

Agenda item 6

For information: An update from the Mayor

Written by: Councillor Katie Vigar



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Engagements

Wednesday 11 January

At the invitation of Bradford on Avon Friends of Palestine, I attended an online meeting with the Mayor of Tubas, Husam Daraghmeh.

Town Councillors Alex Kay, Sarah Gibson and Simon McNeill-Ritchie were also at the meeting.

The town has a friendship link with Tubas, and the idea is to meet again soon to share ideas about issues in common.

Tuesday 21 February

The town's annual pancake race was as much fun as ever, with a large crowd of onlookers and 14 participants from local businesses.

It was exciting to see Bradford on Avon get a mention, with footage from our race on the national BBC television news later in the day!

Saturday 25 February

Despite the cold wind and grey sky, lots of people attended the Ukrainian event in Westbury Garden to mark one year since the Russian invasion, as well as the Masnytsia festival.

I was honoured to be part of this occasion which was an important moment of reflection on a year that has brought so much pain and demanded so much sacrifice by the Ukrainian people.

A wreath was placed on the war memorial by a local Ukrainian student at St Laurence - and a choir sang the Ukrainian anthem.

Particularly moving was the planting of some Kalyna trees given to the town by our local Ukrainian residents – now numbering well over 100 - as a thank you for the hospitality offered to them.

The Kalyna is the Ukrainian's national tree, representing homeland.

Full Council update – Tuesday 7 March 2023

## For information

I would encourage everyone to read the words on the plaque which is beside the trees (close to the Tourist Information building) as they are very moving. I'd like to thank our Ukrainian residents for this gift which will forever remind us of their contribution to our town at such a difficult time in their lives.

This also is an opportunity for me to thank everyone in Bradford who has done so much to support our Ukrainian residents in so many ways.

Following the ceremonial part of the occasion, pancakes were enjoyed by all, cooked by Ukrainian chef, Iryna Malenko.

Saturday 4 March

I'm looking forward to attending the Journeyman Theatre production of 'Breeding Grounds' at St Margaret's Hall with Councillor Alison Potter; at the invitation of Bradford on Avon Quakers.

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Becky Addy Wood

During February, the Town Council began the final stage of the planned tree safety work on trees affected by Ash Dieback in Becky Addy Wood.

The work – which involved some felling, some monolithing and some branch removal - was on trees adjacent to the public footpath and the road.

However, following the High Court's decision to impose a temporary injunction, the Town Council has halted the tree safety work in Becky Addy Wood.

The temporary injunction was granted on a 'without notice' basis and the Town Council was not represented in court.

With the agreement of both parties involved in the dispute, the temporary injunction has been extended to 7 April.

Wiltshire Council has extended the closure of the public footpath.

In its role as landowner, Bradford on Avon Town Council's responsibility is public safety and the long-term health of the woodland.