

As I write this, I wonder when we can look forward to warmer weather for more than one day!

The flowers, trees and hedges are springing into life, the lambs are born, all we need is warmer weather without the unpleasant wind.

On May 23rd, I will hand over the Chairmanship of Newark and Sherwood District Council.

It has been a busy year and a very special year.

Events have occurred which I never could have imagined 12 months ago.

In early Summer 2022, we enjoyed the Celebration of HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Residents held parties, happy to celebrate both the Jubilee and freedom following a 2-year lockdown.

Then, on September 8th, 2022, we received the sad news that HM the Queen had passed away, at the time I was watching the Tour of Britain Cycle race.

The following morning, I laid flowers at Newark Cemetery and in the Parish Church on behalf of Newark and Sherwood District Council and opened and signed the Condolence book at Newark and Sherwood District Council.

I am sure this date will forever be in our minds, as we will recall where we were on that sad day.

A few days later I had the honour of reading the Proclamation at Castle House proclaiming our new King, Charles 111.

A service followed at Southwell Minster.

As my Civic year draws to an end, I will be attending a Service of Celebration at Southwell Minster on May 7th, following the Coronation of Kings Charles 111.

I can only say it has been an absolute honour and privilege to take part in these important events:

A Royal Platinum Jubilee; a Royal Death; Proclamation of the new King Charles III; and the Coronation Service.

I also attended the service in Newark Parish Church prior to the two exiled Polish President's return journey to Poland for burial, following their safe keeping for many years in Newark Cemetery.

To sum up - A very special Civic year.

Now to Parish matters-

I am aware of the complaints from residents regarding potholes.
I am aware NCC are trying to fill holes in as quickly as possible.
We have had a lot of rain, this in conjunction with the amount of salt which must be put down, cuts through small cracks and lifts the tarmac.
The quickest way is for you to report potholes as you can give an exact location, you are then given a HAMS number, which you are able to track.
The number is 0300 300 8080

I understand the crossing barriers have failed again, I will continue to press for a solution, something which they find difficult to do!

I have requested an interactive sign for Goverton, we will see what happens and apply again if not successful.

After May, any outstanding issues, will be dealt with, I will have more time next year when I am not attending Civic events.

My thanks to Bleasby Parish Councillors who have worked so hard this year, always ensuring you are on top of village issues and giving your time so willingly..

Finally, I am sorry that Cllr Blaney has decided to retire from the District Council, I have enjoyed working with him over the past 24 years and wish him 'All the very Best'.

In the meantime, enjoy the village events to celebrate the Coronation.