



Wokingham Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1AS
Tel: 0118 978 3185 www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: K. Hughes

This Council Meeting is open to the Public and Press
Please notify the Officer or Chair if you wish to record the meeting

18th November 2024

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **Civic Committee** to be held in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** at **7.30pm** on **Monday 25th November 2024** for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the subjects and matters set out in the agenda below.

Yours sincerely

K Hughes
Town Clerk

Contact Officer Graham Winder, Civic Officer
Direct line: 07590 863352 Email: civic@wokingham-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive any declaration of interests from Members on the business about to be transacted.

3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC

The Chair to answer questions raised by members of the Council or public.

This is an opportunity for the people of Wokingham to ask questions of, and make comments to, the Town Council. Members of the public are requested to restrict their questions and comments to three minutes. Questions which are not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question. To ensure an informed response, please send your questions to the Town Clerk at least three working days prior to the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To receive and resolve the Minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of this Committee held on 23rd September 2024 (pages 17054 to 17058), copy attached, as a true and correct record.

5 MONITORING REPORT

To receive the Monitoring Report dated 19th November 2024 (copy attached), for information.

6 COMMITTEE'S BUDGET

To receive an update on the Committee's budget as of 31st October 2024 (copy attached).

7 REMEMBRANCE 2024 FEEDBACK

To discuss and share feedback about the day, it can be considered in future planning (see attached feedback received, plus other relevant items)

8 MAINTAINING LINKS WITH REME

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk about a proposal to mark the 10th anniversary of REME moving from Wokingham, in 2025.

9 INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) A representative from The Wokingham Lions has advised that they have managed to store the beating posts etc. and shared the following: *I suspect that the Lions would be happy to organise another Beating the Bounds on the same terms as this year. It currently looks like the applications for the autumn walk will be significantly down on the normal level which is not surprising as we mailed our normal walkers and perhaps they did Beating the Bounds as an alternative. Receiving a fee for the Beating the Bounds would therefore offset the reduced income from the Autumn Walk."*
- b) Civic Award process:
 - Nick Fellows, Chief Officer at Wokingham Volunteer Centre will join the selection committee in place of Roger Ilett (former District Scout Charman) as Roger has advised he wishes to step down.
 - The President of the Wokingham Lions Club, Andy Goffin will join the selection committee in place of the CEO of Citizen Advice as the new CEO has not responded to a request to join the committee.
 - Philip Bell, Chief Exec at Involve, will join the selection committee as a new member in place of the editor of the Wokingham Today paper as the new editor has not responded to a request to join the committee.
 - Cllrs attending the selection meeting are Cllr K Malvern, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr S Gurney and Cllr R Comber.

10 COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- a) To receive information items raised by members, which have been notified to the Civic Officer in advance.
- b) Identify any specific items for marketing purposes.
- c) The date of the next meeting is Monday 13th January 2025.

Civic Committee: Cllrs Adrian Betteridge, Rachel Bishop-Firth, Phil Cunnington, Warren Dixon, Sally Gurney, Alwyn Jones (Vice-Chair), Keith Malvern (Chair), Adrian Mather and Tony Lack.

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, all persons attending this meeting are hereby notified that this meeting will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is that it acts as an aide-memoir in assisting the clerk of the meeting in the compilation of minutes. The recordings are held in a secure location and deleted once it has been resolved that the minutes are a true and correct record.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies regulations 2014, persons attending this meeting may make their own recordings of the proceedings subject to the Council's Policy on Filming, Recording & Reporting on Council and Committee Meetings (copy available on request).

23rd September 2024 - draft

Minutes of the proceedings of the **CIVIC COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** from 19:30 to 21:02pm.

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr K Malvern (Chair)

Councillors: S Gurney, A Jones (Vice-Chair) and T Lack.

IN ATTENDANCE

Civic Officer

Mayor's Attendant David Dunham

Town Clerk

Town Mayor Cllr Rob Comber

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Betteridge, R Bishop-Firth, and P Cunnington.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

Cllr A Jones asked for it to be noted that he is a member of the Wokingham Lions Club and Wokingham Society.

Cllr K Malvern asked for it to be noted he is a member of Wokingham Society.

Cllr R Comber asked for it to be noted he is an Honorary Lion member.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

No questions were received.

CIVIC COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr A Jones and it was

**RESOLVED
30915**

that the Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 17th June 2024 (pages 16996 to 17000), be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 3rd June 2024 was received and noted.

a) Application of UV film to Town Hall windows to protect its historical items from further damage and preserve for the future.

Officers have now met with Conservation Officer and UV samples are in Place in the Council Chamber, as suggested by him, for further discussion. See agenda item 10 noting a request for additional funds due to increased costs.

b) To consider the purchase of a new mayoral badge and chain of office at some point in the near future.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



A request was made to the Finance and Personnel Committee to put aside £2,000 per year, over the next 5 years for the provision of purchasing a new mayoral chain and badge of office.

A decision was made at the Finance and Personnel meeting on 21st November 2023 to move £8000 from general reserves into an earmarked reserves so that this doesn't have to be considered again in this term of the council.

To consider options in due course.

c) Beating the Bounds Walk

A request was made to the Finance and Personnel Committee for £4,000, to offer to the Wokingham Lions Club to manage and co-ordinate this.

A decision was made at the Finance and Personnel meeting on 21st November 2023 to support this financial request and for it to be taken from general reserves.

See agenda item 7.

d) Consider opportunities at Remembrance to make the wreath laying ceremony more visible to a wider audience

At the June civic meeting, a proposal was made by the Wreath Laying Working Party to incorporate the wreath laying into the Church Service at All Saints to widen the number of people seeing this.

The Civic Officer met with Rev Hannah Higginson in July, together with the Parade Marshal and the Macebearer to outline how this would work, and full details will now be incorporated into this year's plans.

Cllr S Gurney joined the meeting at 19.41pm

The Mayor suggested that, in due course, it would be good to make the service a multi-faith one, if it were possible. The Civic Officer shared that the idea of a multi-faith Church service has been raised previously and even discussed with local ministers. Churches Together in Wokingham representatives have made it clear in the past that they welcome all faiths and no faiths into their Churches, but WTC needs to be mindful that they are all constrained by their own rules and national guidance when considering others taking part.

Councillors understood that moving towards a multi-faith service may not be simple, but they remained keen to explore this further in future years.

e) Consider request for a plaque from Wokingham Lions Club

Following the minutes from the March civic meeting, the Civic Officer advised the Lions Club of the trial plan to include the wreath laying ceremony in the Church service this year, and that the civic committee will reflect on this new approach after Remembrance this year, whilst also taking into account their request for a plaque.

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



To revisit again following Remembrance and then update Wokingham Lions Club accordingly.

COMMITTEE’S BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

A report on the Committee’s budget expenditure to 31st August 2024 was received and noted.

BEATING THE BOUNDS (Agenda item 7)

The committee received the Civic Officer’s report, which included feedback from Councillors about the event, and information from the Wokingham Lions Club about their costs etc.

WTC were informed that 330 had pre-registered for the event, and a further 22 registered on the day. It was recorded that 243 people took part in the walk but it was apparent that a number of people also started from their own homes which means the number of people who took part was higher.

Councillors discussed and agreed that it was a well-attended event, and much positive feedback was received, with many discovering new parts of our town on the walk.

Whilst Councillors understood that there would be a surplus (after the deduction of costs) from the event, that the Wokingham Lions would include in their funds to allocate to local charities, the surplus left available for this purpose was much higher than expected.

Although the intention was for this to be a ‘one-off’ event, Councillors discussed and shared the view that it could be well received at the start of the Town Council’s four-yearly cycles in the first year with incoming new Councillors and also when there are any boundary changes. The Town Clerk advised that a small boundary change is imminent for 2027.

It was agreed that if this event is repeated, it would:

- need to be delivered by the Wokingham Lions again, as WTC do not have the resource capacity
- require significant support from the Councillors on the day to support with the marshalling

The Town Clerk advised that WTC may be able to store beating posts etc if required to be used again, and she and the Civic Officer would confirm this, together with ascertaining from the Wokingham Lions how much money they would be looking to request from WTC to fund this event in the future.

ACTION: Civic Officer and Town Clerk

HERITAGE OPEN DAY FEEDBACK (Agenda Item 8)

The chair invited feedback about the day so it can be considered in future planning and the following was noted and shared:

CHAIR’S INITIALS _____



- a) The event was well-attended, and attracted lots of visitors throughout the day
- b) A lot of positive feedback was received from people visiting
- c) The 1939 fire engine was a big attraction and very popular
- d) Our local historians learnt some valuable new information for their own local history knowledge and were able to share lots of theirs with others
- e) This popular event was supported by 6 Councillors at the Town Hall this year, and 2 Councillors supporting activities at Howard Palmer Gardens. This was much lower than in previous years, and as a result was resourced by more staff than usual. The Town Clerk expressed that this was disappointing as this is a popular event with our residents which requires a significant amount of support to ensure it runs smoothly throughout the day.

ACTION: Civic Officer

10 YEARS SINCE REME LEFT WOKINGHAM (Agenda Item 9)

The Civic Committee noted that the REME is keen to mark this anniversary in locations where they have freedom of the town, i.e. Wokingham, Bordon and Lenham, which has been brought to WTC's attention via one of its Councillors.

The Town Clerk has contacted the REME Corps Secretary to get an indication of their thoughts and is awaiting a reply.

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2025-2026 (Agenda Item 10)

The committee discussed information on the following to consider requesting additional funding for 2025-2026 and the following was agreed:

- a) UV window film – to request an additional £4000 from F&P to cover the increased costs for this work.
- b) Future app updates – to request £1000 from F&P to cover unplanned required system updates.
- c) Christmas Music Costs – to request an additional £500 from F&P to include the payment of a fee to performers.
- d) REME anniversary – no request to be made. Discussions on this were deferred until further information is received.

ACTION: Civic Officer

INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 11)

The following information was received and noted:

- a) A new Mini-Mayor, Celia Chandler, was appointed from Evendons School and joined the Mayor officially for the first time at Heritage Open Day on 14 September.
- b) A student intern worked with the Civic Officer and Arts & Culture Officer from 8 July for 140 hours through the summer offering support and ideas for the community engagement part of the Museum Accreditation work. Their input, knowledge and skills were really valued and utilised, particularly in the delivery of themed open days in August. They enjoyed the opportunity and reaffirmed the view of the Civic Officer and the Arts & Culture Officer that the Museum

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



Accreditation ambition together with its associated engagement work requires significantly more resource than WTC currently has to give to it.

c) Civic Award process:

- A proposed new date for the Civic Award selection meeting is Friday 13 December at midday, if suitable for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr Gurney to attend. This was confirmed suitable. It was noted that Cllr Dixon had also expressed an interest, and the Vice-Chair offered his place to him, if required. The Civic Officer will liaise accordingly.
- Roger Ilett has advised he wishes to step down from the committee. The new Citizen Advice CEO has not responded to a request to join the committee. Therefore, the Civic Officer will seek two new representatives based on the recommendation made at the June civic meeting.

ACTION: Civic Officer

COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 12)

There were no information items.

- a) No information was raised by members.
- b) No information was identified for marketing purposes. However, it was suggested by the Civic Officer that Councillors begin to help sharing information about the Civic Award process to encourage nominations.
- c) It was noted that the next meeting will be on Monday 25th November.

ACTION: Civic Officer

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE _____

CHAIR'S INITIALS _____



WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Monitoring Report: Civic

Date: 18 November 2024

Date Action Agreed	Item for Action (to include any resolution number)	Person Actioning	Proposed Completion Date	Progress
26.09.22	Application of UV film on Town Hall windows to protect its historical items from further damage and preserve for the future.	CO and Buildings Officer likely to be involved	ASAP	<p>F&P approved £10,000 for financial year 2023-2024 which has been carried over.</p> <p>There have been challenges with making contact with Conservation Officer, to ensure this is supported by WBC, hence the delay.</p> <p>Officers have now met with Conservation Officer and UV samples are in place in the Council Chamber, as suggested by him, for further discussion.</p> <p><i>Following an updated quotation, a request was made in Sept 2024. to F&P for an additional £4000, due to increased costs over time.</i></p> <p><i>Awaiting the Conservation Officer to visit and view the UV film on the windows, and to offer a steer for next steps. Followed up again 15. 11.24</i></p>
20.3.23	To consider the purchase of a new mayoral badge and chain of office at some point in the near future	F&P	Not set	<p>Request made to F&P to put aside £2,000 per year, over the next 5 years for the provision of purchasing a new mayoral chain and badge of office.</p> <p><i>Decision was made at F&P 21/11/23 to move £8K from general reserves into an earmarked reserves so that this doesn't have to be considered again in this term of the council.</i></p> <p><i>To consider options in due course. No current actions required.</i></p>

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Monitoring Report: Civic

Date: 18 November 2024

<p>18.09.23</p>	<p>Beating the Bounds walk - an historic event essentially carried out in the past to ensure the knowledge of the parish boundaries was maintained and passed from generation to generation. It was suggested that this could be undertaken in 2024 as a trial, and Councillors should fully support in their own wards.</p> <p>Subsequent discussions revolved around holding this event once every council term with the support of the Wokingham Lions (WL), or following a significant change to the town boundary.</p>	<p>F&P</p>	<p>Not set</p>	<p>Request made to F&P for £4,000, to offer to Wokingham Lions Club to manage and co-ordinate this.</p> <p>Decision was made at F&P 21/11/23 to support this financial request and for it to be taken from general reserves.</p> <p><i>WL have confirmed they are storing the items. Future decision required regarding further iteration of this event and associated budget required. See agenda item 9a</i></p>
<p>20.09.23</p>	<p>Consider opportunities at Remembrance to make the wreath laying ceremony more visible to a wider audience.</p>	<p>Civic</p>	<p>Nov 2024</p>	<p>The wreath laying was incorporated into the Remembrance Church service in November 2024, as agreed by the Civic Committee.</p> <p>See agenda item 7.</p>

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Monitoring Report: Civic

Date: 18 November 2024

18.03.24	Consider request for a plaque from Wokingham Lions Club.			<p>The Civic Officer thanked the Wokingham Lions Club for their proposal and advised them that the Council is currently considering how it can manage the wreath laying ceremony differently and they would be kept updated of any plans that are made.</p> <p>Following the minutes from the March civic meeting, the Civic Officer advised the Lions Club of the trial plan to include the wreath laying ceremony in the Church service this year, and that the civic committee will reflect on this new approach after Remembrance this year, whilst also taking into account their request for a plaque.</p> <p>To revisit again following Remembrance and then update Wokingham Lions Club accordingly.</p> <p><i>Following this year's Remembrance Sunday, Lyn Baily from the Lions Club advised the Civic Officer that they fully supported the wreath laying in the Church and if this continued, they can see no benefit from progressing with this request.</i></p> <p><i>Civic Officer recommends to remove this item from the monitoring report if the committee decides to retain the wreath laying at All Saints Church / external venue to the town hall.</i></p>
23.09.24	To consider how the Remembrance service can be more multi-faith	tbc	Not set	To consider in due course.

WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Monitoring Report: Civic

Date: 18 November 2024

23.09.24	10 years since REME left Wokingham	CO and TC	Not set but aim would be to deliver in 2025	<p>CO, TC and Cllr A Betteridge met with the REME Corps Secretary on 12.11.24.</p> <p>Suggestions of an event in October 2025 to mark the anniversary of the Freedom of the Town.</p> <p>TC to check room availability. Event would be proposed to be outside in market place involving a military display, involving local ACF and some local dignitaries, including senior Army Officers.</p> <p>See agenda item 8.</p>
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WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Monitoring Report: Civic

Date: 18 November 2024

Wokingham Town Council Principles

Enriching Community

Creating and supporting opportunities to bring our community together and help it to thrive.

Fostering Town Pride

Protecting, enhancing and celebrating what's good about our council, our community, our town and our heritage. We will learn from our past, acknowledge where there's room for improvement, and prepare for the future.

Being Sustainable

Working to reduce our negative impact on our local environment and use our financial resources and physical assets as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Involving everyone

Striving to ensure the council's events, activities and democratic processes are open, accessible and welcoming to everyone in our community.

The Council's principles are noted here as a useful reference for members in discussions at Council meetings as they should always be considered.

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/10/2024

Month No: 7

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>302 Civic</u>							
4328 Computer Software	0	720	0	(720)		(720)	
4333 Newsletter	5,211	5,034	5,500	466		466	
4362 Civic Receptions	1,198	111	900	789		789	
4365 Heritage Day	3,205	3,116	3,850	734	131	603	
4369 Remembrance Day	2,911	0	3,200	3,200		3,200	
4370 Christmas Music	0	0	1,250	1,250		1,250	
4371 Honoraria	1,400	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	
4372 Chair's Allowance	1,750	1,975	3,500	1,525		1,525	
4373 Civic Transport	0	35	100	65		65	
4374 Official Gifts	229	150	500	350		350	
4375 Christmas Cards	278	0	300	300		300	
4376 Insignia & Dress	3,800	1,078	3,000	1,922		1,922	
4377 Civic Awards	1,279	165	2,000	1,835		1,835	
4378 Silver Talks	71	9	150	141		141	
4399 Mayor's Sunday	2,975	2,733	5,000	2,267		2,267	
4400 Mayors Chaplain	0	0	175	175		175	
4401 Beating the Bounds	0	4,000	4,000	0		0	
4523 Museum Accreditation	287	429	10,000	9,571		9,571	
4530 Museum Open Days	0	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	
4531 Wokingham Remembers	0	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	
Civic :- Indirect Expenditure	24,593	19,555	47,425	27,870	131	27,739	0
Net Expenditure	(24,593)	(19,555)	(47,425)	(27,870)			
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	0	0			
Expenditure	24,593	19,555	47,425	27,870	131	27,739	
Net Income over Expenditure	(24,593)	(19,555)	(47,425)	(27,870)			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(24,593)	(19,555)					

Remembrance 2024

Feedback notes made by Nikki and Graham

Act of Remembrance (Sunday morning)

- Volker Highways did not stop the traffic heading down Denmark Street)

Town Hall

- DL arrived early at the wrong door which was before any of the honoraries were on the door to welcome people.
- It was a good idea to keep Councillors upstairs (albeit this year as they were having a photo taken – suggestion would be for them to robe and wait upstairs again
- Ensure David is happy to take the VIPS outside and place them in order (if they are gathering the Diamond Jubilee Room again)
- Consider placement of Honorary Constables in the parade
- The police chaplain arrived who we were not expecting, which was a little confusing. He ended up joining the LPA Superintendent in the parade. Consider updating information on invites to firm up that we need to be notified of any additional people wishing to attend.

Parade

- Some members of the Fire Crew joined on the day and walked at the back and a fire engine followed. Consider asking the Watch Manager next year, if they plan to do the same again.

Church

- Seats were not reserved for the Honoraries in the Church.
- Church warden advised that practically they struggled with room inside the Church where the wreath layers were asked to line up at the back.
- Seating for the VIPs went a bit astray – to chat with the Church and think about best time and way for the public to come in (usually after the parade)
- Timings seemed to align. To note, it was 15.35 just before the lighting of the candle
- Wreath laying took approx. 10 minutes
- The choir ran out of music during the wreath laying, there was a pause, then the organ began playing.

General

- There was a drone capturing the event

Remembrance 2024

Feedback received from others

Thank you for organising this event which I know was much appreciated by the High Sheriff's cadet and her family.

High Sheriff PA

Just a couple of thoughts about Sunday, some of which I mentioned.

We obviously need to find somewhere to hold the wreath layers, having fairly important people hanging around at the back of the church was not ideal especially as the parade had to make their way through them. I still wonder if they can stand them as a 'guard of honour' inside the porch, assuming that the flags are outside.

I think perhaps the perfect weather added to the number of people trying to attend, but also one hopes that generally the public are becoming more away of 'Remembering'. The general public seemed to arrive as a surge on mass before the parade and I wonder whether they were directed by the police – we really need for the majority of the public to enter after the parade so that we can ensure that we can seat all the uniformed groups first, so in other words, Can the police hold them to one side?

Church warden

Thanks for an excellent event!

My only negative comment (otherwise everything was 5*!) was the mayor inspecting the whole parade at the end of the event. Should the councillors and past mayors etc really be inspected and wait in the cold(?)

A Past Mayor

I do thank WTC for the invite to take part on Sunday as the borough's honorary alderman. It was, as usual, a good way for the town to commemorate Remembrance Day.

I support the idea of laying the wreaths at All Saints rather than within the Town Hall which allows more of the residents to see this part of the ceremony. A truly outside event at a memorial would of course be even better - I recall some 20 years ago discussion about a new memorial within the market square which never got agreement.

One thought. When the wreaths are being laid in All Saints, it would be good for someone to announce each wreath - or pairs - so those present are aware of the organisations that are laying a wreath?

WBC Honorary Alderman

I thought that the format of the service was lovely and more meaningful for everyone at the church. Definitely something to repeat I would suggest. Very well organised too.

High Steward

I thought I'd drop you a quick email to thank you for allowing me to represent The Barkham Hookers at today's remembrance parade. From start to finish it was super organised and the wreath laying instructions were perfect and easy to understand. Tea and cakes were yummy too - thank you!!

Barkham Crochet Hookers

Thank you for organising and having us this year. It was very well organised and we all enjoyed the event.

Police Cadets

10 | VIEWPOINTS

From the Chamber

Cllr Andy Croy

**T**HOMAS Hallard Mead

Was killed in the trenches in July 1916. He was 26 years old.

At the time of his death, his parents, William and Sarah, were living at 3 Broad Street, Wokingham, now part of the small block of flats on the site of the old Natwest building. His death is one of many recorded on the website www.wokinghamremembers.com, which I urge readers to visit.

Thomas had emigrated to Canada prior to the outbreak of the First World War.

His Canadian Army records show that he passed his medical within the month of war being declared in Europe and was enlisted a few weeks later as a gunner on 22nd September 1914, Britain having entered the war on 4th August. His unit sailed for Europe on the 3rd October. It is perhaps not surprising that he volunteered so quickly as his records show under prior military service he declared that he had served for 3 years in the Berkshire Yeomanry, the modern equivalent of the Army Reserve, while living in Wokingham.

He was wounded and hospitalised in April 2015 but was able to remain on active service. In October 2015 he was awarded a temporary commission to second lieutenant, having obtained a transfer to the 'Imperial Forces', namely the Royal Field Artillery, the precursor to the Royal Artillery.

Goodness knows how his mum and dad, my grandfather's cousin, felt on receiving the news of his death the following year. By 1916, awareness of the scale of casualties was common knowledge. At the start of the year, the government had introduced conscription, to compel young men to go to war, such was the shortage of volunteers and the requirement for ever more soldiers while the grim toll of deaths had been making itself felt in homes across our area. But nothing can have really prepared them for the awful news.

I know how it affected my grandparents. They were much younger than Thomas but they moved to Wokingham to work for Thomas' dad. They were very aware of the huge loss to the family created by the death of their elder cousin. As a child I can recall my grandmother's absolute horror at the seminal TV programme - 'The World at War' - in the early 1970s. Her thoughts on war - and its effect on her family - were also coloured by the second world war which once again saw Meads ripped away from Berkshire and Hampshire to death and imprisonment in Asia, Africa and Europe.

As a Wokingham town councillor, one is expected to attend the Remembrance Parade organised by Wokingham Town Council. This year the parade was held on Sunday 10th and proceeded from the Town Hall to St Paul's, along Rose Street. I must admit to having very mixed feelings about this. A parade made far more sense when there was a body of men who had served and who were willing to, once again, parade in honour of their fallen comrades in arms.

It would be the politically correct thing to say that the parade, and church service, were well attended and supported. I am not so sure. It is true that that many people watched the parade but I have the distinct feeling that most were there to watch their children, who were taking part as part of various brownie, cub, scout and cadet organisations rather than there for the parade in its own right. It made me wonder if a parade is the right thing for the Town Council to organise. I appreciate it is a spectacle of sorts and people may enjoy a band proceeding down Rose Street and Peach Street but enjoyment is for carnivals, not Remembrance. It feels to me that the 11 o'clock gathering and silence are a far, far better act of Remembrance. Very little fuss. Reflective silence.

Once at St Paul's, I remained as focussed as possible on Thomas Hallard Mead and the sadness which his loss had caused my grandparents. I will remember him.

Andy Croy is a Wokingham Town Councillor for Norreys East ward.

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10 | **VIEWPOINTS**

You've Got Us, small advertising in weekington today

WEEKINGTON TODAY Tuesday November 19, 2024

From the Chamber
Clr Andy Croy

Written by Andrew Broad

The fact is that the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War is a time for reflection and remembrance. It is a time to think about the sacrifices made by so many young men and women, and the impact of the war on the world as a whole.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to remember the lessons learned from the war. It is a time to think about the importance of peace, and the role of the United Nations in maintaining global stability.

It is also a time to think about the impact of the war on the economy. The war led to a period of economic growth, but it also led to a period of economic hardship for many people.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the government in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of investment in infrastructure and education.

It is also a time to think about the role of the private sector in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the media in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of transparency and accountability.

It is also a time to think about the role of the public sector in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of social services and the welfare state.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the arts in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of culture and the creative industries.

Andy Croy is a Wokingham Town Councillor for Berrow Hill ward.

Your letters

Send your thoughts to letters@weekington.today

Written by Gordon White

NOVEMBER is a significant month in the gardening and wildlife world, such is generally the turning point between autumn and winter and the first frosts of winter.

It is a time to think about the impact of the weather on the garden. It is a time to think about the importance of winter maintenance, such as clearing the paths and the driveway.

It is also a time to think about the impact of the weather on the wildlife. It is a time to think about the importance of providing shelter and food for the birds and the mammals.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the garden in supporting the environment. It is a time to think about the importance of biodiversity and the role of the garden in supporting the local ecosystem.

It is also a time to think about the role of the garden in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of the horticultural industry and the role of the garden in supporting the local economy.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the garden in supporting the community. It is a time to think about the importance of the garden as a place of social interaction and the role of the garden in supporting the local community.

It is also a time to think about the role of the garden in supporting the culture. It is a time to think about the importance of the garden as a place of artistic inspiration and the role of the garden in supporting the local culture.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the garden in supporting the future. It is a time to think about the importance of the garden as a place of environmental stewardship and the role of the garden in supporting the future generations.

Don't Let The Poppo Die

November, November is a time of reflection and remembrance. The fallen heroes of all conflicts and wars.

They gave their lives and sacrificed everything. We must with pride, your people too.

Remember the dead but don't forget the living too. They fought to save your lives for you.

Don't forget the poppy die. Please don't let the poppy die.

Written by David Harrison



As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the poppy in supporting the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of the horticultural industry and the role of the poppy in supporting the local economy.

It is also a time to think about the role of the poppy in supporting the community. It is a time to think about the importance of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and the role of the poppy in supporting the local community.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the poppy in supporting the culture. It is a time to think about the importance of the poppy as a symbol of artistic inspiration and the role of the poppy in supporting the local culture.

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From the opposition
Clr Pauline Jørgensen

Written by Pauline Jørgensen

WHILE Labour's decision to leave the club of working people, their decision to withdraw has to be going to put up pressure to the government.

It is a time to think about the impact of the decision on the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of investment in infrastructure and education.

It is also a time to think about the impact of the decision on the community. It is a time to think about the importance of social services and the welfare state.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the decision in supporting the culture. It is a time to think about the importance of the decision as a symbol of artistic inspiration and the role of the decision in supporting the local culture.

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Join the Family First Tax
Written by Family First Tax

DEPENDING on the decision to leave the club of working people, their decision to withdraw has to be going to put up pressure to the government.

It is a time to think about the impact of the decision on the economy. It is a time to think about the importance of investment in infrastructure and education.

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We have to bear that your 'Send us your views on issues relating to the borough' (in 200 events or less) to Wokingham Today, Town House, 211 Kings Road, Reading RG2 0JG or email: letters@weekington.today

We reserve the right to edit letters. Views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the paper.

Time for kindness
Sarah Browning

Written by Sarah Browning

Be kind to yourself

Let's face it, the holiday season often starts with you. You are the one who has to be kind to yourself.

It is a time to think about the importance of self-care and the role of the holiday season in supporting the local economy.

It is also a time to think about the importance of the holiday season as a symbol of artistic inspiration and the role of the holiday season in supporting the local culture.

As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the holiday season in supporting the future. It is a time to think about the importance of the holiday season as a symbol of environmental stewardship and the role of the holiday season in supporting the future generations.

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As we mark the centenary, it is important to think about the role of the holiday season in supporting the community. It is a time to think about the importance of the holiday season as a symbol of social services and the welfare state.

Picture of the week



Time for kindness
Sarah Browning

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