

TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS for MEETING MARCH 30th 2022

1. March 3rd 2022 MEETING NEW RESIDENTS FROM HONG KONG

This was a meeting with new residents from Hong Kong held at Trinity Church. The meeting was set up to allow new residents to meet the Mayor and find out about Earley. Councillor Hare and I attended the meeting. It was well-attended meeting with around 45 new residents.

Some had settled here around a year ago, but others had only arrived in the last two months. The new residents were very keen to hear about our facilities in Earley and wanted to be involved in our community. Some have already volunteered to become litter pickers with EASI and one has already joined the Wednesday volunteers with Graham Hawker, our Park Ranger. One was keen to find out how local government works and would like to attend one of our meetings.

After welcoming everyone and outlining a little of the geography, history and the facilities of our town there was a useful question and answer session. We were also able to give out information about the Crescent Centre courses which may be of use to help with CV's, language courses etc. which will help with job hunting. We were also able to direct them for information and help from various sources – first the WBC website (this has a useful video in Cantonese especially for new residents for Hong Kong), followed by our own website and Helpshop. Some were having problems with landlords, so it was useful to inform them about the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Coffee and cake were served to make the meeting more sociable and give everyone the opportunity to meet socially and ask questions informally. The meeting was very well received, and the group has asked for more meetings in the future. There is an expectation that more people will be arriving from Hong Kong over the summer months.

2. March 23rd WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – PARK UNITED REFORM CHURCH

This was a very moving service given that the whole service takes place on the same day throughout the world. The theme this year was to trust in God at times of suffering. It was very poignant as we prayed for all the people in the Ukraine.

3. March 18th THE COVID PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED

I attended this event at the Town Council offices, Radstock Lane, along with other councillors as Cllr. Brock, our own GP, unveiled the plaque as a tribute to all those who gave so much help during the pandemic.

4. March 19th SERVICE TO EARLEY AWARDS

I awarded the Service to Earley Awards at an event at the Radstock Lane Community Centre. This was attended by many councillors, senior officers and family members of the recipients.