

Community work to help others praised

Basingstoke and Deane Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor is enjoying a busy year in office meeting people from many areas of the community who are “working together for the good of all”.

That is her theme for the Mayoral year and she has been pleased to see it put into practice with the good work that goes on throughout the borough.

“I have loved to see different businesses, charities, faith groups, officers and service providers cooperating to make life better for people,” said Cllr Taylor.

“Health, culture, families, children, youth, the elderly, sport, music – every aspect of life is covered by local people willing to give their time and energy to help others.”

By the end of her Mayoral year this May, Cllr Taylor and her Consort, husband Dr Andy Taylor will have attended a great many engagements around the borough and beyond, including visits to Basingstoke’s twin towns – Alençon in France and Euskirchen in Germany.

“We were made very welcome

in both places and treated with extraordinary honour.

“Basingstoke means a great deal to these towns and it would be good to see more local organisations exchanging visits in the future,” she said.

“I have had a wonderful year as Mayor. My husband Andy pulled back from many of his usual activities so that we could do as much as possible together.

“As he has been my chaplain (and chauffeur) too, this has worked really

well and we have thoroughly enjoyed all of the visits, duties, meetings, services, civic functions and entertainments – even the council meetings!

“When I hand over to the next Mayor, Andy and I will look back on hundreds of happy memories of one of the most fulfilling periods of our lives.”

To find out more about the Mayor visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/the-mayor



The Mayor, Cllr Diane Taylor meets Castle Hill Primary School pupils Medha Bhat and Zac Wells, Executive Head John Martin and Deputy Head Rebecca Willmouth.

Step into spring



Spring is just around the corner and what better way to explore the borough than on one of our free health walks.

Health walks are a great way of getting active, improving fitness and meeting new friends. And this year we’ve added two new walks to our programme to give you even more choice. Beggarwood will now have a walk on the first and third Wednesday of the month leaving the community centre at 11am. Alternatively, from May, a Winklebury walk will leave the Sycamore Centre at 11.15am on the first and third Monday of the month.

For the full list of health walks available visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/healthwalks

Boost for community store

The community store in Preston Candover has a new decking area which links the building to the outdoor space by the village hall, after receiving support from the borough council.

The outdoor terrace will extend the usable space for the popular coffee area at the newly-built store and was built with £4,200 from council funding to improve community facilities.

Local people raised £225,000 from donations, a community share offer and grants for the well-used community-run village facility which opened last June. It provides a grocery shop, post office, community coffee area and central meeting point for local people of all ages.

The community-led social enterprise has the support of many local volunteers who work to maintain the smooth running of the store.

Management Committee member Lucy Muncey said: “The new decking area has extended the community coffee area outdoors to make a fantastic new meeting place for local residents and visitors.

“It has already proved popular and is a really nice way for friends, walkers, cyclists and community

groups to relax and socialise in the fresh air on a sunny day.

“We’re delighted with the feedback and I’m sure the new terrace will really come into its own again this spring and summer.”



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