



## MAYOR'S OCTOBER MESSAGE

Your Council met on 21 October at the Queen Elizabeth's School when, in addition to attending to a full administrative and business agenda, we were addressed by a member of the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association. As hopefully we shall continue across Europe to safely emerge from the worst effects of Covid-19, we can look forward to renewing our friendship with Wertheim in Germany, Salon de Provence in France, Szentendre in Hungary and Gubbio in Italy, and our children will have the opportunity for some overseas visits.

We have been asked recently to clarify some of the major responsibilities of the Town Council and about our involvement in the Afghan resettlement programme. In a nutshell the Town Council is required statutorily to look after the community buildings, open spaces, allotments and play areas it owns. But, in addition, Council will raise other issues such as road safety, traffic and parking and footpath concerns, to name but a few of many, with the appropriate departments at District and County council level. We are helped in this by having a number of Town Councillors who also represent Godmanchester on the Huntingdon District and Cambridge County councils. Similarly, while we do not own housing stock and are not able to directly support Afghan resettlement, I can report that this excellent initiative is being co-ordinated in our area by Huntingdon District Council.

Our exciting Community Nursery at Park Lane goes from strength to strength. It was host to the annual Town Show at end of September. Participants displayed a spectacular array of flowers vegetables, fruit, cookery, preserves, photography, handicraft and art. In addition, there was a special section for our children and the Best in Show prize was awarded to primary school pupil Amelia Shaw for her Covid poem. Congratulations to all.

The Nursery then held its Traditional Apple Day, where its unique collection of heritage trees produced a fine and varied array of apples, unavailable elsewhere in our area. Replete after a hog roast lunch and a glass or two of cider and laden with bags of apples, over 600 citizens went home after a great day out in the sun. We thank all the Nursery volunteers who made this event so special and hope the weather is as kind at our next major public event: Remembrance Day on 14 November.

Finally, many of you will have participated in our formal Civic Service at St Mary's Church on 10 October. This rite was historically centred on seeking assistance in ensuring that Council was of sound mind, ever-wise and judicious in its decision-making. Enough said. But now I believe it provides an excellent opportunity for us to recognise the role that our numerous organisations play in making our Town what it is today. From our youth associations to the Senior Citizens Club; spiritual and physical welfare; education and benevolence; sustenance and shelter - all this and more is offered by a host of selfless volunteers and societies for which we are all both grateful and proud. Godmanchester is a great place to live and bring up a family, none the least due to what its people put into it, and we thank them all.