

# HERE AND NOW in HUNGERFORD

No. 38 in a series of regular briefings from the Council

JULY 2016

## HUNGERFORD IN BLOOM

The judging for the Hungerford in Bloom took place on a sunny Saturday. The judges, Ron Rowland and Sheila Glass toured our town and visited a number of wonderful gardens around the town. They were impressed with the displays that they saw, and had some deliberation to agree the winners from the high standard of entries. Cllr Margaret Wilson wishes to thank everyone that took part and Rod Desmeules for his continued enthusiasm and help in this competition. Cllr Wilson will be in touch with the winners and the presentation of the awards will be on a date in September.

## PICNIC IN THE FIELD

Hungerford celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday on 18th June with a "picnic in the field". This Hungerford Town Council organised event took place on the Triangle Field, with around 300 people attending. Many organisations contributed to make the event very enjoyable, with extracts sung from the Children's Theatre production of Peter Pan and performances from pupils at John O'Gaunt School. Primary school children collected their celebratory coins from the Deputy Major and all enjoyed the Bouncy Castle. The Town Council would like to thank all the local businesses who supported the raffle with nearly 30 prize donations.

## RED QUADRANT VISITS THE LIBRARY

You may be aware that West Berkshire Council is conducting a Needs Assessment for all the libraries in West Berkshire. Last Friday, 8th July, Red Quadrant, the consultant company selected by WBC to conduct this independent assessment, visited Hungerford Library. The Friends of Hungerford Library mobilised the town and created a buzzing atmosphere, with over 100 people making a visit. The craft and chat group were busy creating and children from Kintbury primary school paid a visit. There was opportunity for all the different user groups to speak to Wendy Crosson-Smith, the lead consultant. We await the outcome of the assessment which will report back at the end of August.

## DOG MESS IS PROVING TO BE A MESSY PROBLEM!

There are many responsible dog owners who carry bags to dispose of the dog mess in one of the appropriate bins placed around Hungerford. However, there has been a

rise in the amount of dog fouling, with complaints made to the Council about fouling around Hungerford and the canal. Dog mess is not only unsightly, it can carry a number of diseases, including toxocarasis – a round worm.

So please be a responsible dog owner. Remember "plastic bag it, then bin it!"

## PIGEON MESS IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE!

I have had to dodge the pigeon droppings falling from the perches whilst walking down the High Street. Similar complaints have reached the council office. The pigeon numbers in Hungerford are slowly rising with pigeons perching and roosting around the High Street. They appear to be unafraid of trains and can be seen sitting under the railway bridge, as well as perching on window sills and roof tops. But with increasing numbers comes increasing excrement. This does not cause a risk to our health, though can lead to slips and it is unpleasant to look at in our beautiful town. In an attempt to clear up the area HTC are looking at ways to manage the pigeons! If you, or your property are affected please contact the HTC office.



- Compiled by Keith Knight, Deputy Mayor of Hungerford on behalf of Martin Crane, OBE, Mayor of Hungerford.