

# Labour Rose

Church Ward-Reading East

## Reading Council declare climate emergency

**Reading Council recently declared a climate emergency, promising to take steps to address the growing environmental issue.**

One of the aims is to eliminate Reading's carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 with a wide range of measures to be embraced and pursued to achieve this. Carbon dioxide emissions in Reading have fallen by 41% since 2005, the 20th highest reduction in the UK, while the council has reduced its own emissions by 53% since 2008.

Reading Council will also be becoming plastic free after another recent motion was passed. Plastic straws, packets and cutlery will all be on the banned list at the Council after Councillors voted to stop single use plastic. The motion pledges a number of ways to achieve the reduction, including phasing out the purchase of single use plastics in all services commissioned by the council. Church Ward Councillors showed their commitment to a cleaner, greener Reading with a recent clean-up of Shinfield Rec off of Linden Road.



CLRs Pearce & McEwan with activists on a recent clean up at Shinfield Rec.

The park will also soon see some new lighting installed as well as more bins and reminders for dog owners to clear up any mess left.

## Education on the up in South Reading!



Cllr Pearce saying goodbye to John Cosgrove at Christ The King.

**There has been good news for Education in Church Ward recently.**

Ridgeway Primary School on Hillbrow (where Ruth is a Governor) received a Good Ofsted rating, fully deserved after the great work of the staff led by Head teacher Jacky Steele. Congratulations also to Barry Wren and his team at New Directions Adult education service located on Northumberland Avenue who also recently received a Good Ofsted rating.

There was also a farewell to a Whitley education institution. John Cosgrove had been head at Christ The King School for 13 years, helping countless children get the best start to their education through his dedication to inclusivity, passion and determination.

Whilst in our secondary schools, Reading Girls recorded their best EVER results. Progress 8 score was 0.89, meaning the girls achieved almost a grade better than their targets on average. This included 74% of students getting grade 4-9 in English and Maths.

Down the road at JMA particularly impressive results (Grade 9-4 or equivalent) were achieved in Performing Arts with (100%), Physics, with (94%) Catering (71%), Music (77%), Sport (89%), Business (89%), Biology (71%), Chemistry (76%) and Media (83%).

## Councillors back cap on School uniform prices

**School uniform costs have become an excessive burden to parents across Reading, and Labour Councillors are urging the Government to take action.**

Back in 2015 the Conservative Government promised to issue guidance for schools on uniforms, which would see binding rules for schools to ensure fairer costs. But four years later, despite repeated urging by Labour MPs, there has been no sign of the promised action. Schools are suffering after years of Tory cuts to their own budgets. This has left them desperate to raise funds however they can, and lacking in resources to help parents in the way they would like. Meanwhile, with local government bearing the brunt of austerity, the Council can no longer provide the school uniform grant, which once supported disadvantaged families to help deal with these costs.

There are simple solutions. Being allowed to buy a generic uniform with a sew-on logo should be common practice. If the government provided the guidance promised and reversed the disgraceful cuts to council and school budgets, the affordability of school uniforms could be guaranteed and parents protected.



Excessive uniform prices

## Mayor Woodward!

**Long serving Church Ward Councillor Paul Woodward will spend this year as Mayor of Reading!**

Paul was sworn in as the new Mayor in the summer where he paid tribute to the "exemplary" work of his predecessor Debs Edwards and said: "Reading is a town worth representing. I am honoured to have been chosen. The promotion of Reading as a tourist destination is something I want to sort out this year." Paul has chosen to support three local charities for his term between 2019 and 2020. They are: Reading Family Aid which supports disadvantaged families with children,

South Central Ambulance Trust who provide traditional 999 emergency services, and Sport In Mind who use sport to aid those experiencing mental health issues.



Mayor Woodward being sworn in



Cllrs Pearce, Woodward & McEwan out campaigning

## Church Ward News

**It has been a busy few months as usual for Church ward Councillors.**

Thousands of the South Reading calendar were delivered, the fun day was attended, meetings with local charities and organisations as well as resident meetings. We are seeking community use for a piece of unused land between Staverton Road & The Lawns, and will be investigating speed calming measures for Cressingham Road and nearby roads.

### Cllr Paul Woodward

☎ 07776238861

✉ Paul.Woodward  
4church@gmail.com

✉ 7 Sherwood Street,  
Reading  
RG30 1LJ



### Cllr Ashley Pearce

☎ 07877082581

✉ ashleypearce84  
@yahoo.co.uk

✉ 99 Rodway Road  
Reading  
RG30 6EJ



### Cllr Ruth McEwan

☎ 07772720499

✉ Ruth918@  
btinternet.com

✉ 23 Bulmershe Road  
Reading  
RG1 5RH



### Matt Rodda MP

☎ 0118 2062966

✉ <http://www.mattrodda.net>

✉ House of Commons,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA



Remember, as well as our regular canvassing sessions to seek resident views, we have our regular advice surgery on the first Saturday of every month at the Whitley Cafe on Northumberland Avenue from 10.30am-12pm. Early next year we will also be holding surgeries across the Ward so watch out for flyers saying exactly where and when dropping through your doors.