Community Engagement Officer, supported by staff and volunteers, will be delivering a session for the group with the handling collection every 3 weeks during term time.

Memory Café

Following the cancellation of the outreach to Kingskerswell Memory Café in 2021 due to Covid, Kate was finally able to take the handling collection to the group in February. There were 36 people at the session, and the group enjoyed discussing the memories that the objects and photographs evoked. The group now feel confident about visiting the museum in person this Spring.

Bright Lights writing group

The Bright Lights Community Writing Group meet on the first Saturday of the month at Newton's Place between 11am and 12:30pm. These are free drop-in sessions where everyone is welcome and cover a variety of different areas such as the writing of stories, plays and poetry, to name but a few. We have been delighted to have them join us at Newton's Place, becoming the only known museum 'writers in residence' group (that we know of!). Those that attend the sessions visit the Museum to gain inspiration from the collections, and the yearly magazine that Bright Lights produces will focus on the museum collection.

The group are also working with the Museum Team to choose the 'Object of the Month' in June.

Accessibility

There are now four braille audio guide handsets available at the Welcome Desk to borrow for the duration of a visit. Braille and tactile number signage around the Museum indicates which track to listen to in which location. There are 10 recordings in total. These have been developed to assist a visit for someone with sight impairment but are available to everyone and we have seen a good use of them by a range of visitors so far. The audio tracks are also available on the website, so visitors have the option to listen to the tracks on their own devices.

We are continuing to run Relaxed Visits. Each month we set aside special visiting hours for anyone who might benefit from visiting the Museum at a quieter time. Reduced sound levels and a chill-out room upstairs make this a great time to visit for anyone with additional needs, but everyone is welcome. Ear defenders and sensory bags are also available at the Welcome Desk. Upcoming Relaxed Visits are advertised on our website, or you can contact the Museum to discuss upcoming Relaxed Visits or to receive advice about when the Museum is quietest. The next Relaxed Visit will take place during the Easter Holidays on Monday 11 April, 11am – 1pm.

Volunteers

The Museum has 52 volunteers on the books. This includes 21 regular front of house volunteers, 12 behind the scenes volunteers and 6 who work on research. There are also seasonal volunteers as some can only volunteer during school / university holidays.

We have a new team of Education Team volunteers that are assisting the Museum Staff with visits, outreaches and creating educational resources.

In addition, the Tower is due to open again on Wednesdays from this May to September, so we are developing a Tower Volunteer Team which currently consists of 5 volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the Museum we would love to hear from you! Contact us on museum@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk or visit our website to find out more.

Work experience students and Duke of Edinburgh Award

In November two work experience students through the Prince's Trust course at Young Devon joined the Museum for a week. In April a student from Exeter University will be joining for 2 weeks. This is followed by two students from Newton Abbot College joining the Museum for a week's work experience in June, and another student is joining us for a week in July from King Edward VI Community College.

We have also been approached by students wishing to volunteer at the Museum as part of their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award. There is currently a student volunteering as part of her bronze DofE and we have two more students waiting to start volunteering for their silver DofE.

Training

In March we ran an Alzheimer's Society initiative Dementia Friends training session for staff and volunteers. This resulted in 28 staff and volunteers agreeing to become Dementia Friends (look out for the badges on lanyards) showing visitors that we are welcoming to people living with dementia and their carers.



Friends of the Museum

We have over 70 Friends of the Museum members and the monthly talks have been really successful – we are often fully booked with 60 attendees! Numbers have been limited to 60 while we are still spacing the chairs for everyone's safety.

We have had so many people ask to come to the talk on 31 March by the volunteer Tess Walker that we are putting on an additional lunchtime talk open to the public on 28 April. Talks cost £3.00 to attend, and if you would like to book a place please contact the Museum.

Kickstart Scheme

In October we welcomed Darren to the Museum as a Trainee Museum Assistant on the government Kickstart scheme. This placement was for 6 months and is due to finish mid- April. We are delighted to have had Darren on the team and it is clear how much he has learnt during his time here. Darren will be missed when the placement finishes.

Darren – *"My time at the Museum has been wonderful – I have learnt a great deal, both in terms of skills and local history. I particularly enjoy working on enquiries. Looking back at the choices I had on where to have my work placement – I made the right decision."*



Darren making support mounts for a display

Upcoming dates for the diary!

Exhibitions

Picturing the Past, 9 April – 3 September

A multi-award winning artist whose work is shown around the globe has teamed up with Newton Abbot Museum and residents to produce a series of drawings inspired by life in the town, past and present.

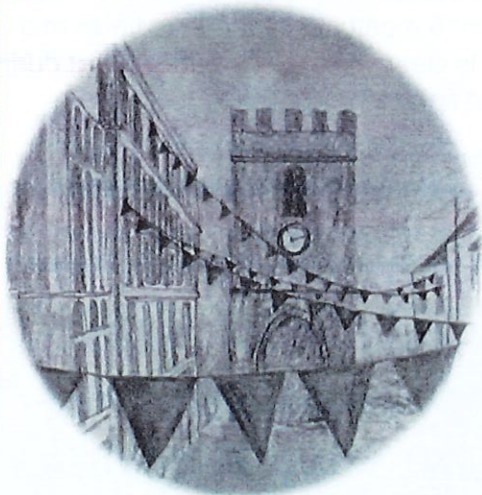
London-based Christy Burdock MA is a graduate of the Royal College of Art and winner of the 2017 Bloomberg New Contemporaries Artist Award among others. Her pieces are sought by international collectors and displayed at galleries in the UK, America and Dubai.

Christy is interested in heritage and exploring the links between a community's history and the present day. She approached the Museum in January and has since spent time with the museum team exploring the collections and visiting several locations in the town, talking with residents and those out shopping or at work.

Christy's pieces in the 'Picturing the Past' collection feature local landmarks and events such as the Second World War bombing by the Luftwaffe and includes objects and stories from the collection.

Prehistory in the form of the Iron Age Milber Votive animal figures, on loan from Torquay Museum, put in an appearance as does the arrival of the railways, the fondly remembered Madge Mellor's tearoom and an 800-year-old tradition of market trading. All are seen against the backdrop of modern Newton Abbot going about its business.

This exciting exhibition will be displayed in the Museum alongside the objects they refer to from April – September.



An exhibition at Newton Abbot Museum by
multi-award winning artist Christy Burdock

Picturing the Past


Inspired by "a community high in
trust and contentment, steeped
in history and heritage"

Christy Burdock

9th April – 3rd September 2022

At Newton Abbot Museum, Newton's Place

See museum opening times.
Free entry



Fired for Royalty, 15 September – 13 October

This exhibition, in collaboration with Torquay Pottery Collectors Society (TPCS), will showcase an array of royal commemoratives from the Torquay and South Devon potteries. It is in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year and coincides with the TPCS annual social in Newton's Place.

The society worked with the Museum in its former location with the display drawing in a wide range of visitors, including those from overseas. This is a great opportunity to work with the TPCS.

Conferences

Devon in the 1920s

Devon History Society have partnered up with Newton Abbot Museum to host a conference on Saturday 23 April at the Museum as part of the Devon in the 1920s project. The conference at the Museum focuses on transport and is bookable on Eventbrite or in the Museum.

Family Events

Lego trail

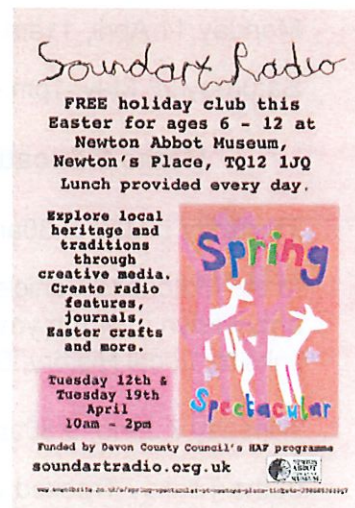
Newton Abbot Museum and Newton Abbot Library have partnered up with Brickideas to create a bespoke Lego trail throughout the town with the help of local businesses. These free trails are available throughout the half term holiday from 9th April and can be collected from the Library and Museum. There are prizes to be won! Austins have kindly donated the top prize for this event.

Holiday Club - 12th April, 19th April 10am-2pm

FREE holiday club at Newton Abbot Museum, for children aged 6-12 who are in receipt of free school meals.

Places will be prioritised for children who are in receipt of free school meals. We can also accept bookings from their close friends, if this will facilitate and encourage free school meals children to attend.

A small number of places are also on offer to SEN children, or to others whose families have a low income and need free activities and food during the holidays.



Museum: Make and Create



These are free workshops aimed at families working together and take place on the first Saturday of every month (with some exceptions). Pre-booking your free place can be done at the Museum Welcome Desk or through our website's 'What's On' page. The upcoming workshops are:

May 7 – Write on

Write stories about artefacts in the museum and imagine the secret life of those objects – what have they witnessed in their time? Who did they belong to? How did they come to be in the museum?

June 5 (Sunday) – Fly your Flag in Courtenay Park

Visit our stall in Courtenay Park to help commemorate the Queen's Jubilee by making flags sharing what you celebrate most in life.

July 2 – Animate it!

Use stop-frame animation to create stories about the characters from Newton Abbot's past.

August 6 – Animate it!

Continue with your work from the last session, or if you couldn't attend an introduction will be provided to help you use stop-frame animation to create stories about the characters from Newton Abbot's past.

September 3 – Newton Abbot Inventors (linked with the upcoming Heritage Open Days)

What in your wildest imagination would you invent to make the world a better place?

A tree making machine? A happy hat? Flying bikes?

Learn about fantastic inventors from Newton Abbot and see what you can design.

October 1 – A Potted History

To coincide with the marvellous exhibition from the Aller Vale Pottery collectors, use clay to make your own pottery creations.

November 5 – Recycled art workshop

Using an array of recycled materials you will produce work that will go on display in the Your Space case.

December 3 - Eco, plantable cards

Make eco-friendly Xmas cards and gift tags, with paper that is full of seeds for you to plant!

Relaxed Visit

Monday 11 April, 11am – 1pm

Saturday 28 May, 1pm – 3pm

Home Education workshops with Brickideas



Thursday 5 May, 9:30am-12noon: Motorised Vehicles

In the Motorised Vehicles workshop we will look at photographs of the old vehicles seen in Newton Abbot town over the years. We will build old fashion vehicle based on these photos. This workshop links to: Local History, Design, Technology, History, Maths.

Tuesday 7 June, 9:30am-12noon: Tracked Vehicles / Tanks

In the Tanks / Tracked vehicles workshop we will look at when tanks came to Newton Abbot and the roll they played in WW1 & WW2. This workshop links to: Design, Technology, History, Maths.

<https://www.brickideas.co.uk/home-education-workshop-booking>

Lunchtime Talk

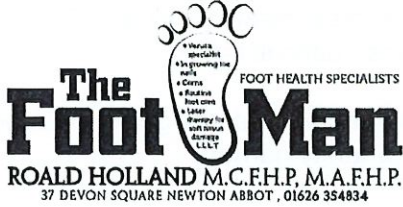







28 April: Noticing Newton Abbot by Tess Walker, 1pm-2pm

Upcoming events are advertised on our website and social media:

www.museum-newtonabbot.org.uk

3.4 (b) Newton in Bloom Sponsorship 2021/22

Newton Abbot Town Council would like to thank local businesses, which have once again so generously sponsored many of the displays in the town centre. Thank you for your continued support.

		
		
		
		 <p>St Joseph's Church</p>

3.5 Allotments –

The Town Council has a management agreement with the Newton Abbot & District Cooperative Allotments Association Limited which is responsible for allotment fields at Decoy, Blake's, Cooke's, Coach Road and Bradley fields. Council representatives meet with the officers of the Association annually to discuss any issues, and more often if required. Whilst it had not been possible to meet face-to-face because of the restrictions due to the COVID Pandemic, the Association has worked hard to support its Members on each of the sites. Plot holders have found allotments to be extremely valuable in contributing to family's health and wellbeing during these difficult times.

The Town Council also lets part of Vicary's field as allotments and has given over the remainder to Transition Town Newton Abbot as a community garden.

Negotiations continue to be ongoing regarding other suitable areas to be made available as allotment sites to be created arising from developments at Mile End Road and Hele Park.

3.6 Events Sub-Committee

BAND CONCERTS – MAY TO SEPT 2021

Although the bandstand was unable to be used and unfortunately due to Covid 19 restrictions we had to cancel 2 of our band concerts last year, we were able to proceed with 3 of our band concerts on the grass.

We would like to express our gratitude to Davie Construction, Major Braden, Best Accountancy and Charles Royle Financial Planning for their sponsorship of the bands last year.

We are hoping that the bandstand will be up and running for this year and have planned the following dates:

Sunday 8 th May	-	Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band
Sunday 5 th June	-	Spectrum Music Concert Wind Band (alongside Party in the Park for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee)
Sunday 3 rd July	-	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Concert Band
Sunday 14 th August	-	Bay Brass
Sunday 11 th September	-	SW Comms

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Davie Construction for kindly allowing us to take over their sponsorship from last year to this year.

We would also like to thank Best Accountancy, Major G.W. Braden and Davie Construction for their continued support in sponsoring band concerts.

TOWN CRIER'S COMPETITION – SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Newton Abbot once again played host to members of the Ancient & Honourable Guild of Town Crier's held on Saturday 11th September. 11 Criers took part in the competition, which was held in front of Austin's the Globe throughout the day.

The competition involved 2 cries – the 'Home Cry' and the second cry was based on 'Fruit & Veg'.

Winners as follows:

	CRIERS NAME	CRIERS TOWN
1 st PLACE – CRIER	John Pitt	Plymouth
2 nd PLACE – CRIER	Phil Northcott	Penzance
3 rd PLACE – CRIER	Stuart Cummings	Chard
DEVON CHAMPIONSHIP	John Pitt	Plymouth
BEST DRESSED CRIER	John Pitt	Plymouth
BEST DRESSED ESCORT	Julie Fox	Ilminster
BEST DRESSED COUPLE	Les & Liz Ellis	Dartmouth

Many thanks need to go to a number of people, who have made the event possible from volunteers on the day to event sponsors of cash or prizes.

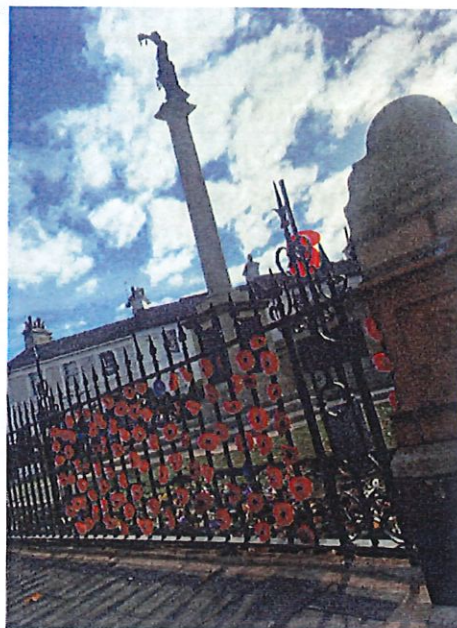


REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Remembrance Sunday parade within the town was welcomed back this year. This year was a special year celebrating the centenary year of Newton Abbots War Memorial and the branch of the Royal British Legion, which made it extra special! The parade started at Courtenay Street at 10.30am led by the Corps of Drums, Royal Marine Volunteers Cadet Band.

As the live streaming went well during Covid, it was decided to stream again at the War Memorial so that anyone unable to attend was still able to support and view the event by watching the stream on NATC's facebook page.

Thankyou also to 1st Newton Abbot Brownies for their handmade poppies which were attached to the War Memorial alongside hundreds of handmade knitted poppies which had been knitted by local groups just as the women's branch of the Legion and the WI.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON – WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER

The start of the Christmas celebrations began on Wednesday 24th November at 5.30pm, where Santa travelled through the town centre magically switching on the Christmas lights. He finally stopped at St Leonards Clock Tower where he switched on the lights of the Tower and surrounding streets and then had a meet and greet with all the children.



The Town Council are grateful to the Carnival Committee, Town Councillors and volunteers who put so much time, effort and enthusiasm into making this happen. We are also extremely grateful to businesses, for making contributions to the Christmas lights fund.

SANTA NEEDS YOU QR TRAIL

New this year and available from the 24th November until the 31st December was the Santa Needs You trail, an augmented reality trail accessed via a series of QR codes on display in various business windows around the town centre.

Once all ten were discovered those taking part could vote for their favourite animal, receive a free e-book, and be entered into the prize draw for both national and local prizes.

The Taylor family, consisting of mum Laura and children James and Lucy, were the lucky winners of the local prize and awarded a £100 Austins department store voucher.



VICTORIAN EVENING – WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER

Wednesday 1st December saw the annual Victorian Evening take place in Newton Abbot in the Market Square. It is a well-known event now in the South Devon area and everyone looks forward to the charity evening with the Victorian atmosphere.

Once again the Market Square was jam packed with local charity stalls selling their wares. In total there were 31 stalls selling Christmas items from tree decorations, beatifically crafted Christmas gifts, wreaths, homemade cakes and sweets to Christmas cards and plenty of tombola's to try your luck on.

This year the 'best dressed stall' trophy went to '1st Newton Abbot Brownies' they received a cheque for £50 for their charity.



The stilt walking policeman was also in the town centre again entertaining the general public throughout the evening. Children were also entertained by a gentleman on a penny farthing who was making balloon models for the children, Elfie the kids' entertainer and bell ringing at St Leonards Clock Tower.

Santa this year could be found on his sleigh in front of the Clock Tower.

CAROL SERVICE

The Mayor's Carol Service took place by St. Leonard's Clock Tower on Wednesday 15th December lead by the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Ben Maynard.

The Rock Choir once again proved a big success in assisting with singing of the carols and did a fantastic job with their rendition of Silent Night/The First Noel and White Winter Wonderland.

Donations to the value of £25.14 were made towards the Mayor's Charity "Horsemanship for Health"



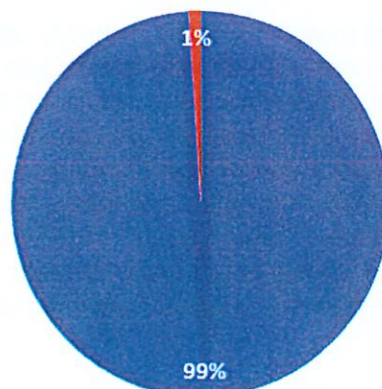
SANTA'S GROTTTO

Due to Covid guidance and winter Covid restrictions it was decided that Santa wouldn't be in his usual Clock Tower grotto but on his sleigh outside in front of the Clock Tower. The change of location went down well and plenty of children got to see Santa and his sleigh as well as having a chat with him and receiving a free bag of sweets. Following all visits from Santa on Wednesday 1st, 8th and 15th December a grand total of £167.09 was raised. All donations went to the Mayor's charity.

- 3.7 **Planning Committee** (Chairman Cllr Anne Jones; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mike Ryan) meets every three weeks and looks in detail at all the planning applications affecting properties in Newton Abbot and its borders. The Town Council doesn't have the power to grant planning permission but is a statutory consultee and provides comments on all planning, tree works and consultations to the Planning Authority, Teignbridge District Council (TDC) as well as applications made by Devon County Council for matters such as highways. During the past year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, the committee has considered and made recommendations on 218 planning applications. With the exception of 6 all recommendations have been implemented by the Planning Authority.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AT VARIANCE WITH THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

■ NATC & TDC decisions agree ■ NATC & TDC decisions disagree



A further 44 applications affecting trees in conservation areas, or subject to tree preservation orders have been commented upon. As further proof of the Council's involvement with the community, the Planning Committee would like to place on record its thanks to Eric Collar the Tree Warden.

The Planning Committee has during 2021 – 2022 had preliminary discussions and deliberations on several major applications, including the following: -

21/01110/MAJ

BRADLEY Land at Ilford Park, Newton Abbot

Approval of reserved matters for Phase 1 of the development pursuant to outline permission 14/02580/MAJ for a mixed-use development comprising B2 and B8 employment development (with ancillary B1 office); restaurant/public house; and residential development (including demolition of existing dwellings at Gaverick Court) together with associated landscaping, play space, drainage, car parking and access (amendment to 11/02555/MAJ) approval sought for layout, scale appearance and landscaping)

21/01253/MAJ

BRADLEY Land at Ilford Park, Stover, Newton Abbot

Approval of reserved Matters for Phase 2 of the development pursuant to outline permission 14/02580/MAJ for two B2/B8 commercial units (approval sought for appearance, layout scale and landscaping)

21/01294/MAJ

BRADLEY A382 – A383 Forches Cross, Newton Abbot

Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 19/00456/MAJ (improved highway link, including pedestrian and cycle facilities, sustainable drainage features and landscaping) to alter existing field gate access

While it was not possible to hold physical meetings in the early part of the year, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Town Council continued to monitor all planning applications affecting Newton Abbot. The Committee continues to monitor closely the various policies and application of the Teignbridge Local Plan and responded to the following consultations:

- Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 2) 2020 to 2040: Creating Quality Spaces.
- Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 3) 2020 to 2040: Renewable Energy, Gypsy and Traveller and Small Residential Site Options.

The Committee considered and responded to requests from TDC regarding naming of streets within new developments.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Council encourages members of the public to attend its meetings and its committees/sub-committees in order to listen to the debate, recommendations and decisions of the authority. Residents are also encouraged to attend to make representations or ask questions of councillors. It is pointed out that on every Agenda there is a business item entitled "Public Participation". During the Covid Pandemic the public were still able to attend and participate online meetings of the Council using access to the video links. Now that the restrictions have been lifted, the public is again welcome to attend the Council's meetings where measures are still in place to limit infections such as discretionary mask wearing and use of an air circulation system in the meeting rooms.

5. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I take this opportunity to thank all members of staff for their support during the past twelve months, and, of course, all Members of the Council on the various committees, sub-committees and working groups on which they have served. This has been a difficult year for the Council, as it has been for everyone, continuing to go about our business and deliver services in the face of a global pandemic brought about by Covid-19 and the ever-changing regulations arising from Govt restrictions. Those first few weeks following the March 2020 'lockdown' were strange to say the least, but everyone, staff & Councillors alike just got on with it and went the 'extra-mile' not only to ensure there were no breaks in service delivery, but to also provide additional support to the local community. All members of staff had to quickly adjust to working from home and all the challenges that brought but continued to deliver and without any complaint.

On the democracy front, the Council did lose one Councillor during 2020 who moved out of the area which led to an election being called to fill the vacancy. At the elections held in May 2021, filling the vacancy was delayed due to the pandemic, however the Council welcomed Councillor Alex Hall to the Bradley Ward. Councillor Hall HAS quickly learned the workings of local government at this 'first tier' and the Council has enjoyed his contribution, including donning the 'Newton' character suit and welcoming visitors to the town. All Councillors I believe strive to work together positively on behalf of the community of Newton Abbot.

Yet again I can confirm that none of the 18 Members of the Town Council receive any allowances when they act as Town Councillor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor do however receive an allowance for their year of office.

P A Rowe
Town Clerk
April 2022

Newton Abbot Town Council 2020/2021

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2021

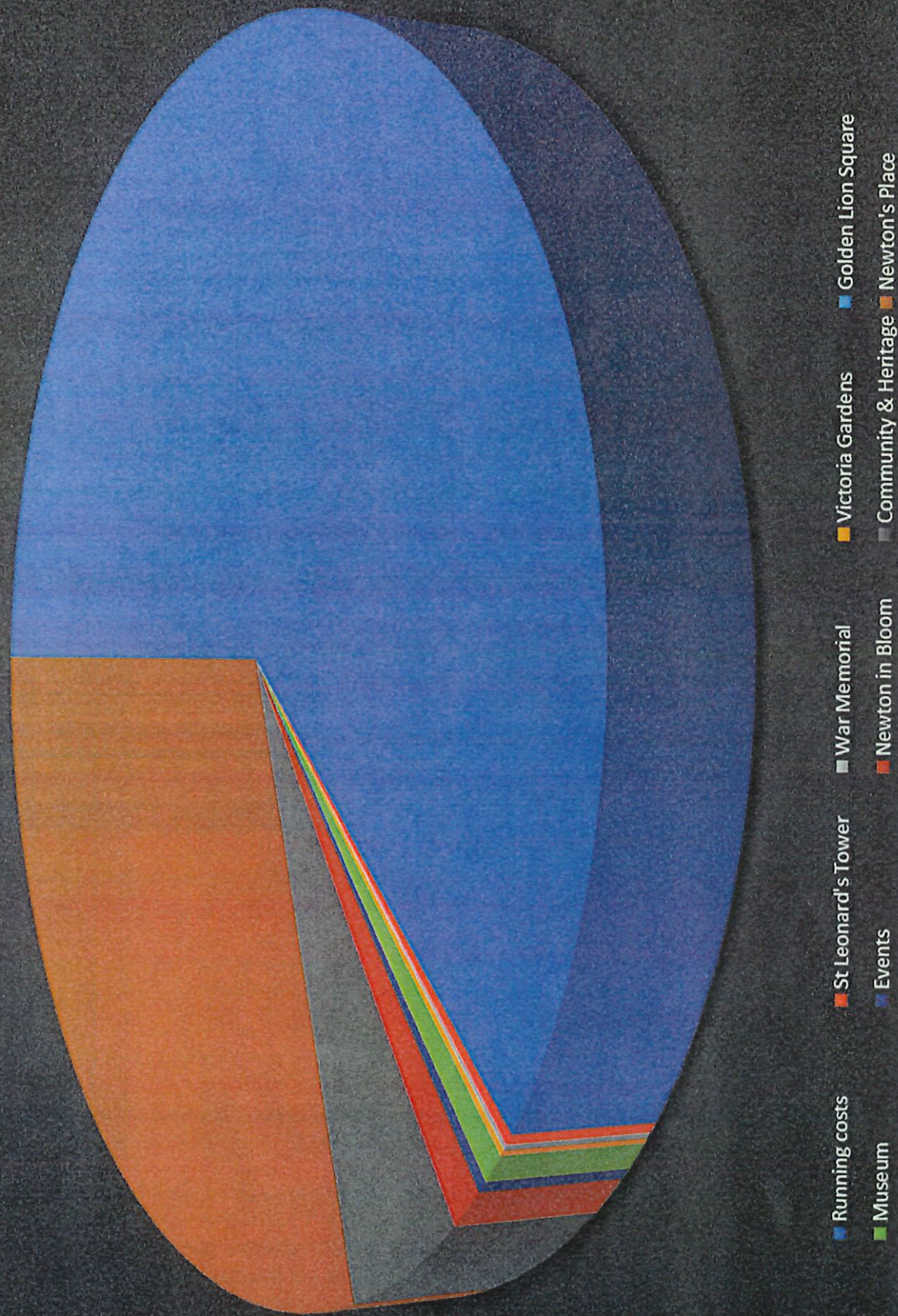
31st March 2020		31st March 2021
	Income Summary	
828,539	Precept	866,039
828,539	Sub Total	866,039
	Operating Income	
0	Admin F&A	1,946
166,394	Administration	118,877
372,325	NEWTON'S PLACE	4,199
452	Civic	52
1,410	Town Development Manager	600
601	St Leonard's Tower	0
15,000	War Memorial	0
21,583	CIC	0
42,825	Museum	6,699
3,364	Events	0
1,586	Newton In Bloom	0
1,455	Allotments	1,965
1,400	Footpaths	0
1,455	Town Quay	250
11,850	Other Amenities	35,695
645,891	Newton's Place - DO NOT USE	31,101
2,116,129	Total Income	1,067,423
	Running Costs	
70,926	Admin F&A	105,565
572,467	Administration	597,254
34,697	NEWTON'S PLACE	47,802
5,316	Civic	1,037
10,251	Town Development Manager	5,365
1,399	St Leonard's Tower	4,280
74,564	War Memorial	2,604
2,864	Victoria Gardens	2,176
817	Golden Lion Square	130
13	Newton Abbot Community Trust	1,299
937	CIC	58,959
24,882	Museum	11,891
20,206	Events	5,084
19,403	Newton In Bloom	18,457
4,179	Allotments	2,855
1,902	Footpaths	172
731	Bradley Leat	0
3,517	Town Quay	2,801
33,661	Other Amenities	65,173
1,576,454	Newton's Place - DO NOT USE	408,735
15,646	EMR - Election	0
2,474,833	Total Expenditure	1,341,639

Newton Abbot Town Council 2020/2021

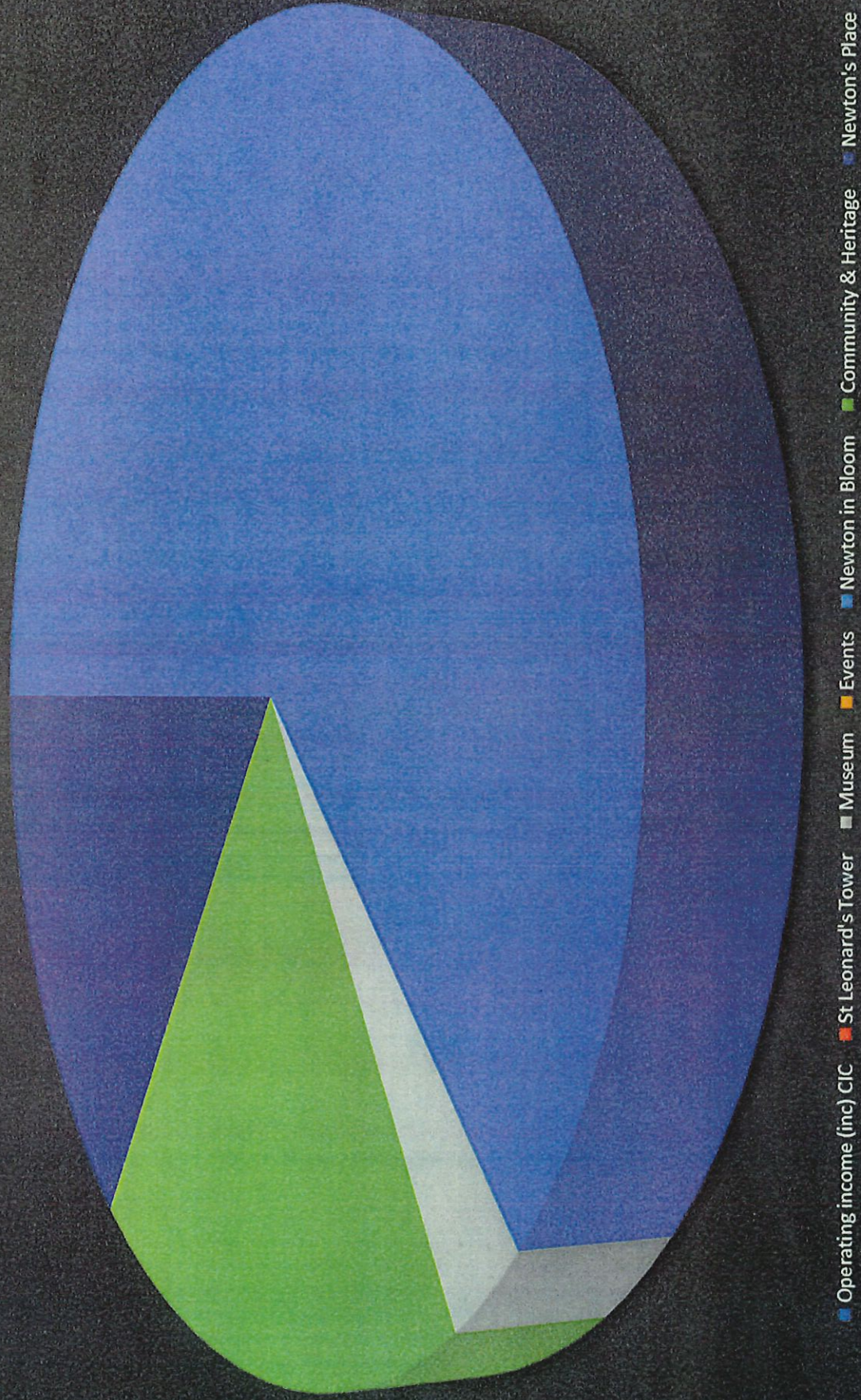
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2021

31st March 2020		31st March 2021
	General Fund Analysis	
382,738	Opening Balance	788,848
2,116,129	Plus : Income for Year	1,067,423
<hr/>		<hr/>
2,498,867		1,856,272
2,474,833	Less : Expenditure for Year	1,341,639
<hr/>		<hr/>
24,034		514,632
(764,814)	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	369,057
<hr/>		<hr/>
788,848	Closing Balance	145,575
<hr/>		<hr/>

Newton Abbot Town Council Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st March 2021



Newton Abbot Town Council Income for the Year Ended 31st March 2021



TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 9TH 2022

I am writing this report on the day that the government has announced that all international travel restrictions will be removed from March 18th. I have a holiday abroad booked and so whilst I may have to complete additional paperwork for my outward journey, I can look forward to spending my final days holiday abroad, not agonising over locator forms but fully enjoying the break. This seems like one of the final milestones as we come out of the pandemic and who knows – next year, the words Covid and 'Pandemic' may not feature in my reports at all!

The last twelve months have proved as challenging as the first year of the pandemic, with businesses having to really think outside the box to negotiate the changes in consumer behaviour. Fortunately, we have seen few business casualties and when I carried out my latest survey of commercial property available to let in Newton Abbot town centre, I was very encouraged. We have around 300 businesses which trade here and only a dozen or so commercial properties which are available to let! If this were the housing market, the estate agents would be wringing their hands at the lack of availability.

The town is quieter than we would perhaps like, but this is the case across most of the country as members of the community take their time, considering how and when a return to 'normal' is appropriate for them.

However, just as we were hoping for an uplift, the very real spectre of a rise in the cost of living and war in Ukraine bring another upsetting dimension to our daily lives. All of this is affecting the 'pound in our pocket' and businesses are needing to really step up to the plate to ensure resilience in these difficult times. Business grants have been available (and thank goodness for those!) but they have not gone far enough or covered the whole of the business community.

We have had some good news stories in the last twelve months though. I have been pleased to stand alongside the Mayor, who has been busy cutting ribbons. A warm welcome goes to 'Greenlight Mortgages', 'Simply Green Estate Agents' and 'Meddy Grill' to name just a few businesses which have invested in premises in Queen Street this year. It was fantastic to see our local newspaper, the MDA, open an office in Courtenay Street in March and 'The Foot Store' will be opening just opposite them any day now. The former Ridgeways shop in Bank Street will have new owners soon and it was fantastic that Mr Austin purchased the former M&S building in March too. The DWP will remain as a temporary tenant in the building, but once they leave, we all look forward to seeing Austins expand into that space, thus ensuring the correct balance of retail in our Primary Trading area.

The development site in Wolborough Street has been a blight within our historic Clock Tower Quarter for over a decade and over the years I have liaised with the various owners to try to resolve some of the issues. It was with joy therefore that I learned of the impending sale of the land to a local developer. There was planning permission given 3 years ago, but unfortunately this has lapsed, and a new application is under way to construct the same building. Fingers crossed; we might see work starting there very soon! It is great to be able to tick this final eye sore off my list and brilliant news that we will have more town centre residential accommodation to ensure the vibrancy of the town. I was also very glad to see that there are moves to put the former Tuckers Maltings into a great new leisure use, whilst respecting its historic features. There are many too, who are excited to see the return of 'Maltingsfest' in Osborne Park this spring.

We see the return of events to the town centre this year, with a program which includes Easter, May Day, the Queens Platinum Jubilee, and the Carnival to name but a few. The town council continues to do its bit on cleaning and greening and making the town centre attractive. In addition to the summer planting, there will be festive bunting and we hope to have celebratory flags too, where the town council will be replacing existing flag mounts, which have deteriorated on buildings. The new stainless-steel holders will be properly mounted and tested so that we can truly 'put the flags out' this summer!

Times are tough for everyone at the moment and so I continue to offer support to local businesses and try to identify ways in which we can attract more footfall into the town centre and generally improve the visitor experience. I would like to acknowledge the work of NAST here, as the towns security team headed up by Tom Hirst, does a superb job in keeping locals and visitors safe. They are the silent heroes, whose work is of immeasurable importance not just to business but to the community as a whole and I think we are very fortunate to have their experience and commitment. As well as working with NAST, I also work with a whole host of organisations which carry out vital work in the community, including the Rotary, Community Transport, the CIC, and CAB. I am always pleased to 'add power to the elbow'!

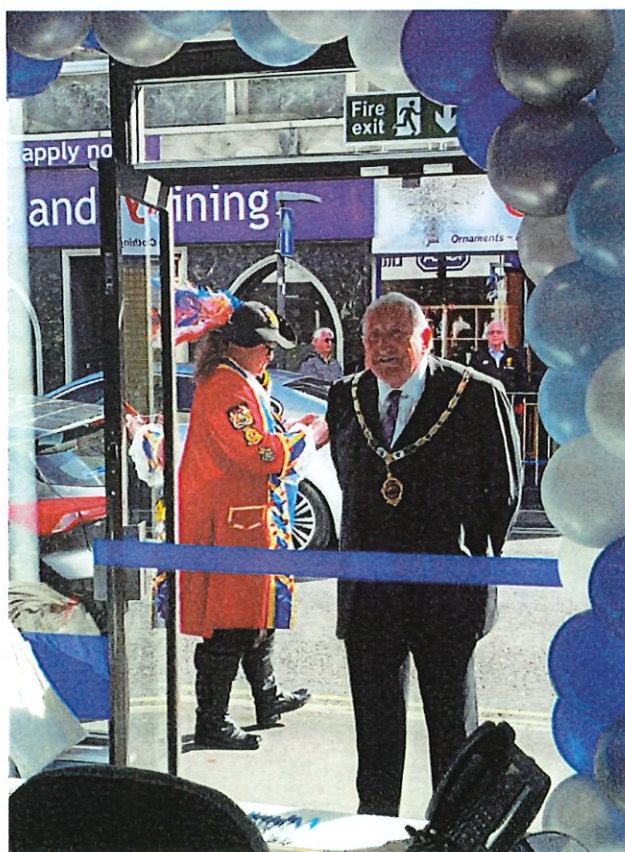
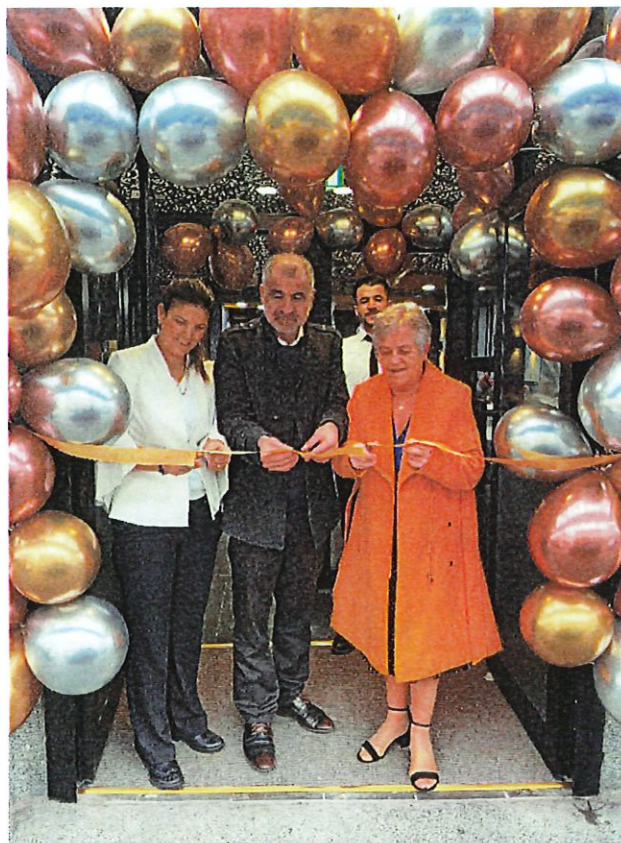
Two years ago, we learned that Newton Abbot would be receiving over £9m of Future High Streets Funding investment. As the Town Development Manager and the person who is perhaps best placed to understand what measures might be required to ensure the resilience of the town centre, I was rather saddened not to have been invited to input into Teignbridge District Councils plans. However, having learned that most of the funds were to be targeted on TDC owned assets, I understood their reasons for keeping deliberations 'in house'. However, I always have a list of projects which I feel will benefit the town and continue to try to identify ways of funding these projects.

You may have seen that we have refurbished the large town information maps which sit in each of the car parks and another project, which we are working on is the production of a visitor guide. Tourism is important, not just for 'resorts' but for towns and cities in general. More and more people, having had a taste of the staycation during the pandemic, realise that it's just as much fun to explore one's own country as it is to travel abroad. As we think about our town guide, we realise just how much Newton Abbot has to offer!



The Mayor, Cllr Mike Joyce at the opening of Simply Green.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Carol Bunday holding the ribbon
at Meddy Grill.



The Mayor, Cllr Mike Joyce with the Town
Crier, Nigel Kenneison in the background at the
opening of the new MDA Offices

