

Chairman's Update November 2019

I have once again had the privilege to represent you many times since our last council meeting, and many events involve our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the more vulnerable members of our communities get the support they need. A very humbling experience and my heart goes out to them for what they do.

As I have said on numerous occasions it is amazing what goes on in our wonderful county on a daily basis, I would urge our local press would give these events the publicity they deserve and to help raise their profile, what a difference it would make.

The many Queens Awards that our Lord Lieutenant has awarded this year illustrates the vibrancy of Buckinghamshire. I have had the privilege to accompany Henry at many of these ceremonies. And of course I must thank Dev for standing in for me on the occasions I could not attend.

The funeral of PC Andrew Harper was one of those experiences that I will never forget. Being in the Oxford Cathedral within the precincts of Christ Church College where 800 hundred people gathered to show their respects, and with 10,000 people lining the route through Oxford it was a very sad occasion but a beautiful service that was fitting for someone like Andrew who was so tragically murdered whilst just doing his job.

I pay tribute to all of our Blue Light Services who work to help and protect us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in many cases without due regard to some of the dangers they put themselves into just doing their job.

Flying Fortress Ceremony on 10th November recognised the bravery of 9 American Airman who died when their B17 Bomber, The Tomahawk Warrior, crashed in August 1944 when avoiding the aircraft crashing into a heavily populated area of High Wycombe. I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to the Earl and Lady Howe for allowing Penn House, their beautiful house to be used for this fascination occasion, and of course Joe Bradshaw for organising the whole thing. A very successful afternoon enjoyed by all especially the American relatives who came over for this ceremony.

Bucks and Milton Keynes Sports Awards on 22nd November was another great evening when many of the sport related activities across Buckinghamshire are recognised for all the work they do to support. Some of these people may be recovering from Chronic Illness, some have special needs and some are sports persons trying to keep fit. A great occasion.

Royal visit to the Heading Dog for the Deaf Organisation on the 26th November was one of the highlights of my Chairmanship, when you see these dogs and what they do to bring back people from the lonely world of deafness, wow. Princess Anne the Princess Royal opened the New Dog Breeding Centre, and yes puppies everywhere. I know Netta had a similar experience seeing the amazing things these dogs can do, and like Netta my wife wanted to take them all home. I did say no!