
“She looked with great admiration at every neat house, and at all the chandler’s shops which they passed.” Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1818), Ch. 26 (edited).

“The government of towns corporate was altogether in the hands of traders and artificers.”
Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, Book I, Chap X, Part II.

This biographical survey of the Mayors of Newbury was prepared with the kind help of many people, including the descendants of former Mayors and the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Assistance from Jane Burrell, David Peacock, Sue Ellis, Brian Sylvester, Judith Thomas, Phil Wood, Penelope Stokes, Deirdre Duff, Steve Miller, and Roy Tubb is gratefully acknowledged. The value of the many reports from the Newbury Weekly News will be evident. Notes by Roy Tubb in his publications have been helpful. Margo Payne (Mayor in 2018) kindly supplied her presentation on the Lady Mayors of Newbury to the Newbury District Field Club in 2023.

The survey reflects the development of English local government and changes in the role of the Mayor in that. The constant factors have been that the Mayor is chief citizen of Newbury, is elected for one year by his/her fellow Councillors, and chairs the Full Council.

Initially, the Mayor was Chief Magistrate. The introduction of elections to boroughs in 1835 resulted in the borough being concerned mainly with the improvement and betterment of Newbury, so that each Mayor concerned himself with one or other betterment project. In the 20th century, the magistrate function became the responsibility of statutory magistrates. From 1974, the Mayor became limited to his/her present ceremonial and honorific function. With the establishment of Newbury Town Council in 1997, the functions of the Mayor before 1974 became divided in 2000 between the elected Mayor, the elected Leader of the Council, and the senior officer with the title Chief Executive Officer.

Input from readers since the survey was first published in 2018 have been of great value in improving the quality. Further information, comment, and corrections are always welcome. All information is acknowledged. Where indicated, information on living former Mayors is provided by themselves.

In this survey, the year is the year of election. Until 1834, Mayors were elected on the 21st September. From then until 1947, the date was 9th November. From 1949, elections have been held in May. A proportion of each Mayor’s activities therefore occurs in the following calendar year.

Dates of birth are approximate to one year when they have been calculated from a person’s age at a known date. Dates of death from 1837 are generally taken from death records or newspaper obituaries.

The numbers (I), (II), etc are to distinguish successive Mayors of the same name.

The bulk of the portraits have been kindly supplied by Newbury Town Council.

Readers interested in a narrative history of Newbury are referred to *The Story of Newbury*, by Dr David Peacock (2011), which is still current.

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1596

Bartholomew Yate (died 1604)¹. Mercer.² Clothier, according to Walter Money.¹ The First Mayor of Newbury, nominated in the 1596 Charter. Also Mayor in 1604. His death is attributed by Walter Money to the Plague.

¹ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 149.

² West Sussex Record Office.

1597

No Mayor is recorded.

1598

Gabriel Cox (I) (1541-1624).² Appointed an Alderman in the 1596 Charter. Father of Gabriel Cox (II), Mayor in 1627.

1599

William Chamber (died 1621).³ Clothier.⁴ Appointed a Burgess in the 1596 Charter. Also Mayor in 1608.

1600

No Mayor is recorded.

1601

John Chamberlyne. His will is dated 1636.⁵ Not mentioned in the 1596 Charter, but listed as a burgess in the 1599 Ordinances.⁶ Probably the John Chamberlain who is known to have resided in Donnington Castle between 1623 and 1629, initially as a tenant. This John Chamberlain was the son of Brian Chamberlain (died 1599), an eminent Newbury clothier and a signatory of the clothiers' petition to Henry VIII in c. 1540. It is not known when John first leased the Castle, or whether he subsequently bought it, or when in the period 1629-36 it was transferred to the John Packer, the owner during the siege of 1644-46.⁷

1602

Edward Holmes (died 1606).⁸ Clothier. Appointed an Alderman in the 1596 Charter.

1603

No Mayor is recorded.

1604

Bartholomew Yate. See 1596.

1605

Henry Cox (1539-1608). Mercer.¹ Brother of Gabriel Cox (I), Mayor in 1598. Appointed an Alderman in the 1596 Charter.

¹ Walter Money, *Notes on the Parish Registers of Newbury* (Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 1896).

² Margaret Edwards, descendant, informant on all the Cox Mayors.

³ Walter Money, op. cit. (1896).

⁴ Pat Naylor, *Berkshire Archdeaconry Probate Records 1480-1652* (Berkshire Record Society, 2011).

⁵ Pat Naylor, op. cit.

⁶ John Chamberlyne and Anthony Child (1614), together with the Mayors mentioned in the 1596 Charter, are the only Mayors listed in the 1599 Ordinances for the Borough.

⁷ Henry Godwin, *Donnington Castle* (1873). Walter Money, *A Lay Subsidy Roll granted by Parliament 3 and 4 Car. I. and levied 1629* (Reading Mercury 22/7/1916). Information from David Peacock. Walter Money, *The First and Second Battles of Newbury and the Siege of Donnington Castle* (1884), pp 270-1.

⁸ Walter Money, *Notes on the Parish Registers of Newbury* (Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 1896).

1606, 1607

No Mayor is recorded.

1608

William Chamber. See 1599.

1609

No Mayor is recorded.

1610

Roger Weston (died 1620).² Clothier. Not mentioned in the 1596 Charter. Apprentice and probably nephew of Philip Kistell (1519-92), clothier trained by John Winchcombe II. Philip Kistell was the father of John Kistell (died 1612), Burgess in the 1596 Charter and therefore Roger Weston's cousin.³

Roger was the father of Philip Weston, Mayor in 1645 and 1652.

1611

Thomas Goddard (died 1621). Liner draper.⁴ Appointed a Burgess in the 1596 Charter. Also Mayor in 1620.

1612

No Mayor is recorded.

1613

Richard Waller (1580-1656). Glover.⁵ Not mentioned in the 1596 Charter. Father of William Waller, Mayor in 1659. Also Mayor in 1623, 1632, and 1638.

1614

Anthony Child. Not mentioned in the 1596 Charter, but listed as a burgess in the 1599 Ordinances. At one point, he leased land at Sandleford.⁶ An Anthony Child who died in Newbury in 1688, perhaps related, was a brazier.⁷

1615, 1616

No Mayor is recorded.

1617

John Hunter Sr. Not mentioned in the 1596 Charter.

1618

¹ Pat Naylor, op. cit.

² Walter Money, op. cit. (1896).

³ Philip Kistell had a sister Margaret Weston, and Roger Weston is described in Philip's will as his "servant". Information from David Peacock.

⁴ Pat Naylor, op. cit.

⁵ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – St Michael's Road.

⁶ Wikipedia entry on Sandleford.

⁷ Probate records research by Jameson Wooders (Newbury District Field Club).

No Mayor is recorded.

1619

Thomas Newman. Haberdasher and draper.¹ Appointed a Burgess in the 1596 Charter. He married Ann Kendrick, sister of the cloth merchant John Kendrick (1573-1624) of Newbury, Reading, and London, the founder of Kendrick's charity. Thomas and Ann's daughter Jane married Sir Christopher Packe (1593-1682), Lord Mayor of London 1654-55. Packe had started his career as an apprentice to Kendrick, but went on to become a wealthy London draper. As an MP for the City of London, Packe promoted in 1657 the "Humble Petition and Advice", Oliver Cromwell's second Constitution, which would have given Cromwell the title of King if he had accepted it.²

1620

Thomas Goddard. See 1611. Died during his term of office.³

Apart from Gabriel Cox (II), Mayor in 1627 and 1635, none of the subsequent Mayors are mentioned in the 1596 Charter or the 1599 Ordinances.

1621

Thomas Houghton (died 1629). Dyer.⁴ His will is dated 1629.⁵

1622

Richard Avery (1600-43). Clothier.⁶ Also Mayor in 1631.

1623

Richard Waller. See 1613.

1624

Hugh Hawkins (died 1646). Armigerous landowner.⁷ Also Mayor in 1633 and 1639. His granddaughter Mary married William Waller, Mayor in 1659. He was also probably the great-great-uncle of Sarah Hawkins, who married Samuel Toomer, Mayor in 1767 and 1783. See further 1767.

1625

Edward Longman.

1626

William Howes (1574-1637)⁸. Clothier.

The manor of Newbury was granted to the Borough by Charles I for a payment of £50. An annual fee farm rent was payable.

¹ Probate records research by Jameson Wooders (Newbury District Field Club).

² Wikipedia entry. *Dictionary of National Biography*. Jane Newman was the first of Packe's three wives.

³ Walter Money, *Notes on the Parish Registers of Newbury* (Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 1896).

⁴ Will of Roger Weston (Mayor in 1610).

⁵ *Victoria County History* (1924) – Newbury. Pat Naylor, op. cit.

⁶ Pat Naylor, op. cit.

⁷ Wiltshire Notes & Queries, Vol III (1902), pp 270-4. His arms were "Or, on a chevron between three cinquefoils azure, as many scallops argent. On a chief gules a griffin passant of the field. Crest: a demi eagle argent." *Berry's Berkshire Families* (1837), p. 59.

⁸ Elias Ashmole, *The Antiquities of Berkshire* (1719), p. 293.

1627

Gabriel Cox (II) (1572–1638). Son of Gabriel Cox (I), Mayor in 1598. Appointed a Burgess in the 1596 Charter. Also Mayor in 1635. Married Mary Choke (1576-1636), the great-great-granddaughter of Sir Richard Choke (1444-1483), Justice of the Common Pleas 1461-83. Their son was Gabriel Cox (III), Mayor in 1643, 1651, 1661, and 1667.

1628

Thomas Gyles (died 1631). Grocer. Father of John Gyles, Mayor in 1657.

1629

John Houghton. Also Mayor in 1636.

1630

William Hunt (died 1636). Woollen draper. His son William was evidently a Dissenter (see 1666).

1631

Richard Avery. See 1622.

1632

Richard Waller. See 1613.

1633

Hugh Hawkins. See 1624.

1634

William Howes. See 1626.

1635

Gabriel Cox (II). See 1627.

1636

John Houghton. See 1629. In October 1636 ship money was levied on Newbury, as on other boroughs, to the value of £120.¹

1637

John Cooke (1578-1661). Alderman.² His principal heir was his successor Richard Waller, his cousin.

1638

Richard Waller. See 1613.

1639

Hugh Hawkins. See 1624.

¹ *Victoria County History* (1924) – Newbury.

² He is buried in St Nicolas Church. Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p. 471.

1640

Timothie Averie (1595-1657). Clothier.

1641

William Pearse (died 1651). Described in his will as a “gentleman”. Father of James Pearse, Mayor in 1680, and Joseph Pearse, Mayor in 1683. Also Mayor in 1649.

1642

John Edmonds (I) (1595-1654). Alderman.¹ Father of John Edmonds (II), Mayor in 1662. Landowner in Inkpen.² Also Mayor in 1650. His will, dated 1654, describes him as a “gentleman”. Married Catherine the sister of Shuff Pinfall, Mayor in 1658.

1643

Gabriel Cox (III) (1596-1671)³. Son of Gabriel Cox (II), Mayor in 1627 and 1635. King Charles I was quartered on him before the 1643 First Battle of Newbury⁴. After the battle, he was ordered by the King to care for the sick and wounded soldiers on both sides.⁵ According to Walter Money (1905) his house would now be 32 Cheap Street.⁶ He was also Mayor in 1651, 1661, and 1667. Father of Francis Cox, Mayor in 1687.

1644

William Nash (died 1652). Clothier. Sir John Boys, defender of Donnington Castle, attempted unsuccessfully to kidnap the Mayor while on a raiding party, though he managed to plunder his house.⁷

1645

Philip Weston (1610-88). Clothier and landowner.⁸ Son of Roger Weston, Mayor in 1610. High Sheriff of Berkshire 1666-67. Married Ann Dolman (1623-77), daughter of Humphrey Dolman (1593-1666), the second owner of Shaw House and the son of Thomas Dolman (1542-1622) who built it.⁹ According to Walter Money, King Charles I was quartered on Philip Weston (and on others on different nights) before the 1644 Second Battle of Newbury.¹⁰ Also Mayor in 1652.

He rebuilt south of St Nicolas Church, approximately on the site of the present parish hall, 12 almshouses which had previously stood north of St Nicolas Church. The earlier almshouses had been Tudor or earlier and were in a ruinous condition.¹¹

Philip Weston's marriage to Ann Dolman appears to have confirmed his wealth and status. Their daughter Anne married Thomas Henshaw (1631-80), a London lawyer, and as a widow married Sir

¹ Edward Gray, *The History and Antiquities of Newbury and its Environs*, 1839, p.83.

² W.H. Rylands, *The Four Visitations of Berkshire* (1908), vol II, p. 120.

³ Date of death: Dr David Bartle, descendent.

⁴ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 41.

⁵ Eric Linklater, *The Royal House of Scotland* (Sphere, 1972), p. 193.

⁶ David Peacock.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 23 or 30/5/1996.

⁸ Listed as “Philip Weston of Newbury” in *An Alphabetical Account of the Nobility and Gentrey which are (or lately were) related unto the several Counties of England and Wales* (1673) – Berkshire.

⁹ Dolman family tree, supplied by Shaw House.

¹⁰ Walter Money, *The First and Second Battles of Newbury* (1881), p. 164.

¹¹ David Peacock. It is not known whether this took place during his lifetime or under his will. The Rev. Joseph Acres c.1737 (D1/59/1, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre). Charity Commissioners Report (1906) p. 29.

Mayors of Newbury

John Fagg MP (1627-1701), a Sussex landowner, at one time a Colonel in the Parliamentary army. Fagg had moved to the royalist side by 1660 and was made a baronet at the Restoration.¹

Philip and Ann's son Philip Weston (1648-1739) lived as a landowner at Bussock Court, Chieveley. Dying childless, he made his heir his nephew Philip Henshaw (1679-1753), the son of Anne Weston by her first marriage. Philip Henshaw continued to live at Bussock Court and seems to have been a substantial landowner.² The remains of Bussock Court are thought to lie within the grounds of the house Bussock Mayne.

1646

Amos Averie (died 1653). Clothier.³ His daughter Elizabeth married John Edmonds (II), Mayor in 1662.

1647

John Birch. Grocer. His will is dated 1655. Also Mayor in 1653.

1648

John Cope.

1649

William Pearse. See 1641.

King Charles I was executed in January 1649.

1650

John Edmonds (I). See 1642.

1651

Gabriel Cox (III). See 1643. A Royalist, displaced by the Commonwealth Government.⁴

1652

Philip Weston. See 1645.

1653

John Birch. See 1647. Failed to be repaid for the cost of 100 Dutch prisoners quartered on him during the Anglo-Dutch War of 1652-54.⁵

1654

Richard Claver.

1655

Richard Fanner. Apothecary. His will is dated 1661.⁶

¹ *Dictionary of National Biography*.

² Bussock Court had been demolished by 1839. It may be conjectured that it did not long survive the death of Philip Henshaw's son Thomas without children in 1784. Site information from Sarah Orr.

³ Victoria County History (1924): Peasemore.

⁴ Victoria County History (1924).

⁵ Victoria County History (1924).

⁶ National Archives.

Mayors of Newbury

In October 1655 the Newbury Court formally acknowledged that its authority (called a “view of frankpledge”) derived from Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector, an office he held from 1653-58.¹

1656

Robert Blunt. Described in his will, proved in 1662, as a “gentleman”.

1657

John Gyles. Son of Thomas Gyles, Mayor in 1628.

1658

Shuff Pinfall (died 1662). Vintner. His sister Catherine married John Edmonds (I), Mayor in 1642 and 1650.²

In 1657 the Corporation was obliged to issue farthing coinage, in the absence of national coinage.³ See also Thomas Cowslad (1665).

1659

William Waller (1609-85). Son of Richard Waller, Mayor in 1613, 1623, 1632, and 1638. He married Mary, the granddaughter of Hugh Hawkins, Mayor in 1624 and 1639.

King Charles II was restored in May 1660.

1660

John Seely (died 1676). Father of Thomas Seely, Mayor in 1703. Great-great-grandfather of Benjamin Merriman, Mayor in 1755. Given his family connections and the deposition of his successor, he was probably an Independent (Dissenter).

In 1661, an attempt was made to enforce Anglican uniformity by the Corporation Act, which required those holding public office to take Anglican Communion. Its application to Newbury (see 1666, 1676, and 1683) indicates the continuance of Dissenter opinion in the town. After 1689, toleration prevailed and the legislation was largely evaded. From 1727, an annual Act of Indemnity was passed for those holding public office who had not taken Anglican Communion.⁴ Many subsequent Mayors were not Anglican, for instance Benjamin Merriman (1755). The Corporation Act was repealed in 1828.

1661

Henry Lynch (or Linch) (died 1670). Clothier. Deposed under the Corporation Act, Gabriel Cox (III) being reinstated (see 1643, 1651, and 1667). This Gabriel Cox was also Town Clerk 1662-76.⁵

1662

John Edmonds (II) (1626-92). Son of John Edmonds (I), Mayor in 1642 and 1650. Landowner in Enborne.⁶ Son-in-law of Amos Averie, Mayor in 1646.

1663

¹ Walter Money, *The History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p. 287.

² Will of John Edmonds Sr. (I).

³ www.britishfarthings.com/Tokens/17th-Century/Berkshire/Newbury-01.html

⁴ F.W. Maitland, *The Constitutional History of England* (1931), p. 366.

⁵ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 128.

⁶ *An Alphabetical Account of the Nobility and Gentrey which are (or lately were) related unto the several Counties of England and Wales* (1673) – Berkshire.

George Cowslad (died 1674). Haberdasher of hats.¹ Had Puritan sympathies, which caused trouble when the Puritan Rector, Benjamin Woodbridge, was ejected in 1662.² A riot took place when the Anglican liturgy was restored in St Nicolas Church at Easter 1664.³ He built the house which is now the central building of Camp Hopson, and met King Charles II when he toured the sites of the Battles of Newbury.⁴ The building is dated “1663” and contains a 17th-century staircase. Also Mayor in 1672.

The Cowslad family also owned Donnington Priory, destroyed before the 1646 siege of Donnington Castle and subsequently rebuilt. See Thomas Cowslad, Mayor in 1665. The family were originally Quakers.⁵

1664

John Mundy (1605-67). Attorney. Landowner in Newbury, Hungerford, and elsewhere in Berkshire. Granted arms.⁶

Early in 1665, King Charles II issued a new Charter for Newbury replacing that of Elizabeth I, giving him power to displace members of the Corporation and appoint new members. Its purpose was to nominate Anglicans and exclude Dissenters. Though at first not wholly successful (Levi Smith, 1674), after 1683 Anglicanism was rigorously enforced.

1665

Thomas Cowslad (died 1680). Grocer and maltster. Possibly the brother of George Cowslad, Mayor in 1663 and 1672. A trade token worth a farthing was issued with his name.⁷ Rebuilt Donnington Priory in about 1655 after its destruction in 1646.⁸ Also Mayor in 1669.

Possibly the father of Thomas Cowslad (1655-1713)⁹ and of Richard Cowslad (1642-1718), who inherited Donnington Priory from George Cowslad, Mayor in 1663 and 1672¹⁰. Richard founded an educational charity in Newbury and endowed the organ of St Nicolas Church. Richard's heir was Thomas Cowslad (died 1759), son of Thomas Cowslad (died 1713). Thomas Cowslad (died 1759) married Hannah, granddaughter of Thomas Hughes, Mayor in 1691. Their children included John Cowslad (died 1795), Gentleman Usher to Queen Charlotte. The family were still in residence in Donnington Priory in 1794.¹¹

1666

John Rider (died 1682). Apothecary.¹² Also Mayor in 1671. Father of William Rider, Mayor in 1698.

As John Ryder of Newbury, along with his younger brother Anthony he was granted arms by Charles II in 1662, by virtue of the support accorded by Anthony Ryder (a physician) to Charles I and to Charles II while in exile.¹

¹ David Peacock, quoting contemporary private documents.

² Victoria County History (1924).

³ Reading Mercury 20/4/1878. Thomas Dolman was also involved in suppressing the riot.

⁴ David Peacock, *The Story of Newbury* (2011). See the note to 1704.

⁵ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 144.

⁶ E. Ashmole, *The Visitation of Berkshire 1664-6* (1882).

⁷ www.britishfarthings.com/Tokens/17th-Century/Berkshire/Newbury-02.html

⁸ Desmond Barton, *A History of Donnington Priory* (Newbury District Field Club, 1982).

Roy Tubb, *Speen, Stockcross, and Shaw-cum-Donnington Road by Road* (2002) – Cowslade.

⁹ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.472. There appears to have been two Thomas Cowslads who died in 1713, the other being born in 1786 and attending Oxford University in 1702 aged 16.

¹⁰ Lucy Harrison, *A Vanished Berkshire Family* (The Berkshire Archaeological Journal, 1933).

Thomas Cowslad (died 1759) was definitely Richard Cowslad's nephew.

¹¹ David Peacock.

¹² Will of Ursula Curteis of Newbury, 1645.

In 1667 a James Pearse, together with George White, Thomas Lovelocke, John Seeley Jr, Richard Farmer and William Hunt were cited by the Archdeaconry of Berkshire for not receiving Holy Communion. Note James Pearse, Mayor in 1680, William Hunt, Mayor in 1630, and John Seely, Mayor in 1660.²

1667

Gabriel Cox (III). See 1643, 1651, and 1661.

1668

John Gyles. Perhaps the same as the 1657 Mayor.

1669

Thomas Cowslad. See 1665.

1670

Thomas Wilson. Also Mayor in 1682.

1671

John Rider. See 1666.

1672

George Cowslad. See 1663.

1673

Richard Pocock. Solicitor. As Mayor, he prosecuted a Quaker for failure to pay tithes.³ In 1674 he was refused a certificate of Anglican conformity under the 1661 Corporation Act, but remained Mayor nevertheless.⁴ He was also Town Clerk 1676, but resigned in favour of Joseph Garrard (Mayor in 1675).⁵ In 1678 he was expelled from the Corporation, being appointed Attorney of the Borough Court of Record.⁶ These measures are despite the fact that in the accounts of the 1664 riots (see above) he was described as a stalwart royalist.

The Test Act was passed, requiring all those holding public office to hold Communion with the Church of England. This Act, unlike the 1661 Corporation Act, was directed against Roman Catholics.

Pocock was a common surname in and around Newbury at the time, often with the first name Richard. It is however tempting to link the 1673 Mayor with the Pocock squires of Chieveley. The family estate in Chieveley was purchased by one Richard Pocock (died 1596), a wealthy clothier. His eldest line of descendants continued with four successive Richard Pococks, until the estate passed into the female line in 1718.⁷ The Richard Pocock who was head of the family in 1673 (died 1694) was a vocal

¹ John Guillim, *A Display of Heraldry* (1724), p. 394. W.H. Rylands, *The Four Visitations of Berkshire* (1908), vol II, p. 205.

² Berkshire Record Office, ref. D/A2/c164/f211. This John Seely was not the same as the 1660 Mayor, who was called "the elder", nor was he his son.

³ *Life of Oliver Sansom*, Friends Library, Vol XIV (Philadelphia, 1850).

⁴ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.547. David Peacock.

⁵ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁶ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887) p.559.

⁷ Victoria County History for Chieveley (1924). Bravery Atlee and Victor and Vera Pocock, *The History of Chieveley* (2000), supplied by Hilary Cole. Squire Richard Pocock (died 1694) was the great-great-grandson of Squire Richard Pocock (died 1596) and consolidated the Chieveley family

supporter of the royalist cause who had assisted Sir John Boys during the 1646 siege of Donnington Castle. His estate was accordingly “confiscated” during the Commonwealth period. He lived at Bradley Court, Chieveley, and in 1674 served as High Sheriff of Berkshire.¹ Although the origins of Mayor Richard Pocock are not ascertained, the coincidence of political opinions with the Chieveley squire Richard Pocock suggest a close connection. See also 1692.

1674

Levi Smith (died 1703). In 1696 he was a Borough JP. Owned land at Sandleford.² His will is dated 1703, where he is described as a “gentleman”.³ Uncle of John Smith, Mayor in 1679, who was the principal legatee of his lands. See also 1693.

In 1687-88, he was appointed a member of the Council by James II, as a Dissenter. By then, he had presumably retired. But see also 1693, when he completed the term of Bartholomew Hughes.

1675

Joseph Garrard (born 1626). Landowner in Inkpen.⁴ He was also Town Clerk 1676-87 and 1688-95.⁵ During 1687-88, He was expelled by James II and Edward Godwin (Mayor in 1706) was appointed Town Clerk as a Dissenter (Independent). Resigned as Alderman 1698.⁶

1676

Abraham Stockwell (I). In 1670, as Churchwarden during the period of attempted Anglican conformity (see 1660), he had denounced some Newbury residents as Anabaptists, Quakers, or excommunicates to the Archdeacon of Berkshire.⁷ In March 1677, seven members were expelled from the Corporation, presumably because they were dissenters.⁸ Retired from Council through ill-health 1696.⁹ Father of Abraham Stockwell (II), Mayor in 1700.

1677

Richard Reeves.

1678

Thomas Paradise (1612-86). Grocer. His daughter Winifred married Joseph Head (I), Mayor in 1692.¹⁰ In 1685 he (or his son Thomas Paradise Jr, 1642-1708, who married Elizabeth Head, sister of Joseph Head (I), Mayor in 1692) was a JP of the Borough.

1679

John Smith (died 1712). Maltster. Lived in Greenham. Nephew and legatee of Levi Smith, Mayor in 1674.

1680

estates. These were eventually inherited in 1718 by his daughters Sarah Capel and Anne Head (see 1692).

¹ A one-year appointment. He was also High Constable of Faircross Hundred, which included Newbury and Chieveley.

² Wikipedia entry on Sandleford.

³ National Archives.

⁴ W.H. Rylands, *The Four Visitations of Berkshire* (1908), vol II, p. 131.

⁵ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 128.

⁶ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁷ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.525.

⁸ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁹ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

¹⁰ Faith C. Jones website.

James Pearse. Son of William Pearse, Mayor in 1641 and 1649.

1681

Thomas Salter.

1682

Thomas Wilson. See 1670.

1683

Joseph Pearse (died 1701).¹ Son of William Pearse, Mayor in 1641 and 1649. His wife Margery was half-sister of John Hedges, Mayor in 1694.

An address was presented to Charles II in consequence of his escape from assassination under the “Rye House Plot” in June 1683.² The plot, though real, was made the excuse for a fierce prosecution of Dissenters, and by 1688 all the Aldermen and Burgesses were Anglicans under the 1665 Charter.

1684

Church Simmons (died 1705). Anglican. Bookseller, including providing a coffee room.³ Nominated or confirmed by King James II in his charter of 1685. With J. Chantry, he published *An Historical Account of Comprehension and Toleration from the Old Puritan to the New Latitudinarian*, by William Baron (1706). He was also the agent for sale of Daffy’s Elixir, a patent medicine.

In 1685, King James II succeeded Charles II and issued a new Charter for Newbury, giving him similar powers to displace members of the Corporation and appoint new members, but confirming Church Simmons as Mayor. However, see 1687 and 1688.

1685

George Compton.

1686

Richard Cooper (died 1741). Lived in Greenham. In 1737 his daughter Katherina Maria Cooper married George Compton, possibly grandson of George Compton, Mayor in 1685.

1687

Francis Cox. Son of Gabriel Cox (III), Mayor in 1643 and subsequent years.⁴ Deposed and replaced during his term of office with John Cooke by King James II under the revised Charter which he had issued in 1685.⁵ John Cooke was a haberdasher of hats.⁶

As Constable in 1684, Francis Cox had presented 24 Quakers at Newbury Court for failing to attend divine service at St Nicolas.

With Francis Cox, the entire Corporation of 25 Aldermen and Burgesses were displaced, all Anglicans, including the former Mayors Joseph Garrard, Abraham Stockwell, Richard Reeves, Thomas Salter,

¹ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

² Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p. 315.

³ Probate records research by Jameson Wooders (Newbury District Field Club).

⁴ Dr David Bartle, descendant.

⁵ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.309. Neither John Cooke nor Nathaniel Collins, named by James II to succeed him, were nominated in James II’s charter, suggesting that they did not belong to the circle of leading Newbury citizens.

⁶ Joseph Toomer’s *Journal* (1846) gives the occupations of a large number of Mayors up to 1833.

Joseph Pearse, Church Simmons, George Compton, and Richard Cooper. 22 new Councillors were appointed in their place, all Dissenters.¹ James II hoped (incorrectly) that by replacing Anglicans with Dissenters he would obtain a Corporation more favourable to his ideas on Catholic emancipation, despite the fact that Newbury did not then elect an MP.

1688

Nathaniel Collins, succeeding John Cooke.² He was a haberdasher and dyer. On 17th October 1688 James II (under pressure from the threatened invasion by William of Orange) revoked the revised Borough Charter and other town charters which he had imposed. The 25 Councillors expelled in 1687 were readmitted and the 22 appointed in their place were expelled. The Borough immediately resumed the Elizabethan Charter³ and elected John Burchell as Mayor.⁴ In February 1689 John Burchell duly proclaimed William III and Mary II King and Queen. See also 1697.

In February 1689, Parliament adopted the Bill of Rights, which defined the respective legal rights of King and Parliament, and established England (and later Scotland) as a constitutional monarchy.

Of the 22 Dissenter Councillors who had been appointed in 1687 and expelled in 1688, many were subsequently elected to the Council in the normal manner under the greater religious tolerance of the 18th century. They included four future Mayors Thomas Hughes (1691), Joseph Head (1692), Bartholomew Hughes (1693), and Edward Godwin (1706). After 1689, royal interference in the government of the Corporation ceased.

1689

John Gyles (1642-1719). Apothecary.⁵ He received William III on his return journey from Ireland after the 1690 Battle of the Boyne.⁶ Two John Gyles had memorials in St Nicolas Church, one with dates 1642-1719 and the other (his son) dying in 1721.⁷ On grounds of date and seniority, it is the elder John Gyles who was probably the 1689 Mayor. The younger John Gyles (elected to the Council 1719) was also an apothecary. The connection with the John Gyles who were Mayors in 1657 and 1668 is not ascertained.

1690

John Hore (1645-1721). Maltster. Married twice. Elected to the Council 1676.⁸ He is buried in St Nicolas Church.⁹ His daughter Mary was the wife of Oliver Slocock, Mayor in 1714. His daughter Jean was the wife of William Townsend, Mayor in 1717. His daughter Sarah married John Bond, flax dresser (died 1706), and their son was John Bond, Mayor in 1734.¹⁰ He may be the John Hoar Sr who appears with others in the Acts of Parliament of 1715 and 1720 which set up Kennet Navigation and authorised its construction.

1691

Thomas Hughes. Grocer.¹¹ His dates are not ascertained, but he died after 1710. Elected to the Council in 1678. Appointed to the Council by James II, 1687-88, as a Dissenter.

¹ They attended a Newbury Dissenting chapel. Walter Money, op. cit.(1887), p. 317.

² John Cooke duly presented accounts for his short period as Mayor, which were approved.

³ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), pp 309-11.

⁴ Further details of John Burchell are not ascertained. His father William Burchell (died 1670) was a clothier. See also 1828.

⁵ Edward Gray, *The History and Antiquities of Newbury and its Environs*, 1839, p.83.

⁶ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.320.

⁷ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.472.

⁸ This and subsequent dates of election to the Council are recorded from the Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁹ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.474.

¹⁰ Will of John Hore, 1712.

¹¹ Lease dated 1696.

Probably the brother of Bartholomew Hughes, Mayor in 1693. Thomas' son John Hughes, also a grocer, married Elizabeth Hodges and died in 1710 while Thomas was still alive. John and Elizabeth's daughter Hannah Hughes married Thomas Cowslad (died 1759), the son of Thomas Cowslad (died 1713), Mayor in 1665.¹

It is likely that Mary the wife of Edward Lovelock (died 1730), Mayor in 1718 and 1730, was the daughter of Thomas Hughes. Edward was certainly the brother-in-law of John Hughes (died 1710) and the uncle and "good friend" of John Hughes (died 1727), the son of John Hughes (died 1710) and Elizabeth.²

1692

Joseph Head (I) (1636-1711). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1678. Appointed to the Council by James II, 1687-88, as a Dissenter.

His wife Winifred was the daughter of Thomas Paradise, Mayor in 1678.³ Four sons and one grandson were to become Mayor.⁴ His brother John Head married Anne Pocock (died 1718), daughter of Richard Pocock (died 1694), landowner in Chieveley (see 1673).

1693

Bartholomew Hughes. Elected to the Council 1679. Appointed to the Council by James II, 1687-88, as a Dissenter. Died in November 1693 and replaced by Levi Smith (see 1674).⁵ See 1691.

1694

John Hedges. His father, John Hedges (died 1671) was a cooper. Half-brother of Margery, the wife of Joseph Pearse, Mayor in 1683.

1695

Richard Gray. Elected to the Council 1681. The practice of the Mayor's Feast was revived. In 1696 the National Association to pledge support for William III, formed after an attempt on the king's life, was subscribed to.⁶

This Richard Gray may have been the Richard Gray who was the great-grandfather of Joseph Gray (1745-1805), Mayor in 1779 and 1785. Both this Richard Gray and his children were Quakers.

1696

Samuel Slocock (I) (c. 1640-1707). Born in Hamstead Marshall. Elected to the Council 1668. Founder of the Slocock brewery and the Slocock family in Newbury. He rented premises for the brewery at West Mills in 1660 and purchased it in 1688.⁷ His daughter Anne married Edward Smith (I), Mayor in 1710. His son Oliver was Mayor in 1714 and his grandson Samuel Slocock (II) was Mayor in 1753.

Samuel's daughter Hannah (1693-1778), under her married name Hannah Aldworth, was one of the Berkshire inspectors of Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital in London. The role of the inspectors was to recruit (at their own expense) families to which the foundlings would be entrusted for the first

¹ *Burke's Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 3, 1836. Hannah's brother Thomas Hughes MD (died 1750) married the daughter of a wealthy lawyer and his family entered the gentry.

² The will of Edward Lovelock (1730) refers to his sisters but not one called Hughes, so it is inferred that his wife has been a Hughes. The other references are to the wills of John Hughes Sr and Jr.

³ A Head genealogy is held by the Archaeology Data Service of York University.

⁴ The father of Joseph Head (I) and of Elizabeth Head, daughter-in-law of Thomas Paradise Sr, Mayor in 1678, was James Head, founder of the Head family in Newbury.

⁵ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887). p.550.

⁶ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), pp.322, 323.

⁷ Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

five years of their lives. Hannah was in charge of up to 32 such families. There were five such inspectors in Newbury, including also Samuel's niece Naomi Southby.¹

1697

John Burchell. See 1688. He was also elected Mayor in 1722, but declined (successfully) on grounds of age. He died 1726.²

1698

William Rider. Son of John Rider, Mayor in 1666 and 1671. Elected to the Council 1683. An Anglican, he was expelled by James II and readmitted 1687-88.

1699

Adam Hill. Elected to the Council 1683. An Anglican, he was expelled by James II and readmitted 1687-88. His daughter Anne married Lawrence Head (I), Mayor in 1720.

1700

Abraham Stockwell (II). Born 1654. Son of Abraham Stockwell (I), Mayor in 1676. Plumber and glazier.³ Elected to the Council 1689. Sued by the Council for debts 1703. 1726 discharged as Alderman for revealing Council confidences and other misdemeanours, but reinstated the following year. 1733 resigned from the Council on grounds of ill-health.⁴ In 1736 he was obliged to ask the Corporation for subsistence (which was granted), having suffered severe losses.⁵

1701

John Rawlins (1648-1719). Gentleman.⁶ Elected to the Council 1685. An Anglican, he was expelled by James II and readmitted 1687-88.

1702

Edward Weekes. Wine merchant.⁷ Elected to the Council 1691. An Anglican, as was expelled by James II and readmitted 1687-88.

1703

Thomas Seely. Son of John Seely, Mayor in 1660. Elected to the Council 1691.

1704

Thomas Stockwell (1657-1741). Elected to the Council 1691. Described in a 1719 apprentice's indenture and a 1721 lawsuit as a "haberdasher of hats".⁸ Also Mayor in 1726. Had a memorial in St Nicolas Church.⁹

¹ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021).p. 155. Samuel's second wife was Naomi Elgar née Southby, the mother of Hannah.

² Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

³ F.L. Clarke and H.M. Colvin, *The Rebuilding and Repair of Berkshire Churches during the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Early Nineteenth Centuries* (Berkshire Archaeological Journal, 1954-55).

⁴ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁵ *Gentleman's Magazine*, June 1736, giving his age as 82.

⁶ Edward Gray, *The History and Antiquities of Newbury and its Environs* (1839), p.268. Memorial in St Nicolas Church.

⁷ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.298.

⁸ Newbury at this time was particularly known for hosiery and hatmaking. David Ogg, *England in the Reign of Charles II* (A.&C. Black, 1967), p. 44.

⁹ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.477.

A Thomas Stockwell the elder who died in Newbury in 1683 was also a haberdasher of hats, according to his will which was witnessed by a Thomas Stockwell the younger and Abraham Stockwell. He did not have a son called Thomas, and Thomas Stockwell the younger was therefore perhaps his nephew, and the 1704 Mayor.

Thomas Stockwell the elder may have been the Thomas Stockwell who was involved in the 1664 Dissenter riots against the appointment of Anglican Churchwardens after the restoration of Anglicanism.¹ He was “disfranchised” and expelled from the Corporation in 1677.² Abraham Stockwell may have been the 1676 Mayor or his son the 1700 Mayor. It is therefore possible that both these witnesses to Thomas Stockwell the elder’s will were strong Anglicans, with family relations to Thomas which are not yet ascertained.

1705

Nicholas Snow.

1706

Edward Godwin (1661-1719). Attorney. He was an Independent (Congregationalist)³, and was appointed Town Clerk 1687-88 during the brief operation of the James II Charter. On resumption of the Elizabeth Charter his predecessor as Town Clerk Joseph Garrard (Mayor in 1675) was returned to office. Edward Godwin was reappointed Town Clerk in 1695-1719 on payment of a sum of money to Joseph Garrard, who retired.⁴

Through two generations of Independent Ministers, Edward Godwin was the great-grandfather of William Godwin (1756-1836), the influential writer and political philosopher, author of *An Enquiry Concerning Political Justice* (1793). William Godwin married the feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97). Their daughter Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (1797-1851) married the poet Shelley and wrote the novel *Frankenstein*.⁵ After Shelley’s death in 1822, Mary Shelley wrote a number of further novels.

Parliamentary Union of England and Scotland was enacted in 1707.

1707

Edward Stewart (died 1743).⁶ Draper and mercer. Elected to the Council 1696. The first Town Mace was purchased. An Anglican, he had been expelled by James II and readmitted 1687-88. Also Mayor in 1727.

1708

John Parsons (1669-1711). Clothier. Elected to the Council 1699. His will was proved in 1711.⁷

1709

Joseph Parsons (1667-1718). His will is dated 1718.⁸ Brother of John Parsons, Mayor in 1708.

¹ R.L. Greaves, *Enemies Under His Feet: Radicals and Nonconformists in Britain, 1664-1677* (Stanford, 1990), pp 125-6.

² Borough records 6/3/1677 (1676 old style calendar). See 1676 above.

³ Independent baptism dated 1695, probably of his son.

⁴ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.559-560.

⁵ C. Kegan Paul, *William Godwin: His Friends and Contemporaries* (1876). Edward Godwin (1661-1719) was the father of Edward Godwin (born 1695), the father of John Godwin (1723-72), Independent Minister in Wisbech, the father of William Godwin (1756-1836).

⁶ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁷ National Archives.

⁸ Victoria County History (1924).

1710

Edward Smith (I) (died 1723). Clothier. He married Anne Slocock, daughter of Samuel Slocock (I), Mayor in 1696, and their son Edward Smith (II) was Mayor in 1732. He possessed property in Newbury and Chieveley.

1711

John Gray (1669-1737). The relationship, if any, with other Gray Mayors is not ascertained.

1712

Robert Nalder (I) (died 1740). Joiner. Elected to the Council 1705. 1688 married Mary West. Their son was Robert Nalder (II), Mayor in 1731. 1739 resigned from the Council through ill-health.

1713

Joseph Head (II) (1670-1759). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1705. Son of Joseph Head (I), Mayor in 1692. His daughter Hannah married Benjamin Merriman, Mayor in 1755. His daughter Jane married Richard Budd, Mayor in 1744. He is buried at St Nicolas.¹

1714

Oliver Slocock (1670-1727). Elected to the Council 1705. Son of Samuel Slocock (I), Mayor in 1696. Continued his father's brewery in West Mills, but unsuccessfully. After his death the brewery was successfully run by Oliver's half-brother Samuel (1689-1748).² Oliver married Mary Hore, the daughter of John Hore, Mayor in 1690, and their son Samuel Slocock (II) was Mayor in 1753.

1715

Richard Berry. Dyer. His will is dated 1725. Elected to the Council 1705. Buried 1726 at Speen.³

1716

John Beale (I). Described in a 1721 lawsuit as a "gentleman". Elected to the Council 1709. He was also Town Clerk 1719-32.⁴ His will is dated 1740. Father of John Beale (II), Mayor in 1728.

1717

William Townsend. Brewer and chapman. Exported beer to London.⁵ Elected to the Council 1709. His wife Jean was the daughter of John Hore, Mayor in 1690. Also Mayor in 1729.

1718

Edward Lovelock (died 1730). Mercer and draper. Elected to the Council 1709. See 1691. Also Mayor in 1730.

Galleries were erected in St Nicolas Church.⁶

1719

Francis Page (I). Innholder. His will is dated 1724.¹ Elected to the Council 1709. 1690 married Rebecca Lovege (died 1730). Their daughter Sarah married Robert Nalder (II), Mayor in 1731. Their

¹ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

² Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

³ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁴ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p.128.

⁵ Phil Wood.

⁶ Edward Gray, *The History and Antiquities of Newbury and its Environs* (1839), p.77.

Mayors of Newbury

daughter Ann (1695-1734) married Benjamin Head, Mayor in 1721. Their son Francis (1697-1729), described in 1715 as a clothier, and his wife Bridget Osborn were the parents of Francis Page (II), Mayor in 1754, and of Mary Page (1722-1805) who (as Mary Tinsley) was the second wife of Richard Budd, Mayor in 1744.²

1720

Lawrence Head (I) (1680-1756). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1715. Alderman. Son of Joseph Head (I), Mayor in 1692. His wife Anne was the daughter of Adam Hill, Mayor in 1699. Father of Lawrence Head (II), Mayor in 1747. Buried at St Nicolas.³

1721

Benjamin Head (1690-1747). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1719. Son of Joseph Head (I), Mayor in 1692. Buried at St Nicolas. He married (i) Ann Page (died 1734), daughter of Francis Page, Mayor in 1719; (ii) Sarah Lipyeatt (died 1737); (iii) Martha Latham (died 1746).

1722

William Cundell (died 1766). Brewer. Elected to the Council 1719. 1724 he was sued for debts by the Council. 1728 he was removed from the Council on grounds of non-residence.⁴ Retired to Aldgate, London.

1723

Richard Cartwright (died 1738). Attorney. Elected to the Council 1720. Brother-in-law of Richard Nalder (II), Mayor in 1731.⁵ His effects show that he was a man of substance.⁶

1724

William Russell (died 1726). Baker. Elected to the Council 1715. His estate, worth £232, was administered by Robert Nalder, Mayor in 1713 or 1731.

1725

John Hinton. Maltster. Elected to the Council 1720. A decision was taken to build a workhouse.⁷

1726

Thomas Stockwell. See 1704. 154 Newbury freeholders were entitled to vote for Berkshire County in the 1727 General Election.

1727

Edward Stewart. See 1707.

1728

John Beale (II) (died 1756). Attorney. Elected to the Council 1709. He was also Town Clerk 1732-56.⁸ Alderman 1730. Son of John Beale (I), Mayor in 1716.¹ Buried at St Nicolas. Another John

¹ National Archives.

² Will of Francis Page (I) (1724). Research by Steve Miller.

³ These and other Mayors buried at St Nicolas and elsewhere, up to 1832, were researched by Judith Thomas.

⁴ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁵ He married Elizabeth, sister of Robert Nalder (II). Will of Richard Nalder (II).

⁶ Probate records research by Jameson Wooders (Newbury District Field Club).

⁷ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁸ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 128.

Beale (1734-1825), perhaps related, is described in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (March 1825) as “the oldest member of the Company of Weavers, in Newbury”.

The Berkshire poll book for 1722 shows that 124 Newbury freeholders voted in the election for Parliament. The poll books for 1727, 1768, 1796, and 1818 indicate that about 145 Newbury freeholders voted in each of the Parliamentary elections of those years.² None could of course vote for the Council. This was about half the number of those who registered to vote in the 1835 municipal election. The 1767 the town's population was 3732 and in 1813 it was about 5000.³

1729

William Townsend. See 1717. 1740 he was sued for bankruptcy by the Council, which recovered £98. 1742 he resigned from the Council.⁴

1730

Edward Lovelock. See 1718. Died in November 1730. He left his house in Mansion House Street to support St Mary's Almshouses in Cheap Street.⁵ John Beale (II) completed his term of office.⁶ Buried at Chieveley.⁷

1731

Robert Nalder (II). Timber Marchant. His will is dated 1732.⁸ In 1720 he married Sarah Page, the daughter of Francis Page (I), Mayor in 1719.⁹ His sister Elizabeth married Richard Cartwright, Mayor in 1723. Elected to the Council 1724. Son of Robert Nalder (I), Mayor in 1712.¹⁰ Buried at St Nicolas.

1732

Edward Smith (II). Brewer. Son of Edward Smith (I), Mayor in 1710, and grandson of Samuel Slocock (I), Mayor in 1696. His will is dated 1737.

1733

Peter Ely (1668-1753). Barber and wigmaker. Alderman. Elected to the Council 1719. He had refused to be Mayor in 1726, and paid a £20 fine.¹¹ Buried in St Nicolas Church.¹²

1734

John Bond (died 1774). Flax dresser and sail cloth maker. Elected to the Council 1726. Alderman. Buried at St Nicolas. Grandson of John Hore, Mayor in 1690.¹³

1735

¹ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.560.

² Transcriptions by the Berkshire Family History Society.

³ Victoria County History (1924).

⁴ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁵ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 149.

⁶ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁷ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁸ National Archives.

⁹ Will of Francis Page Sr.

¹⁰ Steve Miller, descendant of the Nalder family.

¹¹ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

¹² Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p. 475.

¹³ Inferred from the will of John Hore, 1712, and his father John Bond, 1706.

Mayors of Newbury

Giles Townsend (1669-1752).¹ Mealman and miller. Elected to the Council 1728. Alderman. Buried at St Nicolas. Father of John Townsend, Mayor in 1752.²

1736

John Weekes (died 1749). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1728. Buried at St Nicolas.

1737

Edward Walter (1713-60). His will describes him as a “gentleman”, but an annotation in Joseph Toomer’s diary describes him as a “yeoman”. Elected to the Council 1732. Owned land in Newbury, Speen, and Enborne. Buried at Enborne.³ See Richard Walter, Mayor in 1741.

1738

John Head (1684-1754). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1733. Alderman. Son of Joseph Head (I), Mayor in 1692. Buried at St Nicolas.

1739

John Cox (died 1770). Maltster. Elected to the Council 1733. Also Mayor in 1757.

1740

John Wellman (died 1753). Clothier. Elected to the Council 1733. Buried at St Nicolas.

A resolution was passed that no person may be elected Mayor (or any other office) who owes money to the Council.⁴

1741

Richard Walter (1714-64). Maltster. Born at Greenham. Elected to the Council 1738. Possibly the brother of Edward Walter, Mayor in 1737. Buried at Speen.⁵ Possibly the Richard Walter who married Mary Nelson of Chaddleworth, whose son Richard Walter Nelson inherited the manor of Chaddleworth from Mary’s sister Elizabeth (died 1791).⁶

1742

George Calverley. Wine merchant. Elected to the Council 1738. Also Mayor in 1756.

1743

Lypeat (or Lipyeatt) Bodman (1713-1773). Apothecary.⁷ Elected to the Council 1738. His elder brother William Bodman (born 1707) was the father of William Bodman, Mayor in 1761, grandfather

¹ He is buried in St Nicolas Church: Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p. 474.

² Joseph Toomer’s journal.

³ His birth assumes that he is the Edward Walter born at Faringdon. Death researched by Judith Thomas.

⁴ The other positions to which Councillors were elected were Justice; Chamberlain; Proctor of St Mary’s Hill almshouses; Master, Proctor and Proprietor of St Bartholomew’s Hospital; (from 1753) Deputy Mayor; and (from 1767) Treasurer of Raymond’s Almshouses.

⁵ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁶ *Magna Britannia, being a Concise Topographical Account of the Several Counties of Great Britain: Berkshire* (1813), p. 256.

⁷ Subscriber to *Poems on Several Occasions, English and Latin* (c.1755), by the Rev. John Daniel Cotton, “Master of the Grammar School in Newbury”. He may be named after Jonathan Lipyeatt (died 1742), a local surgeon and a member of the Council, to whom he may have been apprenticed, and who was the father of Sarah Lipyeatt, wife of Benjamin Head, Mayor in 1721.

of James Bodman, Mayor in 1792, and great-grandfather of James Bodman (II), Mayor in 1832.¹ He is buried at Ashampstead.²

An annual allowance of £10 was voted for a cake for the Mayor's feast, bringing the total annual contribution to the feast to £50.³

1744

Richard Budd (1715-68). Mercer, at the corner of Mansion House Street and the bridge. Elected to the Council 1738. Alderman 1768. Buried at St Nicolas. His first wife Jane Head (1719-51) was the daughter of Joseph Head (II), Mayor in 1713. Their daughter Sarah married Osman Vincent, Mayor in 1771. Their son Richard Budd Jr (1746-1821, buried at Speen) was an eminent Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Emma Hamilton, the lover of Admiral Lord Nelson, started her career as the housemaid of Richard Budd Jr while the latter resided at Blackfriars.⁴

After the death of his first wife, Richard Budd Sr married Mary Tinsley in 1757. Their son was William Budd the attorney (1758-1840), Mayor in 1789. Mary Tinsley (1722-1805) was born Mary Page, daughter of Francis Page (1697-1729) (see Francis Page (I), 1719). She had previously been married to George Tinsley (1714-47). The daughter of this first marriage, Ruth Tinsley (1744-1834), married Joseph Gray, Mayor in 1779, and son of the same marriage, Francis Page (1746-1807), was a Royal Navy Commander.⁵

The apprentices of Richard Budd Sr included at different times William Bodman, Mayor in 1761, Osman Vincent, Mayor in 1771, and John Clark, Mayor in 1780.

1745

Jonathan Knackstone. Brewer.⁶ Elected to the Council 1738. A message of congratulation was sent to George II on the defeat of the Jacobite rebellion, presented to the king by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.⁷

1746

Richard King (died 1777). Wine merchant. Elected to the Council 1740. Alderman. Buried at St Nicolas. Father of Israel King, Mayor in 1769. Father-in-law of George Jones, Mayor in 1766, and uncle of Richard Townsend, Mayor in 1774 and 1776. 1776 he declined to serve as Mayor, the £20 fine being paid by his son Israel.

1747

Lawrence Head (II) (1709-1774). Maltster. Elected to the Council 1740. Alderman. Buried at St Nicolas. Son of Lawrence Head (I), Mayor in 1720. His daughter Sarah married Richard Bailly, Mayor in 1773.

1748

Richard Golding (I) (died 1758). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1742. His will is dated 1758.⁸ Buried at St Nicolas. Brother of Thomas Golding, Mayor in 1751. Father of Richard Golding (II), Mayor in 1793, and of Elizabeth Golding (1730-94) who married William Bodman, Mayor in 1761.

¹ Ancestry.com.uk genealogy.

² Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

³ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁴ John Venn, ed., *Alumni Cantabrigienses* (1940). She was then called Amy Lyon.

⁵ Parish registers, researched by Steve Miller.

⁶ 1736 lawsuit.

⁷ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), pp. 333-4.

⁸ National Archives.

1749

Charles Sutton (died 1750). Miller. Elected to the Council 1742. His will is dated 1750.¹ Uncle of Joseph Gray, Mayor in 1779. Grandfather of John Sutton (1777-1863), the founder in 1806 of Suttons Seeds, originally a corn dealer in Reading and now an international supplier of flower and vegetable seeds and other horticultural products based in Paignton, Devon.² Charles Sutton died July 1750, and his term was completed by Lawrence Head (II) (see 1747).³ He was buried at St Nicolas.⁴

1750

Joseph Bolton (died 1752). Mealman. Elected to the Council 1744. Buried at St Nicolas.

1751

Thomas Golding (died 1775). Grocer. Elected to the Council 1746. Resigned from the Council 1764.⁵ Buried at St Nicolas. Brother of Richard Golding (I), Mayor in 1748.

1752 Richard Budd (Mayor in 1744) and Francis Page (Mayor in 1754) succeeded in preventing sums from Cowslade's and Kendrick's charities from being diverted to the Mayor's feast, instead of to the poor.⁶

1752

John Townsend (I) (1726-89). Brewer and mealman. Elected to the Council 1749. His will is dated 1787.⁷ Son of Giles Townsend, Mayor in 1735.⁸ Called John Townsend the Elder⁹ to distinguish him from his son John Townsend (II) (1748-95), who was Mayor in 1772. Brother-in-law of William Bodman, Mayor in 1761.¹⁰ During a smallpox epidemic, inoculation was made available at public expense to Newbury residents. He was also Mayor in 1781.

1753



Samuel Slocock (II) (1709-60). Elected to the Council 1744. Son of Oliver Slocock, Mayor in 1714. Carried on the family brewing business at West Mills after the death of his uncle Samuel (1689-1748).¹¹ Married Sarah Willis (c. 1716-1749). Buried at St Nicolas. (Portrait in West Berkshire Museum © West Berkshire Council.)

His son Samuel Slocock (III) was Mayor in 1775. His daughter Mary Slocock (1744-1838) married Rev. Thomas Penrose, the Newbury poet (1742-1779).

It became the practice to elect a Deputy Mayor to preside at Council meetings in the Mayor's absence, a position not anticipated in the town's Charter. The Mayor's deputy as a magistrate was the Justice, elected yearly. The Deputy in 1753 was Lipyeatt Bodman, Mayor in 1743.¹²

¹ National Archives.

² Jane Sutton, descendant. www.suttons.co.uk/About+UsHistory.htm Earley History Group, *Suttons Seeds, A History 1806-2006* (Reading University Press 2006).

³ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁴ Charles Sutton and Anne Bedford were the parents of James Sutton (1744-89) of Devizes. James Sutton and Ann Johnston (1754-89) were the parents of John Sutton (1777-1863).

⁵ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁶ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021).

⁷ National Archives.

⁸ Joseph Toomer's Journal (1846).

⁹ Including in his will.

¹⁰ The exact relationship with William Bodman has not been ascertained.

¹¹ Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

¹² Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

A debt of £615 being recorded to Kendrick's Charity, the £50 annual contribution to the Mayor's feast was discontinued.¹ The effect of this was an increase in refusals by members of the Council to be Mayor, which incurred a fine of £20. This reluctance was due mainly to the huge cost to the incumbent. Joseph Toomer's Journal (see 1791) shows that the incidental charges could come to £30, and the cost of the Mayor's Feast could be £135 for 107 persons. The only remaining subvention was £5 which was donated to each new Mayor from Cowslad's Charity. See 1797.

The practice began of recruiting new members on the understanding that they would serve as Mayor in the immediate years following (see 1758 and later).

1754



Francis Page (II) (1720-85). Elected to the Council 1749. He was the son of Francis Page (1697-1729) and Bridget Osborn (see Francis Page (I), Mayor in 1719)².

Francis Page (II) (1720-85) was educated at the Blue Coat School. On the basis of a £400 legacy from his grandfather (shared with his sisters), he initially traded as a grocer. Developed and ran a large coal trading business using the Kennet and Avon Canal. 1768 he acquired control of Kennet Navigation³ and invested in improvements, including enlarging the locks to take 128-ton barges instead of the previous 80-ton limit.⁴ His shares were purchased from his sons by the Kennet and Avon Company in 1812.

Francis married Sarah Gosling in 1720. He lived at Goldwell House, Old Bath Road.⁵ Buried at Speen.⁶ 1782 he refused to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. (Portrait by Hugh Barron © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.)

Francis' second son Frederick Page (1769–1834), a barrister, was a writer on the Poor Laws and Improvement Commissioner for Speenhamland, erecting in 1828 a stone column gas light where the Clock Tower now is.⁷ He was also a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire and has a memorial in Speen Church.⁸ 1790's Frederick was Colonel of the First Berkshire Militia.

1755

Benjamin Merriman (1716-63). Clothier. Elected to the Council 1752. Baptised an Independent (Congregationalist). Buried at St Nicolas. Married to Hannah Head, daughter of Joseph Head (II), Mayor in 1713. Son of Thomas Merriman (died 1733), Newbury clothier, and his wife Sarah Cox.

Thomas Merriman (died 1733) was the son of Thomas Merriman (1647-1703), Newbury clothier, and his wife Anna (or Susannah) Brice, whose brother Rev. Benjamin Merriman (1662-1734) was the first Minister of the Newbury Lower Independent (Congregationalist) Chapel 1686-1734. Their parents were Thomas Merriman, Newbury clothier (1610-64), and his wife Emma (or Emlin) Seely (born 1622), the daughter of John Seely, Mayor in 1660. Thomas Merriman (1610-64) was the son of Thomas Merriman (1571-1640), a Newbury innkeeper who had come to Newbury from Witney, and his wife Alice Russell.⁹

¹ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

² Will of Francis Page (I) (1724). See 1744.

³ See 1690.

⁴ West Berkshire Council, *Northcroft and Goldwell Parks Management Plan 2012-2016*.

⁵ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Goldwell Drive. *Gentleman's Magazine* (Sept 1785).

⁶ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁷ *Dictionary of National Biography*. David Peacock, *The Story of Newbury* (2011), p. 87. The gas light was moved in 1889 and is now the Speen Obelisk. See 1888.

⁸ Brought to my attention by David Peacock.

⁹ Ivor Jones, *Descendants of Thomas Merriman de Wyttneye*. Information from Ian Wilson, descendant of Rev. Benjamin Merriman. Records of the Independent Meeting House, Newbury.

Thomas Merriman (1610-64) was probably the Thomas Merriman who reportedly provided the first meeting room of the Newbury Baptists at his house.¹ His brother John Merriman (1618-70) was a Captain in the Parliamentary army in the Civil War. He was tasked in 1648 with another officer with escorting Charles I as a prisoner from Carisbrooke Castle to Hurst Castle on the way to the king's trial at Westminster.²

Anna Merriman (1670-1749), a sister of Thomas Merriman (died 1733), married John Hawkins (1669-1721). Through their daughter Elizabeth, their grandson was Jo. Millett, Mayor in 1770.

The horse fair on Ascension Day (27 May) 1756, held on what is now the City Recreation Ground, was noted as having met the largest known demand for war horses from the Government for the Seven Years War (1756-1763).³

1756

George Calverley. See 1742. Two other Councillors had refused election, and had each been fined £20. One of these was James Head (elected in 1752), who succeeded John Beale (II) as Town Clerk 1756-79.

In 1764 (or 1772) George Calverley resigned as an Alderman and was granted a pension of 8s a week (4s per week from 1774), having evidently fallen on hard times.

1757

John Cox. See 1739.

1758

John Kimber (1708-93)⁴. Corn factor and maltster. Elected to the Council 1752. Baptised in the Independent meeting house, 1708. Alderman. The second Town Mace was purchased,⁵ and is marked "John Kimber Mayor 1758". Kimber was found guilty by the Council of "forestalling the market", i.e. of buying up supplies before they reached the market, and the Council ordered unsuccessfully that his name be erased from the mace.⁶ Alderman. 1782 he refused to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. Buried at St Nicolas.⁷

Under his bequest Kimber's almshouses for 12 poor persons were founded in 1795 close to the central Post Office. They were replaced by other almshouses in Kennet Road in the later 1930's and the original almshouses were demolished in the 1950's.⁸ Kimber's will also funded the education of 10 boys at Newbury's Blue Coast School.⁹

Four burgesses were recruited to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor 1759-60 and 1763-64.

1759

¹ D.H. Brazier, *A History of Newbury Baptists* (2002), p. 14.

² Ian Wilson, *A History of John Merriman born 1618, Newbury*. John was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a Captain in Col. Riche's Regiment of Horse.

³ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 130.

⁴ Edward Gray, *The History and Antiquities of Newbury and its Environs* (1839), p.84.

⁵ The Makers' Mark "WSWP" on the mace shows that it was made by William Shaw and William Preist of London (*Jackson's Hallmarks*, ed. Ian Pickford (2015). Information from Simon Davidson.

⁶ L.F.W. Jewitt, *The Corporation Plate and Insignia of Office of the Cities and Towns of England and Wales* (1895). This incident is not recorded in the Council minutes, but the attempted erasure is evident.

⁷ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁸ David Peacock, *The Story of Newbury* (2011), p. 74.

⁹ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 94.

Mayors of Newbury

William Annetts (1720-71).¹ Maltster. Elected to the Council 1758. The Newbury Charters of Incorporation were transcribed as a public record.² Declared bankrupt 1766.³ Perhaps his bankruptcy was due to his predecessor's market manipulation. Buried at St Nicolas.

1760

Henry Cox (died 1772).⁴ Elected to the Council 1758. Draper and hosier at West Mills. The accession of King George III was proclaimed at the Market Cross and a loyal address was sent to him.⁵

In 1762, he was expelled from the Council for affixing its seal to a lease without authority. He appealed to the Court of King's Bench, and was reinstated.

1761

William Bodman (1726-90). Mercer. Elected to the Council 1755. Nephew of Lypeatt Bodman, Mayor in 1743. 1742 apprenticed to Richard Budd, Mayor in 1744. His wife Elizabeth Golding (1730-94) was the daughter of Richard Golding (I), Mayor in 1748. Their son James Bodman (I) was Mayor in 1792. A letter of congratulations was sent to George III on his marriage to Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz⁶ and a Coronation dinner was held⁷. 1782 he refused to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. Buried at St Nicolas.

1762

Edward Withers (1701-70). Elected to the Council 1755. Surgeon and apothecary. His will is dated 1771.⁸ Lived at Eight Bells, Bartholomew Street. A thanksgiving dinner was held at the Globe Inn to celebrate the 1763 Peace of Paris with France and Spain, which founded the British Empire. Buried at St Nicolas.

In 1770 he took as an apprentice his son Edward Withers (died 1810), who duly became an apothecary and surgeon in Newbury and joined the Council. Edward Withers Jr corresponded with the Medical Society of London on smallpox.⁹ Another son of Edward Withers Sr, William Withers, a grocer, was a banking partner of Osman Vincent, Mayor in 1771.

1763

Richard Robinson (died 1776). Elected to the Council 1758. Surgeon.¹⁰ Buried at St Nicolas.

1764

Thomas Lovidge (1718-1800).¹¹ Working goldsmith between 1773 and 1793. Elected to the Council 1758. Registered as a goldsmith in 1773. His mark is registered at Goldsmith's Hall as "TL 3448" in 1778 and 1793.¹² In 1758 he repaired the Borough's 1707 mace at a charge of £33.¹³ In 1776 he was included in a list of persons appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to receive and exchange deficient gold coins. Also Mayor in 1782.

¹ St Nicolas Burial Records, researched by Judith Thomas.

² Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887).

³ *Gentleman's Magazine* January 1767.

⁴ Reading Mercury 20/4/1772.

⁵ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.349.

⁶ Walter Money, op cit. (1887), p.351.

⁷ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁸ Public Record Office. Memorial in St Nicolas Church.

⁹ Medical Register 1783. Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, Vol IV (1795), p. 186.

¹⁰ Australian descendant, who contacted Hugh Peacocke.

¹¹ Berkshire Burial Index for St Nicolas, researched by Judith Thomas.

¹² www.silversugartongs.com The Goldsmiths' records between 1739 and 1773 have been lost. The 1773 registration is noted in a Parliamentary report. A.G. Grimwade, *London Goldsmiths 1697-1837* (1990), p. 722, courtesy of Simon Davidson.

¹³ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

Mayors of Newbury

In 1759 he married Martha Grantham, presumed to be the widowed mother of his fellow goldsmith John Grantham, Mayor in 1778 and 1784.¹

1765

John Lynch (died 1779). Elected to the Council 1759. Clothier. Alderman.²

1766

George Jones (died 1781). Attorney. Elected to the Council 1760. Partner and uncle of Richard Townsend, Mayor in 1774 and 1776. Buried at St Nicolas. Son-in-law of Richard King, Mayor in 1746.

1767

Samuel Toomer (1736-1817).³ Elected to the Council 1760. Founder of the Toomer ironmongery business, originally in the Market Place. Samuel's father Joseph Toomer (died 1744)⁴, landlord from 1731 of the White Hart, had instituted the Hiring Fair.⁵ Samuel had been apprenticed to Joseph Hawkins (died 1759), Newbury ironmonger, and subsequently married Joseph Hawkins' sister Sarah Hawkins. Marriage into the landed Hawkins family increased Samuel Toomer's wealth and status, qualifying him to be a member of Newbury Corporation and Mayor.⁶ Their son Joseph Toomer was Mayor in 1791, 1801, and 1814. Despite being an Independent, Samuel served as Churchwarden 1781. He was also Mayor in 1783 (see for further details).

Sarah Hawkins was the daughter of Joseph Hawkins (died after 1759), the son of Joseph Hawkins (died 1712), Newbury grocer, the son of John Hawkins, Newbury grocer (died 1687), and Sarah Cowslade.⁷ John Hawkins was probably the brother of Hugh Hawkins (died 1646), Mayor in 1624.

131 Newbury freeholders were entitled to vote for Berkshire County in the 1768 General Election. The population of the town was 3732.⁸

1768

Joseph Furnell (1735-74). Cheesemonger. Elected to the Council 1760. Work on the present stone Newbury Bridge was begun, at a cost of £700. Buried at St Nicolas. In 1786 his widow was granted a pension of 4s a week, having fallen on hard times.

1769

Israel King (died 1780). Wine merchant and property owner in Newbury.⁹ Elected to the Council 1763. Son of Richard King, Mayor in 1746. Forbade John Wesley, on a visit to Newbury in March 1770, from preaching in Newbury Theatre (the Storehouse in Northcroft Lane).¹⁰ Buried at St Nicolas.

Four burgesses were elected to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor for the years 1771-75.

¹ www.genealogy.com entry for John Grantham.

² Reading Mercury 27/9/1779.

³ St Nicolas Burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁴ Walter Money, *Notes on the Parish Registers of Newbury* (Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 1896).

⁵ Joseph Toomer's Journal (Mayor 1791, 1801, and 1814).

⁶ Phil Wood.

⁷ *Berry's Berkshire Families* (1837). Joseph Hawkins' will (1759).

⁸ This and other population figures up to 1831 are from Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p.21.

⁹ Subscribed to Wellins Calcott, *A Collection of Thoughts, Moral and Divine, upon Various Subjects. In Prose and Verse* (1764).

¹⁰ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 162.

1770

Jo. Millett (born 1739). Mealman and maltster. Baptised an Independent (Congregationalist). Elected to the Council 1763. Lived in Chieveley. Married Elizabeth Pocock 1772. Declared bankrupt 1778.¹ His subsequent career is not ascertained.

Through his mother Elizabeth Hawkins, Jo. Millett was the great-grandson of Thomas Merriman (1647-1703), who was grandfather of Benjamin Merriman (1716-63), Mayor in 1755, and who was also great-grandson of John Hawkins, Newbury grocer (died 1687), brother of Hugh Hawkins, Mayor in 1624, and ancestor of Joseph Toomer, Mayor in 1791, 1801, and 1814.²

1771

Osman Vincent (1745-1813). Mercer, silk merchant, and banker. Apprenticed in 1761 to Richard Budd, Mayor in 1744, whose daughter Sarah he married. In 1768 he succeeded Richard Budd in his business as a mercer, draper, and undertaker at the corner of Mansion House Street.³ Elected to the Council 1769. In 1782 he set up a bank, initially in partnership with William Withers⁴ (1729-88, son of the Edward Withers, Mayor in 1762), then after William's death with Richard Baily (Mayor in 1783) under the name "Baily and Vincent". It was subsequently called the "Newbury Old Bank" and could issue its own bank notes. 1784 Osman declined to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. Lived at Donnington. Buried at Speen.⁵

Osman's son John Painter Vincent (1776-1852) was an eminent English surgeon, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1832 and 1840.⁶ Another son William Vincent continued his businesses and was Mayor in 1794 and 1803.⁷ Yet another son Captain Richard Budd Vincent CB (1770-1831) was a naval officer in the Napoleonic wars.

From 1771, Corporation members had to contribute 5 shillings for each of their guests to the Mayor's feast,⁸

1772

John Townsend (II) ("the younger") (1748-95). Son of John Townsend (I) ("the Elder"), Mayor in 1752 and 1781. Mealman and brewer. Elected to the Council 1769. At 24, he was one of the youngest Mayors elected. 1784 declined to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. His sister Elizabeth Wheeler (1749-1803) was the mother of Elizabeth Wheeler (1779-1806), wife of Richard Compton, Mayor in 1807.⁹ Borough Justice. Buried at St Nicolas.

1773

Richard Baily (1744-1814). Son of John Baily (1706-1776), a Thatcham timber merchant, who had the Baily vault in Thatcham Church constructed in 1761. He was a banker, trading as Baily & Vincent, with Osman Vincent, Mayor in 1771. He was also a coal merchant and barge master from 1779 to 1789.¹⁰ Elected to the Council 1769. 1784 declined to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. His

¹ Reading Mercury 20/7/1778. His bankruptcy was treated with some contempt in the Council minutes, with no reference to his former membership or mayoralty.

² *Berry's Berkshire Families* (1837). See Benjamin Merriman, Mayor in 1755.

³ Journal of the British Archaeological Association. Notes on parish registers (1766).

⁴ Reading Mercury 18/8/1778, drawn to my attention by David Peacock. Memorial in St Nicolas Church.

⁵ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁶ Wikipedia entry.

⁷ For the further history of the bank, see under William Vincent.

⁸ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 56.

⁹ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p481.

¹⁰ Reading Mercury 25/3/1779; 15/6/1789.

wife Sarah was the daughter of Lawrence Head (II), Mayor in 1747. Their son was Francis Baily (1774-1844), the eminent astronomer. He lived at 62 Northbrook Street.¹

1774

Richard Townsend (1746-1817). Attorney, partner of George Jones, Mayor in 1766, until the latter's death in 1781.² His wife Ann was also the niece of George Jones. Nephew of Richard King, Mayor in 1746. Elected to the Council 1769. He worked at some stage with Baily & Vincent. He donated part of the cost of one of the chandeliers in the Mansion House.³ He was also Mayor in 1776 and Town Clark 1779-1808.⁴ In 1799 he was nominated as an Income Tax commissioner.⁵ Buried at St Nicolas.

1775

Samuel Slocock (III) (1747-1831). Son of Samuel Slocock (II), Mayor in 1753. Elected to the Council 1769. A successful businessman, he was a brewer, spirits dealer, and corn and meal merchant. He operated a large fleet of narrow boats on the Kennet and Avon Canal from 1810 and between Newbury and Reading. He was a partner in the Newbury Bank 1794-1829 and owned the Weaver's Arms in Cheap Street.⁶ 1784 declined to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. At his death he was Senior Alderman. Buried at St Nicolas.

The later Newbury Slococks are descended from him. He married Mary Merriman (1754-1844), daughter of John Merriman (died 1776) of Speenhamland, who was doubtless related to the other Newbury Merrimans. Their eldest son Rev. Samuel Slocock (1779-1847), Rector of St Mary's Shaw, was responsible for the unauthorised demolition of the Anglo-Saxon Church there in 1841 and its replacement by the present church. The second son Alfred was Mayor in 1809 and third son Edmund was Mayor in 1818. The fourth son Charles (1788-1865) was partner in the Newbury Bank 1811-1846 and kept order in Newbury during the 1830 Swing riots against threshing mechanisation. Their daughter Clara (1789-1835) married Jere Bunny, Mayor in 1836.

Charles married Sophia Palmer (1786-1862). Their son Charles Samuel Slocock was Mayor in 1877. Charles Slocock's portrait is in the West Berkshire Museum.

Given the reluctance of members to serve as Mayor (see 1753), it was decided to select Mayors by ballot. The Council attempted to mitigate this cost by promoting a subscription dinner at 5s per head for 70 persons, but this can have had only a marginal effect, and the Mayor still had to pay for the subsequent ball. Members were still permitted to decline to serve as Mayor, paying a fine of £20.⁷

1776

Richard Townsend. See 1774. Richard King (see 1746) was the first member chosen by ballot, but being evidently unsuitable by both income and health, he declined to serve and was fined £20. The ballot was held again and Richard Townsend was elected.

The ballot scheme (see 1775) not having worked, four burgesses were elected to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor for the years 1777-80.

1777

¹ L. G. H. Horton-Smith *The Baily family of Thatcham* (Leicester 1951). (David Peacock).

² George Jones' will.

³ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Mansion House Street.

⁴ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 128.

⁵ Reading Mercury 25/3/1799.

⁶ Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

⁷ Corporation minutes, at the Berkshire Record Office.

Mayors of Newbury

Benjamin Barnard (1733-79). Land agent. A banker, according to his tombstone.¹ Bargemaster, according to Joseph Toomer's Journal. Elected to the Council 1776. Father of Benjamin Barnard, Mayor in 1815.²

1778

John Grantham (died 1814).³ Wine and brandy merchant.⁴ Watchmaker, according to Joseph Toomer's Journal.⁵ Elected to the Council 1776. Registered as a goldsmith in 1773.⁶ Gentleman, according to his will. His wife Elizabeth was the sister of Richard Townsend, Mayor in 1774 and 1776. Also Mayor in 1784.

Probably the stepson of Thomas Lovidge, Mayor in 1764 and 1782.

1779

Joseph Gray (1745-1805). Cheesemonger and grain merchant. Elected to the Council 1776. Son of Joseph Gray (1700-77) and Mary Sutton, sister of Charles Sutton, Mayor in 1749. Also Mayor in 1785. Married Ruth Tinsley (1744-1834), granddaughter of Francis Page (I), Mayor in 1719. Their sons were Edward Gray, Mayor in 1839, and George Gray. Buried at Enborne.⁷

Joseph Gray (1700-77)⁸ was the son of Joseph Gray (1674-1742) and Mary Mills. Joseph Gray (1674-1742) was the son of Richard Gray, perhaps the Richard Gray who was Mayor in 1695. Joseph Gray (1674-1742) and his father were Quakers, but their descendants became Anglicans.

1780

John Clark (1750-1803). Linen and woollen draper. Elected to the Council 1776. Apprenticed 1766 to Richard Budd, Mayor in 1744. Married to Hannah Withers (1763-1847), daughter of William Withers (1729-88), son of Edward Withers (1701-70), Mayor in 1762. John Clark was partner until 1783 of Osman Vincent, Mayor in 1771, who had also been apprenticed to Richard Budd.⁹ 1786 he declined to serve again as Mayor and was fined £20. He retired to Preshute, Marlborough, Wilts, but is buried (as John Clarke) with his wife at St Nicolas Church.¹⁰

It was decided that Mayors should be elected according to seniority, irrespective of illness, removal from the Borough, or any other cause. Richard Townsend (1774 and 1776) was excused as he had been Mayor twice. However, members could still decline to serve and pay a £20 fine accordingly.¹¹ This method also failed because many senior members were unwilling to serve as Mayor more than once.

1781

John Townsend (I). See 1752. At his death in 1789 he was Borough Justice and Senior Alderman.¹² Buried at St Nicolas.

The three next senior members – Francis Page (II) (1754), John Kimber (1758), and William Bodman (1761) – declined to serve as Mayor in the following election and were each fined £20.

¹ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.477.

² Joseph Toomer's Journal.

³ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

⁴ Bailey's British Directory (1784).

⁵ A grandfather clock by John Grantham of Newbury dated 1770 has recently been offered for sale.

⁶ A.G. Grimwade, *London Goldsmiths 1697-1837* (1990), p. 722, courtesy of Simon Davidson.

⁷ Berkshire Burial Index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁸ Described as a baker and shopkeeper in the will of John Cox, Mayor in 1739.

⁹ Reading Mercury 10/11/1783.

¹⁰ Walter Money, op. cit. (1887), p.478. He can be identified by his wife's dates.

¹¹ Corporation minutes, in the Berkshire Record Office.

¹² St Nicolas burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

1782

Thomas Lovidge. See 1764. Buried at St Nicolas.

A petition was sent requesting the removal of the 7th Regiment of Dragoons, then quartered in the town, citing many grievances sustained by the town and the end of the war.

1783

Samuel Toomer. See 1767. The treaty of peace with France and Spain on conclusion of the American War of Independence was proclaimed. Buried at St Nicolas. He retired to Preston Court, near Canterbury, Kent.¹ At his death he was Senior Alderman.

Along with Samuel Slocock (III) (1747-1831), Mayor in 1775, and others, Samuel Toomer founded the Newbury Bank in about 1790, retiring from it with an annuity in 1811. Partners in the Bank at various times included Samuel Slocock (III)'s son Charles Slocock (1788-1865), Charles Slocock's son Charles Samuel Slocock (1821-1907), Mayor in 1877, and Edward Brice Bunny (1785-1867), brother to Jere Bunny, Mayor in 1836. It could issue its own bank notes. Its finances suffered from an unsuccessful investment in a device for annihilating smoke², and it was sold to Capital & Counties Bank in 1895 for £24,000.³ (It is not to be confused with "Newbury Old Bank" set up in 1782, which closed in 1815 - see Mayors Osman Vincent 1771, Richard Baily 1772, and William Vincent 1794.)

In 1796 Samuel Toomer kept a trout stew on the Kennet, and presented a 17 lb trout to the Earl of Craven, who presented it to George III.⁴

Four more senior members – Osman Vincent (1771), John Townsend (II) (1772), Richard Baily (1773), and Samuel Slocock (III) (1775) – declined to serve as Mayor in the following election and were each fined £20.

1784

John Grantham. See 1778.

1785

Joseph Gray. See 1779.

Two burgesses were elected to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor 1786-87. The seniority rule (see 1780) must therefore have been dropped.

1786

Andrew Grove (1738-1803).⁵ Originally a glover and breeches maker. Later a wool merchant and oil leather dresser.⁶ His will is dated 1801. Elected to the Council 1785. Also Mayor in 1798.

His daughter Charlotte was the wife of John Gater Marriner, Mayor in 1820, his daughter Elizabeth was the wife of Richard Atlee, Mayor in 1796, and his daughter Mary was the wife of Thomas Wilmott, Mayor in 1822. Andrew Grove's widow Elizabeth and daughter Charlotte, named as executors, did not

¹ Phil Wood.

² Samuel Elliott's Smoke Annihilator. It resulted in the suicide of Henry Burke Godwin, Town Clerk 1876-95 (Private information; Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p. 128; Newbury Weekly News 16/12/1915, supplied by Brian Sylvester).

³ Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003), p. 22. Acquired by Lloyds Bank in 1918. See also Newbury Weekly News 7/4/2011 for its bank notes.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 9/9/1943.

⁵ St Nicolas Burial Records, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁶ Bailey's British Directory (1784).

administer his estate, probably because of its complexity. Administration was finally granted in 1861 to John Gater Marriner (who died in 1864) when all the other beneficiaries were dead.¹

Four burgesses were elected to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor 1788-91.

1787

John Hasker (1746-1814).² Grain merchant. Elected to the Council 1785. In 1788 a petition to the House of Commons against the slave trade was raised at a public meeting, at the instigation of Rev. James Bicheno (Baptist Minister), who was thanked by the meeting for his efforts. As a young man, Bicheno had served as an indentured servant in Virginia, being subsequently redeemed and returned to England. John Hasker was also Mayor in 1799. Father of John Hasker, Mayor in 1819.³

1788

John Webb (1740-98). Upholsterer, cabinet maker, and auctioneer. Elected to the Council 1786. Independent (Congregationalist).⁴ His will was proved in 1798.⁵ In 1789 a letter of congratulations was sent to George III on his recovery from illness, and a ball was held.⁶ Buried at St Nicolas.

1789

William Budd (1759-1840). Elected to the Council 1786. Son of Richard Budd, Mayor in 1744, by his second wife Mary. Attorney, in partnership with George Gray, brother of Edward William Gray, Mayor in 1789 (see 1839). William Budd was Deputy Clerk of the Peace for Berkshire 1790-1811 and Clerk of the Peace for Berkshire 1811-1840. He convened the meeting of magistrates in May 1795 at the George and Pelican, chaired by Charles Dundas MP, which decided on the "Speenhamland System".⁷ Friend of the writer and campaigner William Cobbett, to whom Cobbett dedicated his book *The Woodlands* (1825). 1801 refused to serve as Mayor and paid a £20 fine. 1809 unsuccessfully requested a review of the Council's finances. Opposed demolition of the old Guildhall in 1828.⁸ Buried at Shaw.

He resided at Burghclere, on an estate subsequently known as "Budd's Farm". This was inherited by Edward Pellew Plenty (1816-98), Mayor in 1865, who had married Budd's niece Caroline Simmonds (1823-1904), the heiress of much of his property.

1790

Benjamin Hawkins (1755-1825).⁹ Tallow chandler and soap boiler in Cheap Street. Previously grocer and tea merchant in the Market Place.¹⁰ Elected to the Council 1786. Lived at Speen. He had been apprenticed in 1770 to William Withers (1729-88), son of Edward Withers, Mayor in 1762. Alderman. Also Mayor in 1800. His wife Ann was the daughter of Lawrence Head (II), Mayor in 1747.

Three burgesses were elected to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor 1792-94.

1791

¹ Notes to the will of Andrew Grove at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

² St Nicolas Burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

³ Joseph Toomer's Journal.

⁴ Probably the John Webb baptised in the Newbury Independent meeting house in 1748.

⁵ National Archives.

⁶ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.363.

⁷ Audrey Franklin, *Portrait of a Town. Newbury in 1795*. Newbury Roundabout II (1991).

⁸ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p.6.

⁹ Berkshire Chronicle 16/7/1825.

¹⁰ Reading Mercury 29/6/1795.



Joseph Toomer (1760-1852). Ironmonger. Elected to the Council 1786. Son of Samuel Toomer, Mayor in 1767 and 1783. Author of a *Journal* (1846), describing his time as Mayor in 1791, 1801, and 1814. In 1792 he sponsored a petition to Parliament with 330 signatures against the slave trade, the second such petition in four years, at the instigation of Rev. James Bicheno, Baptist Minister.¹ An address was sent to George III in support of the British Constitution, in response to a royal proclamation against Thomas Paine's book "The Rights of Man".²

Amateur artist who trained at the Royal Academy. Played the viola.³ (Portrait believed to be a self-portrait⁴; © Peter Withey, descendant.). Despite being an Independent, he served as Churchwarden in 1793.

In 1787 Joseph married Jane Maskelyne (1758-1805), the daughter of James Houlblon Maskelyne (1730-80), a lawyer and member of a landed gentry family from Purton, Wiltshire. James Maskelyne's brother was Nevil Maskelyne FRS (1732-1811), a mathematician and astronomer who became the fifth Astronomer Royal in 1765. Nevil Maskelyne was involved in researches and calculations which enabled mariners to determine their longitude while at sea⁵, as well as other innovative research. James' sister was Margaret Maskelyne (1735-1817), who married Robert Clive (1725-74) ("Clive of India"), the East India Company general, victor at the 1757 Battle of Plassey. James, Nevil, and Margaret were the children of Edmund Maskelyne (1698-1743), a senior civil servant, and Elizabeth Booth (1697-1748). The Maskelyne family can trace their ancestry, through the Neville family, to John of Gaunt.⁶

Joseph and his father Samuel had a country house at Holtwood Gate, Hamstead Marshall. Joseph's brothers Samuel and Edward Toomer set up as ironmongers respectively in Basingstoke and Southampton.⁷ Joseph retired to his father's retirement house Preston Court in Kent.

Joseph and Jane's son Samuel Nevil Toomer (1797-1888) established the Toomer ironmongery shop at 4 Northbrook Street in 1827. He was made responsible for the standard weights and measures of Newbury Borough.⁸ He was generally known as "Nevil" but adopted the additional name "Samuel" in memory of a deceased elder brother. See also Arthur Greet, Mayor in 1930.

1792

James Bodman (I) (1766-1853). Mercer, linen and woollen draper in the Market Place. He took over the business in 1790 from his father William Bodman (1726-90), Mayor in 1761, and retired in 1832. Elected to the Council 1790. Grandson of Richard Golding (I), Mayor in 1748. Father of James Bodman (II), Mayor in 1832. Also Mayor in 1802 and 1816.

1793

Richard Golding (II) (1746-1821).⁹ Wool merchant. Alderman. Elected to the Council 1790. Buried at St Nicolas. Son of Richard Golding (I), Mayor in 1748. His sister Elizabeth was married to William Bodman, Mayor in 1761.

The extension of the Canal from Newbury to Bristol was supported by the Council, and in 1794 Parliament passed the Newbury to Bath Canal Act. In 1802 the Council sold land for its construction.

¹ See 1787.

² Joseph Toomer's *Journal*. The slave trade was abolished by Act of Parliament in 1807.

³ Phil Wood & Jane Burrell.

⁴ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021).

⁵ Published in *British Mariners' Guide* (1763) and *Nautical Almanac* (1767).

⁶ Maskelyne family history from Peter Withey, descendant of Joseph Toomer. Wikipedia entries for Nevil Maskelyne and Robert Clive. Nevil Maskelyne was elected a member of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences, the Paris Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

⁷ www.hamsteadmarshall.net/history/gazetteer.pdf Information from Phil Wood.

⁸ Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁹ St Nicolas burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

Mayors of Newbury

£100 was voted for national defence. In 1803 Richard Golding refused to serve as Mayor and was fined £20.

1794

William Vincent. Linen and woollen draper, and banker. Elected to the Council 1790. Also Mayor in 1803. Son of Osman Vincent, Mayor in 1771, whose business interests he continued.¹ As a draper, William was in partnership with John Brunsdon, a partnership which was dissolved in 1798.² As a banker, he continued his father's bank with new partners Joseph Tanner, John Barnes and Samuel Hancock, renaming it "Newbury Old Bank" to distinguish it from the Newbury Bank which had been founded by Samuel Toomer and Samuel Slocock in 1790. In 1815, a theft of £13,000 caused a run on Newbury Old Bank leading to its closure, and William Vincent and his three partners were declared bankrupt.³ William's dates are not yet ascertained.

Uncle of Edward W. Gray, also a banker, Mayor in 1839. William Vincent and Edward Gray were involved in 1806-07 with Henry Austen, brother of the novelist Jane Austen, in banking ventures at Petersfield, Alton, and Hythe in Hampshire. These all collapsed in the depression which followed the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815. Henry Austen went bankrupt in 1816.⁴ William Vincent resigned from the Council 1829.

In May 1795 a meeting of Berkshire magistrates was held at the "George and Pelican" under the chairmanship of Charles Dundas MP for Berkshire to decide on changes in implementing the poor law. The meeting was convened by William Budd, Mayor in 1789.

A motion was passed that, before the Council would elect any further members, a public meeting would be held at which the intention to elect new burgesses and the proposed number of new burgesses would be stated. This rule was observed for subsequent elections until 1822, when it was disregarded.

Three burgesses were elected to the Council who were willing to serve as Mayor 1795-97.

1795

Samuel Grigg (1754-1808). Grocer and agent to the Royal Exchange Fire Office. Elected to the Council 1794. Alderman. His will is dated 1808.⁵ Father of John Grigg, Mayor in 1821.⁶ Also Mayor in 1804.

1796

Richard Atlee. Pharmacist and grocer. Elected to the Council 1794. In 1792 he married Elizabeth the daughter of Andrew Grove, Mayor in 1786 and 1798.⁷ Also Mayor in 1805. In 1823 he wrote to resign from the Council as he no longer lived in Newbury and was in distressed circumstances; he was granted a pension of 10s a week. Possibly the Richard Atlee who died in Marlborough in 1837.⁸

It was decided to build 12 new almshouses for Raymond's Almshouses.

1797

¹ Reading Mercury 8/9/1788.

² Reading Mercury 8/4/1799. A "*British Directory of Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture*", issued in 1794, lists for Newbury a Mayor (William Vincent), six alderman, 19 burgesses, 16 gentry, 12 pharmacists or surgeons, five attorneys, and about 350 tradesmen with their occupations.

³ National Archives, ref. B 3/5118. DNW Auctions: The Collection of British and Irish Banknotes Formed by the Late Edward Barnby. British Museum: Term Details for Newbury Old Bank.

⁴ Clive Caplan, *Jane Austen's Banker Brother: Henry Thomas Austen of Austen & Co., 1801-1816* (Jane Austen Society of North America, 1998).

⁵ National Archive.

⁶ Samuel Grigg's will 1808.

⁷ Reading Mercury 5/11/1792.

⁸ Corporation minutes. Parliamentary Papers, 1839.

Mayors of Newbury

William Davis (1772-1835). Elected to the Council 1794. Son of Thomas Davis (died 1794), upholsterer and cabinet maker in Northbrook Street, who branched out as an auctioneer of furniture and farming stock. William took over his father's businesses and extended the auction sales to timber and freehold property. In later years he lived at Henwick, Thatcham and conducted business from premises at Stroud Green. £200 was voted for national defence. As Mayor he convened the militia against the threat of invasion in 1798.¹ A service of thanksgiving was held for naval victories, presumably the Battle of Cape St Vincent (1797) and the Battle of the Nile (1798). Also Mayor in 1806.

In 1798 £20 was voted towards mayoral expenses for those serving a second term. This was in addition to the £5 was regularly given to each new Mayor from Cowslad's Charity. Also, in 1808 the Mayor was assigned the rents from lease of the Mansion House vaults. These measures proved sufficient to resolve the immediate problem of all senior members refusing to serve a second term as Mayor, although some preferred to refuse and pay the £20 fine.

William's son William Davis (Jr) took over the upholstery and cabinet making business but was declared bankrupt in 1830.² A two-day sale of the entire furniture stock took place in 1832. Another son of William (Sr), Alexander Davis (1815-1903), took over the auction business and greatly expanded it. At some point it moved to the Market Place. When Alexander retired in 1884 the auction business merged with another and is now part of Carter Jonas in Northbrook Street.³

Francis Davis (1809-68), another son of William Davis (Sr), established a pharmacy business at 37 Northbrook Street, which remained there until recently.

1798

Andrew Grove. See 1786. His inauguration dinner in the Globe Inn was serenaded by the band of the 15th Light Dragoons.⁴ Buried at St Nicolas.

1799

John Hasker. See 1787. Buried at St Nicolas. A "weighing engine" was installed in the Market Place. A £300 public subscription was opened for national defence, of which £160 was paid by the St Bartholomew's Charity.

1800

Benjamin Hawkins. See 1790. Buried at St Nicolas.

1801

Joseph Toomer. See 1791. Presided over the celebrations of the peace preliminaries which led to the Treaty of Amiens (1802) between Britain and France.⁵ The town's population was 4276 (1801 census).

1802

James Bodman (I). See 1792 and 1816. £100 was voted in support of the Newbury Volunteer Association, a local militia mustered against the threat of a French invasion.

1803

William Vincent. See 1794. A peal of the newly cast bells of St Nicolas was rung for the first time on his election.⁶

¹ Reading Mercury 23/4/1798.

² George Elwick, *The Bankrupt Directory, from December 1820 to April 1843* (1843).

³ Anon, *Dreweatt, Watson & Barton, 1759-1959*; (c.1959, Newbury). David Peacock. Gillian Durrant.

⁴ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 88.

⁵ Joseph Toomer's Journal.

⁶ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887).

1804

Samuel Grigg. See 1795. Buried at St Nicolas.

1805

Richard Atlee. See 1796.

1806

William Davis. See 1797. He resigned from the Council 1830.

1807

Richard Compton (died 1823). Brewer. Elected to the Council 1804. His wife Elizabeth Wheeler (1779-1806) was the niece of John Townsend Jr (II), Mayor in 1772. Also Mayor in 1811 and 1817.

Thomas Townsend, attorney, was elected to the Council and appointed Town Clerk in succession to Richard Townsend Townsend (Mayor in 1774 and 1776). In 1809 a motion was passed that the Town Clerk was not eligible for the office of Mayor, and in consequence in 1813 Thomas Townsend successfully declined to serve as Mayor. He died 1825.

1808

William Green (1752-1827).¹ Draper and watchmaker. Elected to the Council 1804. Alderman. Also Mayor in 1810.

1809

Alfred Slocock (1783-1839). Son of Samuel Slocock (III), Mayor in 1775. Wine merchant in Bartholomew Street. Elected to the Council 1808. JP. Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire.² His business was taken over on his death by his brother Edmund Slocock (Mayor in 1818) and Theophilus Turner (Mayor in 1848 and 1849). His mayoral feast cost £47:19:8.³ The Golden Jubilee of King George III was celebrated. Also Mayor in 1812 and 1813. A request from William Budd (Mayor in 1789) and George Gray (see further 1839) for a special meeting of the Council to consider its finances was refused.

1810

William Green. See 1808. A house adjoining Raymond's Almshouses was bought in order to extend them. A new gaol was considered in Northcroft Lane. Compensation was agreed for billeting of soldiers. Buried at St Nicolas.

1811

Richard Compton. See 1807. £150 was voted for poor relief. It was agreed to build 10 further almshouses for St Bartholomew's Charity.

1812, 1813

Alfred Slocock. See 1809. He served a third term in 1813 because no one else agreed to do so, and his expenses for this term were reimbursed by the Council. The Treaty of Paris, ending the war with France, was celebrated in July 2014 with a dinner for 4000 people, laid out on 39 tables in the main

¹ St Nicolas burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

² Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

³ West Berkshire Museum.

Mayors of Newbury

Newbury streets. Tables and chairs were specially constructed, and the dinner was paid for largely by a public subscription.¹ He was buried at Shaw.

1814

Joseph Toomer. See 1791.

As Mayor, he undertook a census of Newbury's inhabitants in May-June 1815. He also issued a census of Newbury's public houses in 1823.

1815

Benjamin Barnard (1771-1843). Wine Merchant. Elected to the Council 1814. Son of Benjamin Barnard, Mayor in 1777. Elected to the Council in 1814.² A £100 subscription was opened for relief of the poor. 20 May 1816 an attempt was made to shoot him, while Mayor, through the window of his house. A reward of 100 guineas was offered by the Corporation on conviction of the perpetrator.³ Lived at Woodspeen East. Buried at Speen.⁴ The town's population was 5309 in 1096 households (Joseph Toomer's census).

1816

James Bodman (I). See 1792. Buried at St Nicolas.

The Newbury Savings Bank was founded in 1817.⁵

1817

Richard Compton. See 1807. Resigned from the Council 1827. 148 Newbury freeholders were eligible to vote for Berkshire County in the 1818 General election.

1818

Edmund Slocock (1787-1869). Elected to the Council 1814⁶ and 1835. Son of Samuel Slocock (III), Mayor in 1775. Inherited and eventually sold the West Mills brewery in about 1860. From the 1850's he lived in Chelsea, London. Wrote a history of the Newbury Slococks. His son Rev. Oliver Edmund Slocock (1835-1907) was vicar of St Mary's Greenham 1871-90 and was largely instrumental in constructing its new church and vicarage.⁷

1819

John Hasker (1783-1847).⁸ Mealman. Son of John Hasker, Mayor in 1787. Elected to the Council 1814.⁹ Sent a letter of support to Queen Caroline, wife of George IV, upon her trial before the House of Lords for misconduct.¹⁰ Also Mayor in 1827.

1820

¹ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 58. Notwithstanding the Treaty, Napoleon escaped from Elba, but was defeated in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo.

² Joseph Toomer's Journal.

³ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.393. Information by Phil Wood.

⁴ Berkshire burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 15/4.1897.

⁶ Joseph Toomer's Journal.

⁷ Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

⁸ St Nicolas burial records, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁹ Joseph Toomer's Journal.

¹⁰ William Cobbett's *Political Register* (1820). The trial collapsed and the Queen died in 1821.

Mayors of Newbury

John Gater Marriner (1784-1864). Pharmacist. In 1798 he was apprenticed to Richard Atlee, Mayor in 1796 and 1805. He married Charlotte Grove, daughter of Andrew Grove, Mayor in 1786 and 1798, and in 1861 was awarded administration of his estate. Elected to the Council 1814.¹ A £100 subscription was opened for relief of the poor. The accession of George IV was proclaimed and a loyal address was sent to him (notwithstanding the action of the previous Mayor). 1821 he quietened a mass brawl in the Market Place between militia officers, quartered in Newbury, and locals.² 1828 he refused to serve as Mayor and was fined £20. He retired in 1832.³

John Gater Marriner wrote to the whole Council asking that its debts to the Cowslad Charity and St Bartholomew's Hospital be examined, and a writ was received from the Court of Chancery on the first of these. The Council became aware that its negligence in management of the charities' finance was placing it at risk (see 1809 and 1825).⁴ Other financial matters – lease of the Globe Inn and collection of market tolls – were also confused. When an Alderman vacancy arose, three senior burgesses – William Vincent (Mayor in 1794 and 1803), Richard Atlee (Mayor in 1796 and 1805), and William Budd (Mayor in 1789) – refused to serve.

When in 1839 the Court of Chancery ruled that Newbury Councillors should recompense local charities with money lost through Council mismanagement, John Gater Marriner refused on the grounds that there had been no misapplication of the funds while he was Mayor. He was accordingly detained in Newbury prison but released when his son paid the sum owing.⁵ It was perhaps for this reason that he subsequently left Newbury for Reading and later Kingston.⁶

1821

John Grigg (1779-1829). Maltster. Son of Samuel Grigg, Mayor in 1795. Elected to the Council 1818. Also Mayor in 1828. In 1824 he married Matilda Mills (1804-40), daughter of William Mills, Mayor in 1824 and 1829.

1822

Thomas Willmott (died 1824). Leather merchant. Elected to the Council 1818. He married Mary Grove the daughter of Andrew Grove, Mayor in 1786 and 1798.

In October 1822, the journalist William Cobbett addressed a well-attended meeting of 200 Newbury and local farmers at the "George and Pelican".⁷

1823

Edward Pointer Haskins (1791-1841). Born in Newbury. Elected to the Council 1818. Wine and spirits merchant, carrying on the business inherited from his father John Haskins (1745-1816). He also completed the mayoral term of John Grigg (1828), who died in office. 1816 he joined the Royal Sussex masonic lodge, Newbury. In 1830 he was obliged to assign all his estate and effects to his brother John Haskins Jr and John Trumplett, draper, as trustees, presumably in order to avoid bankruptcy.⁸ His address at death was in Shaw Crescent.⁹ Buried at St Nicolas.

In 1786 Edward's father John Haskins (1845-1816) had inherited the wine and spirits business from his father-in-law, Edward Pointer, who had come to Newbury from Southwark, London. John had married Rosa Ann Pointer (1750-1831) in Newbury in 1777. In the 1790's, he also ran a private coffee house,

¹ Joseph Toomer's Journal.

² Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021).

³ Reading Mercury 31/12/1832.

⁴ Monies had been spent and loaned from the charities' funds as though they belonged to the Borough. The total debt owing was eventually £5715 (Corporation minutes 1836).

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 23 or 30/5/1996.

⁶ 1851 and 1861 censuses.

⁷ Cobbett's *Rural Rides*, 17 October 1822.

⁸ Reading Mercury, 29/11/1830. Wikitree, researched by Gerald Wells. Brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁹ Reading Mercury, 28/8/1841.

where for a subscription newspapers could be read.¹ During most of the time, the family conducted the business from their home in the Market Place, but in 1815 it was based in Edward Pointer Haskins' home in Northbrook Street.

1824



William Mills (1767-1857). Cheesemonger in the Market Place. Elected to the Council 1822. Also Mayor in 1829. His daughter Matilda Mills (1804-40) married John Grigg, Mayor in 1821 and 1828, and subsequently James Bodman (II), Mayor in 1832.² He started his cheese business selling from a cart. (Daguerreotype © June Shaw, descendant.) 1825 Robert Baker (died 1849) was appointed Town Clerk, serving 1825-38 and 1842-49.

In May 1825 the Newbury and Speenhamland Improvement Act was passed, more broadly called “An Act for Lighting, Watching, Paving, Cleansing, and Improving the Streets, Highways, and Places within the Borough Town and Parish of Newbury and the Tithing or Hamlet of Speenhamland.” It appointed independent Improvement Commissioners to perform these functions, empowered to levy a rate for the purpose. This Act was supported by the Borough Council, which co-operated with the commissioners in the demolition of the old Guildhall, building a gasometer, paving the streets, and widening Newtown Road.

These Improvement Commissioners were abolished under the terms of the Public Health Act 1848, when that Act was applied to Newbury in July 1852. Under the 1848 Act, a Public Health Board was established by the Borough Council which took over from the Improvement Commissioners.³ Speenhamland remained outside Newbury until 1878.

1825

John Brown Satchell (1795-1851). Grocer and brewer at 70 Northbrook Street. Elected to the Council 1822 and 1835. Buried at St Nicolas⁴ December 1825 Newbury and Speenhamland were first illuminated by gas.

In this and following years, large numbers of properties belonging to the Council were put up for action to pay for the expected deficits, especially in Cowslade's, Kendrick's, and St Bartholomew's charities.

1826

James Hazell (1791-1864). Grocer in Northbrook Street.⁵ Elected to the Council 1822 and 1835. A petition for the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts (repealed in 1827 and 1828) was presented by the Council to Parliament.⁶ It was decided to build 10 new almshouses in Fair Close, contractor George Adey (Mayor in 1846). Also Mayor in 1831. Died in London.

1827

John Hasker. See 1819. Buried at St Nicolas.

The Test and Corporation Acts, requiring those holding public office to be officially Anglican, was repealed in 1828 (see 1660).

1828

¹ Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 107.

² James Bodman (II) obituary, *Newbury Weekly News* 7/5/1868.

³ *Berkshire Chronicle* 31/7/1852.

⁴ Presumably in a family vault, as from 1850 ordinary burials at St Nicolas had been prohibited under the Newbury Burials Act 1847 (Ros Clow).

⁵ 1841 census.

⁶ *London Evening Standard* 7/6/1827.

John Grigg. See 1821. His second election was challenged in the Court of King's Bench under *Quo Warranto* proceedings, when it was found that it had not been conducted correctly under the Charter of 1596. The Borough rectified this by re-adopting the 1685 Charter of James II, in which the election rules were less strict.¹ Grigg died in office in April 1829, and was replaced by Edward Pointer Haskins, Mayor in 1823. He was buried at St Nicolas. His widow Matilda subsequently (1831) married James Bodman (II), Mayor in 1832.

The Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829 permitted Roman Catholics for the first time to be members of Borough Councils and, by implication, to vote in Council elections when they commenced in 1835.

1829

William Mills. See 1824. King William IV was proclaimed and a loyal address was sent to him.² Buried at Speenhamland.³

1830

John Brown Satchell. See 1825.

1831

James Hazell (1791-1864). See 1826. A petition was presented to Parliament in favour of the First Reform Bill, which was enacted in 1832.⁴ The First Reform Act removed many anomalies in Parliamentary electoral constituencies and extended the Parliamentary franchise to middle-class male citizens. The town's population was 5960.

1832

James Bodman (II) (1797-1868). Conservative. Linen and woollen draper in Northbrook Street.⁵ Elected to the Council 1828 and 1836. Son of James Bodman (I), Mayor in 1792, 1802, and 1816. In 1831 he married Matilda Grigg (1804-40), widow of John Grigg, Mayor in 1821 and 1828, and daughter of William Mills, Mayor in 1824 and 1829. He took over his father's business in 1832. Resided at Enborne. Member of the Court Leet.⁶ Buried at Speenhamland.

1833, 1834, 1835

John Alexander (1792-1870). Surgeon and medical practitioner. Elected to the Council 1829 and re-elected 1835. Borough Magistrate. Deputy Coroner.⁷ Borough Coroner 1835-70. Alderman on the Council until his death.⁸

The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 abolished the closed self-electing corporation and introduced voting for the Borough Council by propertied male ratepayers, the first election being on 26 December 1835. The number of electors was 291.⁹ In 1835 John Alexander became the first Mayor of the newly elected Borough Council. On 15th March 1836, he issued instructions of the Watch Committee on the duties of the Chief Constable and Beadles of Newbury.¹⁰

¹ Reading Mercury 16/2/1829. No mention of this is made in the Corporation minutes.

² Reading Mercury 5/7/1830.

³ Berkshire burial index, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁴ Reading Mercury 24/10/1831.

⁵ *Accounts and Papers Relating to Corporate Officers and Charitable Trusts* (House of Commons, 1834). 23 corporate officers for Newbury are listed, with their occupations. For James Bodman (II), see also the 1841 census.

⁶ Reading Mercury 9/5/1868.

⁷ 1861 census.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 14/4/1870.

⁹ Reading Mercury 16/11/1835. In the 1818 Parliamentary election, 148 freeholders voted in Newbury, Speenhamland, Shaw, Donnington and Greenham. A similar number voted in the Parliamentary elections of 1727, 1768, and 1796 (Berkshire Family History Society).

¹⁰ Information supplied by Judith Thomas.

The right to vote in local government elections remained confined to ratepayers until 1918. See also under 1867 and 1893.

1836, 1837

Jere Bunny (1788-1854). Solicitor. Elected to the Council 1835. Proclaimed the accession of Queen Victoria in June 1837.¹ A public feast was held to celebrate the Queen's coronation in June 1838.² Jere passed the Bar examination 1843. His elder brother Edward Brice Bunny JP (1785-1867) was partner in the Newbury Bank with Samuel and Charles Slocock. Jere's wife Clara Bunny (1789-1835) was daughter of Samuel Slocock (III), Mayor in 1775. Jere (pronounced "Jéré") was short for Jeremiah, but he was always so called. He was buried at St Nicolas.³

In 1848 Jere Bunny purchased the land on which Donnington Square was built.⁴ In 1851 he sold one parcel of the land to a house builder and in 1852 the "principal part" to his son Henry Bunny (1822-91), a solicitor in practice with him who was also Newbury Town Clerk 1849-53. In 1853, Henry sold on his share to a second housebuilder at a substantial profit, which appears to have included the land of Jere Bunny's 1851 sale. The reason for this is not clear – either Jere Bunny sold land which he did not then possess, or (more likely) Henry forged a conveyance which made it appear so. Henry pocketed the proceeds and shortly afterwards, fearing charges for bankruptcy and fraud, he sailed for New Zealand with his wife and family. He was disinherited by his father and struck off by the Law Society. After Jere died in 1854, the various parties initiated legal proceedings, which were concluded in 1865 with a financial settlement. The eventual inheritor of much of the land was Edward Brice Bunny, who with Samuel Slocock had loaned much of the money for these transactions. It remained in his family in part until the 1950's.⁵

Henry Bunny registered as a solicitor and practised in New Zealand. He became the Secretary and Treasurer of Wellington Province and its last acting Superintendent before its dissolution in 1876. He was a New Zealand MP 1865-81.⁶

1838

George Payne (1811-76). Born in Glastonbury. Pharmacist in Bartholomew Street.⁷ Quaker.⁸ Elected to the Council 1836. When elected Mayor, he had to promise not to use his official position to the disadvantage of the Established Church.⁹ Founded the Newbury Mendicity Society. Poor Law Guardian 1838, when he assisted in rectifying the abuses in the municipal charities.¹⁰ Also Mayor in 1840.

1839

Edward William Gray (1786-1860). The son of Joseph Gray, Mayor in 1779 and 1785, and his wife Ruth Tinsley (1744-1834). Originally a cheese factor and mealman. 1807 a grocer and banker living in Alton, Hants. Declared bankrupt in consequence of the failure of Newbury Old bank in 1815 (see William Vincent, Mayor in 1794). He was involved with his uncle William Vincent in other banking ventures in Hampshire. For one of these banks, in Alton, he was a partner with Jane Austen's brother

¹ Frank Stillman: *Newbury during the Victorian Era* (1893).

² Penelope Stokes, *Georgian Newbury* (2021), p. 143.

³ Presumably in a family vault, as from 1850 ordinary burials at St Nicolas had been prohibited under the Newbury Burials Act 1847 (Ros Clow).

⁴ Reading Mercury 26/8/1848.

⁵ Donnington Square Conservation Area report (2008). Information researched by Roger and Frances Bale, descendant of William Miller, Nuseryman, who had tenanted the site as a Market Gardener.

⁶ Wikipedia entry on Henry Bunny.

⁷ 1841 census.

⁸ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Mayors Lane.

⁹ Newbury Quaker Meeting House records, researched by Jane Burrell.

¹⁰ Newbury Weekly News 17/8/1876, brought to my attention by David Peacock.

Henry Austen. It also collapsed in 1815, but Gray took care to forewarn his relatives so that they withdrew their money in advance.¹

Released from bankruptcy in 1817, he returned to his family's cheesemongering and grain businesses. Elected to the Council 1835 and was largely responsible for restoring the municipal charities to good order.² Alderman. JP. Published anonymously in 1839 *The History and Antiquities of Newbury and its Environs*, the first known history of Newbury, and *A Catalogue of Plants found in the Neighbourhood of Newbury*.³ He was eventually accepted among the local gentry, living in Woodspeen. Profiled in the *Dictionary of National Biography* (1921-22). Buried in the family vault at St Mary's Church Enborne.

While he was Mayor, messages of congratulations was sent to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert upon their marriage.⁴

Edward William's brother George Gray (died 1836), attorney, was elected to the Council 1808 and 1825. He refused to serve as Mayor in 1810 but demanded unsuccessfully to be Mayor in 1826. In 1825 George presented a petition to Parliament alleging mismanagement of the Borough⁵. In 1832, with his partner William Budd (see 1789), he instigated proceedings in Chancery against the Borough, alleging mismanagement of Kendrick's and Cowslade's charities. The Borough was found liable, and in debt by £1400 to its Town Clerk and £4210 to the charities. To clear this debt, the movable assets of the Borough were auctioned on 12 June 1839.⁶

As churchwarden, Edward William Gray was involved in a dispute with Dr Hibbert Binney (Rector of St Nicolas 1838-57) on the poor rate payable by the Rector on the tithe. As Mayor, he adjudged the case in his own favour, in breach of the fundamental judicial principle the no-one should be judge in his own cause. The dispute was resolved by an appeal from Dr Binney to the Home Secretary (Lord Normanby), heard by the Newbury Recorder, during which Dr Binney accused Gray of raising a mob against him. Binney was eventually obliged to pay rates of £235.⁷

In 1856, Edward William procured one of the Russian guns captured during the Crimean War. It was eventually displayed beside the Clock Tower until melted down during World War II.⁸

1840

George Payne. See 1838. In 1841, he sent a letter of congratulations to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert on the birth of their first child (Princess Victoria).⁹ Alderman 1844. 1849 he moved to Newport, Isle of Wight, and was appointed pharmacist to Queen Victoria.¹⁰ In subsequent years he moved to Deptford and then London, pursuing his career as a pharmacist.¹¹

1841

John Lewis (1799-1881). Draper, mercer, haberdasher and hosier in the Market Place.¹² Born in Tewkesbury, Glos, of a family involved in hosiery and ribbon manufacture. Read the Riot Act at public disturbances in 1842 which followed proposals to enclose East and West Fields, eventually enclosed in 1849.¹³ Retired from the Council 1846.¹ On the death of his first wife Jane Weedon (1799-

¹ Clive Caplan, *Jane Austen's Banker Brother: Henry Thomas Austen of Austen & Co., 1801-1816* (Jane Austen Society of North America, 1998). Information from Ros Clow.

² Reading Mercury 23/6/1860 and 30/6/1860.

³ See also Elias Ashmole, *The Antiquities of Berkshire* (1723) and *History of Berkshire* (1736).

⁴ Reading Mercury 7/3/1840.

⁵ London Evening Mail 6/7/1825.

⁶ Penelope Stoles, *Georgian Newbury* (2021). Reading Mercury 26/11/1832 and 6/4/1839.

⁷ Berkshire Chronicle 7/11/1840. Oxford Chronicle & Reading Gazette 7/11/1840.

⁸ Ros Clow.

⁹ Reading Mercury 6/2/1841.

¹⁰ Reading Mercury 24/2/1849.

¹¹ Censuses 1851, 1861, and 1871.

¹² *Pigot's Directory for Berkshire* (1830)

¹³ Berkshire Chronicle 8/10/1842.

(1799-1853), he married Clara Fielder (1813-95) in 1854. Retired in about 1852 to Guildford, where he lived off rental and dividend income.² A message of congratulation was sent to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert on the birth of the Prince of Wales.³

1842

George Scarr Higgons (1811-87). Born at Clanfield, Oxon. Mercer and draper at 19 Northbrook Street.⁴ Alderman. The Literary and Scientific Institution was opened in Northbrook Street by Lord Carnarvon in August 1843.⁵

At some time after 1841 George formed a partnership with his assistant Edward Hanington (1812-70), brother of his wife Jane. In 1854 this partnership was dissolved⁶ and George moved to London where he practiced as a stuff agent. Evidently this activity did not succeed, as by 1871 he was obliged to return to Newbury and reside at 19 Northbrook Street with Edward's son Harman Hanington, Mayor in 1894, who carried on the drapery business after Edward's death.⁷ His wife Jane (1816-1890) stayed with him with these moves.

1843

William Dredge (1793-1856). "Carpenter", i.e. builder.⁸ Elected to the Council 1835. Alderman 1841. Also Mayor in 1850 and 1851. JP. Unitarian. "Radical of the old school."⁹

1844

Thomas Simmons (1791-1865). Grocer at 5 Northbrook Street. Alderman.¹⁰

1845

Robert Martin (1807-60). Born in Stratford, East London. Saddle manufacturer, currier, and leather seller in the market place. Also made harness, twine, and sacks. Alderman.¹¹ He was declared bankrupt 1839,¹² but appears to have recovered his reputation.

1846

¹ Reading Mercury 24/10/1846.

² Newbury Weekly News 1/12/1881. Susan Tolman, *Newbury History and Guide* (1994). Census data. Information from the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

³ Reading Mercury 22/1/1842.

⁴ 1841 census.

⁵ Reading Mercury 26/8/1843.

⁶ London Gazette January 1854.

⁷ Censuses 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881. Newbury Weekly News obituary 10/2/1887, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁸ 1841 census.

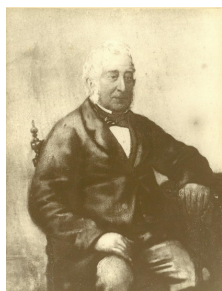
⁹ Reading Mercury 8/3/1856; Berkshire Chronicle 8/3/1856, supplied by Brian Sylvester.

¹⁰ 1851 census.

¹¹ Reading Mercury 30/6/1860; Berkshire Chronicle 30/6/1860, supplied by Brian Sylvester.

¹² George Elwick, *The Bankrupt Directory, from December 1820 to April 1843* (1843).

Mayors of Newbury



George Adey (1797-1870). “Carpenter”, i.e. builder, at West Mills.¹ A building contractor for the pre-1935 borough (see 1826). Instrumental in securing the Newbury Cemetery Act 1847, which authorised the establishment of Newtown Road Cemetery in 1850.² Alderman 1853.³ His son William was Mayor in 1874 and 1875. (Portrait from an oil painting.)

1847

Edward Lawrence Farrow (1804-75). Butcher at 1 Northbrook Street.⁴ Commercial speculations of an unfortunate character and other reverses of fortune reduced his circumstances, and some of his old friends interested themselves in getting for him one of Kimber's Almshouses in which he spent the last year or two of his life.⁵

The portrait sculptor William Charles May (1853-1931) worked for him as a butcher's lad before going to London to seek training as a sculptor.

1848, 1849



Theophilus Verney Turner (1807-93). Wine merchant in Bartholomew Street. Born and resided at Whitchurch.⁶ In 1839 he took over the business of Alfred Slocock (Mayor in 1809; deceased) in partnership with the brewer Edmund Slocock (Mayor in 1818).⁷ After the partnership with Slocock was dissolved in 1846, he partnered with another brewer. When this partnership also dissolved in 1850, Turner became a brewer himself.⁸ Since he also sold insurance from the Atlas company, he named his brewery “Atlas”. The name continued for many decades after.

As Mayor, he attended the opening of Newtown Road Cemetery in 1850.⁹ The Council began to concern itself with insanitary conditions in the town, under the 1846 Nuisance Removal Act.¹⁰ He was elected Alderman. In 1866 he sold the Atlas brewery to Thomas Deller (Mayor in 1854) and practiced as a solicitor in Reading.¹¹ After the death of his first wife Ann Hacker (1811-67) he retired from business and moved to London. In 1869 he remarried Henrietta Clement (1799-1885)¹² and lived in Kensington, but was declared bankrupt in 1886 for reasons unknown.¹³ Returning to Whitchurch, he ended as a lodger in Whitchurch Post Office.¹⁴ (Portrait from an oil painting © Jeremy Drew, descendant.)

1850, 1851

¹ 1851 census.

² Ros Clow, Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Further burials at St Nicolas were prohibited. It was repealed by the Newbury Corporation Act (1953).

³ Reading Mercury, 12/2/1970, researched by Brian Sylvester.

⁴ 1851 census.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 20/5/1875, supplied by Brian Sylvester.

⁶ Jeremy Drew, descendant.

⁷ Phil Wood. Reading Mercury 8/6/1839.

⁸ 1851 census.

⁹ Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

¹⁰ Reading Mercury 27/1/1849. This was a precursor to the 1848 Public Health Act.

¹¹ Phil Wood.

¹² Reading Mercury 26/6/1869. She was the widow of a surgeon.

¹³ London Daily News 14/5/1886.

¹⁴ 1891 census.

Mayors of Newbury

William Dredge. See 1843. JP 1851. In the 1852 General Election he led actions by Magistrates which restored public order after riots had broken out around the Mansion House. The Riot Act had been read.¹ On his death, he owned land in various parts of Newbury.

In August 1852 the Council set up the Newbury Public Board of Health under the 1848 Public Health Act.² It was merged with the Council in 1873. The Improvement Commissioners (who had apparently not concerned themselves with public health issues) were abolished. See also 1824.

1852. 1853



Joseph Frederick Hickman (1811-94). Pharmacist at 21 Market Place from 1838. From the 1860's he traded as Hickman & Metcalf with his partner Benjamin Metcalf, the father of Harry R. Metcalf, Mayor in 1929.³ Elected to the Council in 1843. Conservative. Member of St John's Church. Borough Magistrate 1859. Alderman. Lived at Erleigh House, Andover Road (now demolished). Father of Richard Hickman, Mayor in 1905. Also Mayor in 1872 and 1873.⁴

As Mayor, he initiated the practice of providing at his own expense a Christmas breakfast at the Town Hall for leading Newbury (male) citizens, a practice discontinued by John Rankin in 1899.⁵

1854

Thomas Deller (1820-92). Brewer. Born Easton, Hants. Known as "Tommy". Lived in what is now Bartholomew Manor, Argyle Road.⁶ Mason.⁷ 1866-77 he owned or leased the Atlas Brewery founded by Theophilus Turner (Mayor in 1848 and 1849). Declared bankrupt 1868⁸ and resigned as a Councillor, but managed to continue in business. Invited to Sandringham in 1874 to see some wheat grown from grain which he had given to the Prince of Wales.⁹ Eventually he was obliged to retire to Portsmouth, where he became a commercial clerk and then a grocer's assistant (his wife and daughter staying with him).¹⁰ His last years were supported as a pensioner of the Mayors' Benevolent Fund.¹¹

1855

¹ Richard Godfrey, *Newbury Borough Police 1836-1875* (2008), pp 36-39.

² Berkshire Chronicle 31/7/1852.

³ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Erleigh Dene. Mr Tubb seems to have confused Harry R. Metcalf (1877-1959) with his father Benjamin Metcalf (1848-1931). The dates are from census and death records.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 11/1/1894, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 23 or 30/5/1996.

⁶ Phil Wood.

⁷ Master of the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope in 1861. Information supplied by David Peacock. 20 subsequent Mayors were also Masons (information from Brian Sylvester).

⁸ London Gazette 21/7/1868.

⁹ Reading Mercury 2/7/1870 and 8/8/1874. The wheat had been grown by Deller from a single grain dropped by the Prince of Wales at an event in Reading in 1870. About one acre of wheat at Sandringham resulted from this single grain, which Deller had planted and nurtured. Known as "Masonic Pedigree Wheat". Information from Brian Sylvester. Masonic record 19/9/1874.

¹⁰ 1881 and 1891 censuses.

¹¹ Newbury Weekly News 18/2/1892.

Mayors of Newbury



John Hawe Mason JP (1817-1907). Grocer in the Market Place. Oversaw the 1856 celebrations on conclusion of the Crimean War. October 1856 Newbury Building Society was founded at 62 Northbrook Street and he received the first share certificate.¹ JP 1859. Chairman of the Newbury Gas Company and of the Trustees of Municipal Charities. Instrumental in establishing the Grammar School in Enborne Road in 1885. Elected Alderman of Newbury Borough Council in 1862 but resigned from the Council in 1863, possibly because of the election of James Lucas as Mayor. Borough Magistrate 1862-1907. President of the Literary and Scientific Institution. Methodist. Alderman of Berkshire County Council 1888.²

1856



Edward Wilson JP (1807-91). Born in Watchfield, Berkshire. Came to Newbury in 1823. Butcher at 85 Northbrook Street.³ Farmer at Speenhamland, Shaw Hill, and Cold Ash. Alderman 1867. Opposed a new drainage system for Newbury. Borough Magistrate 1879.⁴

At the Borough elections of November 1856, the electoral roll was 337, of whom 289 electors voted.⁵

1857



James Porteous Jackson (1817-1906). Ironmonger in the Market Place.⁶ Elected to the Council 1844. Elected Mayor only after four other Councillors had declined to serve and were subject to a fine of £10.⁷ JP 1859. Alderman 1863. Designated "Father of the Corporation" through long service. Anglican, serving as Rector's Warden in Newbury 1858-85 (although born a Presbyterian). Violinist.⁸ President of Newbury Bowling Club 1884-93.⁹

The total number of Newbury Borough electors was 358.¹⁰

1858

Henry Keens (1812-86). Currier and leather cutter in St Mary's Hill. Baptist.¹¹

1859, 1860

¹ The original name was The Newbury Permanent Benefit Building and Investment Society, changed to the present name in 1932. 1993 pamphlet by Newbury Building Society, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

² Newbury Weekly News 29/8/1907, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Cecilia Millson and Joyce Bowers, in *The "City" Newbury* (Newbury District Field Club, 1992).

³ 1851 census.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 9/4/1891, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁵ Berkshire Chronicle 8/11/1856.

⁶ 1851 census.

⁷ Berkshire Chronicle 14/11/1857. Brought to my attention by Rosemary Birch, descendant of Edward Wilson.

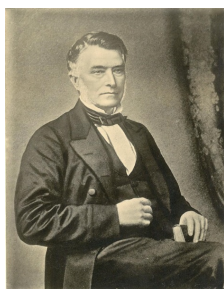
⁸ Newbury Weekly News September 1906, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁹ Newbury Bowling Club, forwarded by Brian Sylvester 2015.

¹⁰ Reading Mercury 7/11/1857.

¹¹ Newbury Weekly News 16/12/1886, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

Mayors of Newbury



Henry Flint JP (1808-79). Liberal. Coal Merchant in St Mary's Hill. Borough magistrate. Alderman. Deacon of the Baptist Church for over 40 years. Trustee of the Municipal Charities and of Coxedd's and Pearce's Charities. Treasurer of the Boys' British School. Trustee of Newbury Building Society from its commencement.¹ Brother of Samuel Flint, Mayor in 1871.²

1861, 1862

John William Randall (1807-63). Grocer and provision merchant at 91 Northbrook Street.³ Born Newington, Surrey. Elected to the Town Council in 1854. Oversaw the celebrations for the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in March 1863. The Corn Exchange and the railway extension to Devizes were opened. He died shortly after leaving office.⁴

1863



James Henry Lucas (1820-99). Liberal. Born in Malmesbury. Came to Newbury 1838. Draper at 2 Bartholomew Street.⁵ Elected to the Council 1856. Elected Mayor on a majority vote, against the opposition of John Mason. Alderman 1878. Father of Charles Lucas, Mayor in 1880. Member of the Congregational Church Choir. Member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. Chairman of the Shaw Brick-kilns Company.

As Councillor, he fought for economy in public expenditure on all occasions. "While regarding himself as a man of peace, his municipal career was a series of conflicts for the maintenance of his views. He was accustomed to give expression to his views in a fearless manner, and never hesitated to back them by his vote." Instrumental (with his successor) in securing Nonconformist representation on the Trustees of the Newbury Municipal Charities. Instrumental in purchase by the Council of the Gas Works. Opposed unsuccessfully the building of the present Town Hall 1875.⁶ Opposed a new drainage system for Newbury, finally started in 1894. Fought unsuccessfully for admission of the Press to the meetings of the Board of Guardians (finally realised in 1893). 1871 he successfully proposed a motion against the naming of streets and the numbering of houses (see 1864).⁷

In 1875 he was censured by the Council for disclosing to the Press details of a debate from which the Press had been excluded. Poor Law Guardian for 30 years.⁸ 1888 he donated land to the Borough Council to enable West Street to be extended from Pembroke Road south to Northcroft Lane.⁹

1864

¹ Newbury Weekly News 30/1/1879, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

² Their father, John Flint, appears from the 1841 census to have been both a brewer and a coal merchant, although the writing is unclear. John Flint's will (1853) refers to his sons Henry and Samuel.

³ 1861 census.

⁴ Reading Mercury 7/3/1863 and 28/11/1863, supplied by Brian Sylvester.

⁵ 1861 census.

⁶ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011), p. 174.

⁷ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011), p.7. Reaction against the publication of the first Ordnance Survey map of Newbury in 1880.

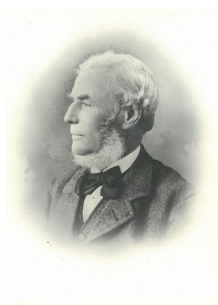
⁸ Newbury Weekly News 27/7/1899, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁹ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011), p. 291.



Thomas Fidler (1815-1912). Grocer and pharmacist in Mansion House Street, selling his business to the Newbury Coffee House Company in 1879. Elected to the Town Council in 1858. Instrumental (with his predecessor) in securing Nonconformist representation on the Trustees of the Newbury Municipal Charities. As Mayor he established the Newbury Fire Brigade, replaced by the Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1878. 1871 awarded a testimonial by the Council for his public service.¹ 1878 he successfully proposed a motion in favour of the naming of streets and numbering of houses (see 1863).² Alderman 1894. Teetotaler and an ardent temperance reformer, responsible for erection of the Temperance Hall in Northcroft Lane, installation of the drinking fountain in Bartholomew Street, and arranging talks against alcohol across the Newbury district. He also engaged in postal campaigns against alcohol with other Councils nation-wide. Methodist.³

1865



Edward Pellew Plenty (1816-98). Joint Director with his brother James, after the death of his father William Plenty (1759-1832), of the company founded by William in 1790. From the death of James in 1851, Edward became sole Director of Plentys until his retirement in 1884. Originally making agricultural equipment, the company made lifeboats from 1816 and marine steam engines from 1863. It was known as a supplier of marine steam engines and boilers until 1935, when it started to manufacture rotary pumps which became its chief concern.⁴

Edward was elected to the Town Council in about 1858 but lost his seat in the 1867 election. In 1841 he married Caroline Simmonds (1823-1904), the niece of William Budd, Mayor in 1789, and thereby acquired Budd's Farm in Burghclere. He retired in 1868 to Budd's Farm, where he carried out experiments in agricultural improvements. He retired fully from business in 1884.⁵

Mason. Master of the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope 1884.

Edward's grandson, Edward Pellew Plenty III (known as "Jack Plenty") (1868-1949) ran the company with Harry Wethered from 1899.⁶ Jack partnered with James Stradling, Mayor in 1907, in selling motor cars under the name Stradling & Plenty Ltd, until 1918.⁷ Jack's son, Major Edward Pellew Plenty IV, died of influenza in 1918 in a hospital in Huntingdon, after a distinguished wartime career in the Royal Flying Corps.⁸

1866, 1867

William Henry Cave (1819-78). Born in Padworth, Berks. Conservative. Solicitor in Newbury. Alderman 1874. Anglican. Organist at St Mary's Thatcham. Promoted the Thatcham Gas Works.⁹ Hon. Secretary of the Literary Institution.¹⁰ Mason.

¹ Newbury Weekly News 26/1/1871.

² Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011), p.7. Response to the expansion of the Borough in 1880 (see 1878).

³ Newbury Weekly News 8/8/1912, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁴ Susan Tolman, *Newbury History and Guide* (1994). The Plenty lifeboat was exhibited at the 1851 Great Exhibition (Ellie Thorne, Berkshire Record Office).

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 19/5/1898, forwarded by Ellie Thorne.

⁶ Jack Plenty was the son of Edward Pellew Plenty II (born 1845), the son of Edward Plenty I and Caroline Plenty. In 1899, Edward Plenty II absconded overseas with £4600 of the company's assets, leaving Jack Plenty to take over the company with the help of fellow directors Harry Wethered and the second Earl Russell.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 17/11/1949, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 26/2/2015.

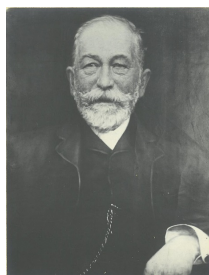
⁹ 1861 census. Newbury Weekly News 3/10/1878, forwarded by David Clow and Brian Sylvester.

¹⁰ Newbury Weekly News 15/11/1877.

Mayors of Newbury

The Reform Act of 1867 extended the Parliamentary franchise to all urban householders and many urban tenants, but still only male persons.

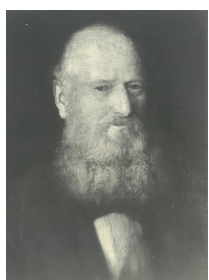
1868



Henry Dolton (1823-99). Liberal. Founder of Doltons corn merchants. Elected to the Council in 1860, where he promoted road improvements. Alderman. Resided at Kendrick House alongside his corn storage on the Wharf. Wesleyan lay preacher.¹ Temperance reformer.² He objected to the presentation in 1883 by Walter Money to the Borough of the recovered Borough Charters.³

The Municipal Franchise Act 1869 gave single (but not married) women ratepayers the right to vote in municipal elections.

1869, 1870



Robert Atkinson Ryott (1808-74). Born in Newcastle-on-Tyne. Pharmacist from 1831 in Northbrook Street, latterly at 38 Northbrook Street.⁴ Elected to the Council in 1861. Member of the Poor Law Guardians from 1860. Past Grand of the Jack of Newbury Oddfellows' Lodge. Member of the Freemasons' Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope. (Portrait from an oil painting.)

His grandson Septimus Ryott (1886-1965) achieved fame as a film actor during the period of silent films under the stage name Stewart Rome. After the introduction of talkies in 1929, he continued film acting until 1950. He was born in and retired to Newbury.⁵

1871



Samuel Flint (1824-75). Brewer in Cheap Street.⁶ Baptised in Newbury Baptist meeting house. Elected to the Council about 1863. Brother of Henry Flint, Mayor in 1859 and 1860.⁷

In March 1872, the marriage of Princess Louise, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, to the future Duke of Argyll was celebrated by a procession and sports.⁸ In June 1872 The Mayor and fellow magistrate sentenced Mark Tuck, a notorious drunkard, to four hours in the stocks, believed to be the last such use of the stocks in the UK.⁹

The Ballot Act of 1872, together with the 1867 Reform Act, introduced party politics at the popular level.

1872, 1873

¹ Newbury Weekly News 9/11/1899 transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Susan Tolman, *Newbury History and Guide* (1994).

² Frank Stillman: *Newbury during the Victorian Era* (1893).

³ Reading Mercury 3/3/1883.

⁴ 1871 census. Newbury Weekly News 10/5/1874, Reading Mercury 16/5/1874, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Information from Brian Sylvester.

⁵ Septimus' father and Robert Ryott's son, also called Septimus (1844-85), was a Newbury auctioneer who died aged 40. Septimus Jr was brought up by his mother Alma (1857-1922). Before adopting the name Stewart Rome, he had also called himself Wernham Ryott and Wernham Ryott Gifford, so confusing his biographers. He was credited with over 150 films in his career.

⁶ 1871 census.

⁷ See note to Henry Flint, 1859. Newbury Weekly News 16/11/1871.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 10/3/1872. Princess Louise was an able sculptor and artist.

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 13/6/1872. Information from Phil Wood.

Mayors of Newbury

Joseph F. Hickman. See 1852, 1853. In 1873 the Cattle Market was opened and Market Street was built, with both of which he was involved. As a Councillor for over 50 years until his death in 1894, he was designated "Father of the Corporation".

1874, 1875

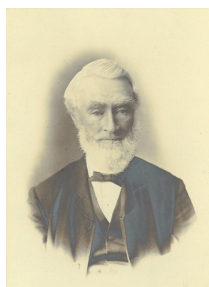


William George Adey (1830-97). Conservative. Son of George Adey, Mayor in 1846. Builder and timber supplier at West Mills, inheriting his father's business.¹ Elected to the Council 1867. Alderman 1878. Borough Magistrate 1879. Chairman of the Estate Committee. Promoted the idea of the present Town Hall and in 1876 laid the foundation stone, the Town Hall being opened in 1878.² Promoted the idea that the Marsh (now Victoria Park) should be a people's park, an objective not realised until later. St Nicolas Parish warden 1883-95.³ Promoted the Lambourn Valley Railway, eventually completed in 1898⁴. Secretary of the Newbury Horticultural Society.⁵ Retired to Highclere.

He erected in 1893 the oak screen between St Nicolas Lady Chapel and the South Aisle as a memorial to his family (which had a vault at St Nicolas), and restored the church's woodwork.⁶ He also constructed Newbury Church Almshouses, Porchester Villas in Newtown Road, and churches at Ecchinswell and West Woodhay. He restored 10 further churches in West Berkshire.

The 1874 electoral register for Newbury showed a total number of voters in Newbury, including surrounding villages, to be 731.

1876



James Absolom (1816-98). Grocer in Bartholomew Street, retiring from business in 1878. Elected to the Council 1868. Alderman 1877. Influential in the founding of the Literary and Scientific Institute. Borough Magistrate. Member of St Nicolas Church.⁷ Defeated in the 1878 election for Mayor following a dispute over the registration of a pub owned by the Council.⁸

1877

¹ 1871 census.

² His initials "W.G.A." are on the limestone block to the right of the main entrance.

³ Reading Mercury, 27/3/1897, jointly with Walter Money and another.

⁴ Walter Money, *A Popular History of Newbury* (1905), p.113.

⁵ Berkshire Chronicle 27/3/1897, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 1/4/1897. The screen is inscribed with his name.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 9/6/1898, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 27/7/1899.



Charles Samuel Slocock JP (1821-1907). The son of Charles Slocock (1788-1865), who was the son of Samuel Slocock (III), Mayor in 1775. BA Trinity College, Oxford 1842. After his father's death Charles Samuel Slocock became a partner with Stephen Matthews and Arthur Southby in the Newbury Bank, which was sold to Capital & Counties Bank in 1895.¹ 1852-61 Captain in the Royal Berkshire Militia. JP 1859.² 1878 he attended the opening by Lord Carnarvon of the present Town Hall, started in 1876.³ He also attended the unveiling by Lord Carnarvon of the Falkland Memorial. "A great supporter of cricket, a fine shot, and a straight rider after hounds." The 1881 census shows him living at Donnington Lodge with eight servants, including an Italian butler. In 1895 he retired to live in Earls Court, London. (Portrait Paul Frecker photographs).

1878

Thomas Edward Hawkins (1840-1892). Conservative. Born Wexcombe, Wilts. Senior Partner in West Mills Brewery. Town Councillor 1870-82 "perhaps more from a sense of duty than from congeniality". First Mayor after extension of the Borough to include Speenhamland and Greenham. As Mayor, he instigated the building of the Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway, opened in April 1882. New Council robes were purchased. JP 1879. Mason. Refused the offer of a second year in office.⁴ Died at St Mary Bourne, Hants. Buried at Tidcombe, Wilts, where his family had held property.⁵

1879



James Benjamin Stone JP (1831-1901). Brush manufacturer at 35 Northbrook Street⁶, a business started by his father Thomas Stone (1798-1870) who had moved to Newbury from London. As Mayor, he raised the £348 10s. required for design and supply of the Town Hall clock, installed by W. Potts & Sons (Leeds) in 1881.⁷ By 1881 he gave his occupation as "Magistrate of the Borough of Newbury". By 1891 he had retired and was living at Beaconsfield House, 262 Andover Road, which was demolished to make way for the Conifer Crest development in the 1960's.⁸ He was probably the James Benjamin Stone who died in 1901 in North London.

1880

¹ Richard Scott, *Five Hundred Years of the Slocock Family* (2003).

² Reading Chronicle 12/3/1859.

³ David Peacock. Newbury Weekly News 9/5/1878, supplied by David Peacock. The Clock Tower was added in 1880-81.

⁴ He had also refused to be elected Mayor in 1877, although qualified under the seniority rule. Newbury Weekly News 15/11/1877.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 8/9/1892.

⁶ 1871 census. 1874 electoral register.

⁷ Walter Money, *History of the Ancient Town and Borough of Newbury in the County of Berks* (1887), p.427. The cost of raising the Town Hall tower so that the clock could easily be seen was additional. Newbury Weekly News 14/4/1881. David Peacock.

⁸ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Conifer Crest.



Charles Lucas (1848-1928). Liberal. Member of the Berkshire Volunteers. Solicitor from 1869 at 114 Bartholomew Street.¹ Son of James Lucas, Mayor in 1863. Elected to the Council 1876. Instrumental in drafting the 1878 Act of Parliament which incorporated Speenhamland and Greenham into the Borough. His election as Mayor was contested with his predecessor. As Mayor he made the Chairmen of Committees responsible for presenting reports to the Council. Alderman 1899. Chairman of the Gas Committee for about 40 years, responsible for its strong financial position in 1925. Designated “Father of the Corporation” because of his long service. After the death of his first wife Lucy, he married in 1913 Edith Elliott (1875-1936), the daughter of Samuel Elliott, the founder in 1895 of Elliotts Joinery.² His business merged with Angus Marshall, solicitor, between 1920 and 1924 to form Charles Lucas and Marshall, now Coffin Mew.³

1881



Montagu Palmer MRCS (1850-90). Surgeon, general practitioner, and obstetrician, joining the Newbury practice of his father Dr Silas Palmer, at 34 London Road (Speenhamland Manor). His large practice was “mainly among the middle and lower classes”. Collected antiques.⁴ 1875-90 Hon. Curator of the museum of the Literary and Scientific institution.⁵ While he was Mayor, the Didcot to Newbury Railway was opened. Mason; Master of the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope in 1886.

1889 he excavated at least 152 items from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, newly discovered at East Shefford during construction of the Lambourn Valley Railway. His rough plan of the cemetery, with numbered graves, has unfortunately been lost. In 1893, his finds were sold by his son to the British Museum.⁶

The Municipal Corporations Act 1882 enabled boroughs to acquire land and buildings, and to borrow money to erect buildings for municipal use.

1882



Joseph Hopson JP (1826-99). Set up Newbury’s first known photographic business in 1851. Founder in 1854 of the Hopson part of Camp Hopson, as a furniture, decorating, and house agency business at 64 Northbrook Street.⁷ Elected Councillor for North Ward 1878. JP 1895. Alderman 1897. He promoted the avenue of lime trees in the Marsh (now Victoria Park), planted while he was Mayor. Liberal, “inclined perhaps to the older traditions of the Party, rather than to some of its more modern developments”. Deacon, and for about 60 years Sunday School teacher at Newbury Congregationalist Church. Teetotaller, President of the local Temperance Society.⁸ Father of Frederic Hopson, Mayor in 1904. See Alfred Camp, Mayor in 1909 and 1910.

The Borough Charters, which had been acquired by the creditors of the Borough following the Chancery suits of 1832, were restored to the Council through the good offices of Walter Money.⁹ A mayoral robe was adopted, probably continuing until 1957.¹

¹ 1881 census.

² Newbury Weekly News 4/10/1928, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

³ *Kelly's Directory of Berkshire 1920 and 1924* (David Peacock). Angus Marshall (1892-1967) was the father of John Marshall, Mayor in 1963.

⁴ *Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London* (1891).

⁵ Reading Mercury 22/5/1890, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁶ David Peacock.

⁷ Jonathan Hopson, descendant, informant on the Hopson family. The 1881 census describes him as an upholsterer and cabinet maker.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 30/3/1899, forwarded by David Clow and Brian Sylvester.

⁹ Reading Mercury 3/3/1883.

1883



Robert Johnston (1826-89). Commission agent at 57 Northbrook Street.² Liberal. Elected to the Council 1878. Instigated the idea of a Mayor's Chain of Office and raised funds for it. During his mayoralty the Newbury Art and Industrial Exhibition was held.³ Mason.

1884



William Hall (1836-1900). Stationer and printer in the Broadway.⁴ Alderman. Chairman of the Estate Committee. Churchwarden at St Mary's Speen.⁵ The names of the Mayors of Newbury since 1596 were painted in the wall of the Council Chamber, a list which has subsequently been continued.⁶

He attended a fund-raising meeting for Newbury Hospital chaired by the Earl of Carnarvon.⁷

The Third Reform act of 1884 extended the Parliamentary franchise to many rural voters, but still limited to male persons.

1885



Richard Ravenor (1845-1917). Inherited his father's plumbing and decorating company in Speenhamland. He was also a sanitary and drainage engineer. Elected Town Councillor 1878 for North Ward on the merger of Newbury and Speenhamland. Alderman 1890. Chairman of the Sanitary Committee; instrumental in establishing Shaw Cemetery in 1913. Mason; Master of the Lodge of Hope 1877.⁸ He had three sons killed in 1916 during the First World War: Herbert, who had established a fruit business in Tasmania, enlisted and was killed in the battle of the Somme; Richard, Royal Australian Navy, drowned at sea, and Geoffrey, also killed in France.⁹ Richard Sr's family home and business location in Oxford Street become part of the Chequers Hotel in 1935.

1886

¹ Mayor Hopson has been photographed wearing the mayoral chain which was purchased during the time of his successor.

² 1881 census.

³ Walter Money, op. cit (1905), p. 124. Newbury Weekly News February 1889, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁴ 1881 census.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 2/10/1900.

⁶ Berkshire Chronicle 21/11/1885.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 10/4/1884. David Peacock.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 15/3/1917.

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 4/6/2015. Phil Wood: www.westberkshirewarmemorials.org.uk; lost grave marker at St Mary's Speen.

Mayors of Newbury



Benjamin Smith (1835-1912). Conservative for North Ward. Corn merchant in Bartholomew Street. Resided at Hamstead Mill. Elected to the Council in 1878. Alderman 1899. As Chairman of the Gas Committee, he developed the Borough's gas undertaking. Active member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. As Mayor, he opened Oddfellows Hall in Craven Road and oversaw the celebrations of the 1887 Golden Jubilee. Member of St Nicolas Church.¹ On completion of his mayoralty, the Borough presented him with a silver tea and coffee service, now in Newbury Museum.^{2, 3}

1887



Henry Jordan Midwinter JP (1846-1923). Joined his father Charles' corn merchant business in 1869 and greatly expanded it. Liberal. Elected to the Council in 1879 for South Ward. While he was Mayor the Lambourn Railway was started, completed in 1898. Borough Magistrate in 1893. Senior Deacon of the Congregational Church and teetotaler.⁴

1888



George Mitchell Knight (1839-1891). Currier and leather merchant, inheriting his business from his father-in-law Joseph Colebrook.⁵ Elected to the Council 1879. Inaugurated the Jubilee Clock which formerly stood in the Broadway, replaced by the present Clock Tower in 1929.⁶ Director of Newbury Building Society. Mason; Master of the Craft and Mark Lodges. Brother of Stephen Knight, Mayor in 1890. Friend of "Lord" George Sanger, circus impresario.⁷

1889

¹ Newbury Weekly News 27/8/1912, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

² Julie Goddard.

³ A letter in West Berkshire Museum from David Redford, descendant, 4/11/1988, states that he became bankrupt through failure of a trusteeship. This has not been confirmed elsewhere and is not mentioned in his obituary. He continued as an Alderman until his death in 1912 and was given a standard civic funeral.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 28/6/1923, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Susan Tolman, *Newbury History and Guide* (1994).

⁵ 1881 and 1891 censuses. Newbury Weekly News 4/6/1891, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁶ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – The Broadway.

⁷ Ros Clow, 2023 talk to the Newbury District Field Club.

Mayors of Newbury



Robert Long (1844-1911). Ironmonger and cutler at 138 Bartholomew Street. Liberal. Elected to the Council for South Ward 1881. As Chairman of the Main Drainage Committee, he was instrumental in installing the Newbury main drainage system, started in 1894.¹ Sang in St Nicolas Church choir. See also 1896.

1890



Stephen Knight (I) (1833-1908). Conservative. Gasfitter, tin-smith and copper-smith. Ironmonger.² From being a working apprentice, he built up his own business in Cheap Street. Elected to the Council 1882. Instrumental in the building of Newbury Post Office 1896. Alderman 1906. Churchwarden at St Nicolas. Director of the Literary and Scientific Institution. Mason 1875; Master of the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope 1880; Master of the Porchester Mark Lodge 1886.³ Brother of George Knight, Mayor in 1888. Stephen's son was also Mayor (1911).

1891, 1892



Alfred Jackson (1846-1925). Draper, trading under the name Harding Brothers in the Market Place. Elected to the Council in 1882. Alderman 1863. Instrumental in establishing an isolation hospital in Kendrick Road, Wash Common. Laid the foundation stone for the Salvation Army Hall in Northcroft Lane. Deacon in Newbury Baptist Church. His sister Lucy Jackson was one of the first women to be appointed a magistrate, in Rochester.⁴

1893



Joseph Elliott (1848-1918). Bootmaker at 33 Northbrook Street, starting his own business.⁵ Elected to the Council 1889. Chairman of the Roads and Lighting Committee. Guardian of the Poor. JP 1893. Alderman 1911. Chairman of the War Relief Committee. "He sometimes shocked ... by his outspoken and unconventional utterances...Good humour and geniality frequently saved a situation". Temperance reformer and teetotaler.⁶ Father of Arthur Elliott, Mayor in 1928.

The Local Government Act 1894 gave the vote in local government elections to married women who paid rates by virtue of owning property independent of their husbands.

The installation of a main drainage system for Newbury was at last begun in January 1894, continuing into 1895. Householders had to pay to be connected to it.⁷

¹ The Public Health Act of 1875 had empowered boroughs to implement a main drainage system. Action was delayed for at least 20 years.

² 1891 census.

³ Newbury Weekly News 23/1/1908, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 21/5/1925, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁵ 1891 census.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 10/1/1918.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 25/1/1894.

1894



Berkshire Lodge of Hope 1887. JP 1897.²

Harman Skinner Hanington JP (1847-1901). Conservative. Draper and furnishing undertaker at 19 Northbrook Street. Known by his middle name of "Skinner". Inherited his business from his father Edward Hanington (1812-70, brother-in-law of George Scarr Higgons, Mayor in 1842. A major player in the Newbury Amateur Dramatic Society and Newbury Amateur Minstrels (also known as the Christy Minstrels) and organiser of their events. In the Minstrels he took the part of Mr Tambourine. Elected to the Council 1891. He celebrated his election as Mayor by driving a steamroller through the town.¹ Anglican. Secretary of Literary and Scientific Institution. Mason; Master of the Loyal

1895



Ernest Harris (1850-1917). Ironmonger, originally in Cold Ash. In 1879 he purchased the ironmongery business of Charles Wheeler in the Broadway.³ He also sold sewing machines. Town Councillor for North Ward 1891. Chairman of the Finance Committee 1912. Alderman 1912. Instrumental in planting the avenue of trees at Northcroft Park. Manager of the Newbury Savings Bank.⁴ His son Lionel was killed at Suvla Bay in the Gallipoli campaign of 1915.⁵

1896

Robert Long. See 1889. Presided over the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of 1897. An expert on civic etiquette, he prepared the Town Council's first known set of standing orders. Opened the Wash Common Recreation Ground in 1897. Borough Magistrate 1897. Elected to Berkshire County Council 1898. Alderman.⁶

1897



Edward Gould (1840-1928). Provision merchant at 53 Cheap Street.⁷ Elected 1894 (defeating John Rankin); defeated in 1898 but re-elected 1901. Alderman. JP 1920. Anglican. Presided over Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.⁸ One of the first foundation scholars of the Grammar School in the Litten Chapel.⁹ Founded the Gordon Boys' Brigade.¹⁰ Mason.

1898

¹ Newbury Weekly News 23 or 30/5/1996.

² Information supplied by Brian Sylvester. Newbury Weekly News September 1901, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

³ 1881 census.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 26/1/1917.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 21/5/2015.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 7/9/1911, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁷ 1901 census.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 27/11/1897.

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 5/5/1927, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

¹⁰ Newbury Weekly News January 1928, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

Mayors of Newbury



William Edmonds (1850-1925). Cabinet-maker and upholsterer at 39/40 Northbrook Street. He held the last Mayor's Christmas Breakfast at the Town Hall. His firm was established in 1800.¹ Mason.²

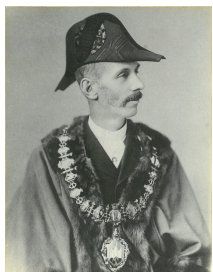
1899, 1900, 1901



John Rankin (1846-1943). Originally a farmer in Northern Ireland, coming to Newbury in 1886. Draper. With William McIlroy he established McIlroy and Rankin (drapers and boot factors) at 42 Cheap Street. Liberal. Deacon of the Congregationalist Church. JP 1896. Borough Councillor 1898-1912. On becoming Mayor he gave a dinner for 200 guests and repeated the hospitality in succeeding years as Mayor.³ 1901 welcomed Colonel Gerald Craven Ricardo and his Newbury Squadron of the Berkshire Yeomanry on their return from the Boer War.⁴ 1901 proclaimed King Edward VII in the Market Place.⁵ 1902 unveiled the memorial in the Town Hall to the fallen in the Boer War.⁶ Planted the avenue of trees in Buckingham Road. Chairman of the Borough Education Committee at a time of fierce sectarian disputes on education, which he helped to bridge.⁷ Instrumental in the opening of Newbury Museum in 1904 and in seeking funds from Andrew Carnegie for Newbury Library, opened in 1906.⁸ Alderman 1912. First Freeman of the Town 1935.⁹ The John Rankin Junior and Infant School (founded 1955) is named after him.

The total number of electors (called "burgesses") in Newbury Borough in 1899 was 2320.¹⁰ Formerly two wards, the borough was divided in March 1902 into three wards (North, East, and West).

1902



Joseph Napoleon Day (1858-1925). Elected to the Council in 1898 for the Newbury Ratepayers Association; subsequently a Conservative. Auctioneer.¹¹ In 1880 he founded the firm which later become known as Day, Shergold, and Herbert, specialising in eggs, poultry, and other produce, with premises at 1-3 Wharf Street.¹² His partner Leonard Shergold was Mayor in 1945. Chairman of the Estates Committee. JP 1906. Alderman. As Mayor, he unveiled the statue of Queen Victoria in the Market Place.¹³ Mason; Master of the Loyal Hope Lodge.¹⁴

1903

¹ Newbury Advertiser 11/12/1894.

² Newbury Weekly News 21/12/1925, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

³ Newbury Weekly News 20/12/1900.

⁴ Penelope Stokes, *Newbury in the 1890's* (1995), p.21. Col. Ricardo (1850-1921) volunteered for serve in World War I but was invalided home from Flanders (research by Brian Sylvester).

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 31/1/1901

⁶ Phil Wood: www.westberkshireremembrances.org.uk

⁷ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Henshaw Crescent. Newbury Weekly News 25/11/1943.

⁸ David Peacock, *The Story of Newbury* (2011).

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 27/8/1942.

¹⁰ Newbury Weekly News 2/11/1899.

¹¹ 1901 census.

¹² Tony Higgott: *The Story of Newbury* (2001).

¹³ It was subsequently moved to Greenham House gardens and then to Victoria Park.

¹⁴ Newbury Weekly News 26/3/1925.

Mayors of Newbury



William Elial Lewendon JP (1851-1915). Liberal. Elected to the Council 1898. From 1874 he ran two grocer's shops, one in Oxford Street and one at Speen, the Speen shop also being a Post Office.¹ In addition, he sold antiques and was a shipping agent. As Mayor, he founded the Mayor's Distress Committee to alleviate industrial distress. Baptist and temperance worker.² Supported the preservation of old foot paths. Honorary curator of Newbury Museum 1906-09.³ Instrumental in obtaining a free Library in Newbury in 1906. Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1900, he instigated a survey of the standard of housing in Newbury, resulting in a programme of improved housing.⁴

In November 1903, he presided over the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Newbury "tent" of the Independent Order of Rechabites, which he had helped to found.⁵

1904



Frederic Charles Hopson (1863-1934). Son of Joseph Hopson, Mayor in 1882. Joint Director with his brother Joseph Herbert Hopson (1861-1930) of the Hopson part of Camp Hopson.⁶ Chairman of the combined company 1932. Elected to the Council 1899. As Christmas fell on a Sunday, the Mayor's breakfast for townspeople was not held. Promoted the Public Library and enlargement of the Museum. JP 1906. Alderman 1925. Secretary of Newbury Congregational Church. Mason.⁷

1905



Richard Hickman JP (1847-1938). General practitioner and surgeon at 121 Bartholomew Street 1863-1933.⁸ Third son of Joseph Hickman, Mayor in 1852, 1853, 1872, and 1873. Attended a smallpox outbreak in Newbury early in the 1900's.⁹ Mason. Member of the Council for only three years, 1902-05. Elected Mayor despite no longer being a member of the Council. Reportedly, he only agreed to serve as Mayor because no-one else was available.¹⁰ Attended the opening of Newbury Library in Cheap Street, funded by Andrew Carnegie, in May 1906.¹¹

1906

¹ 1891 census.

² W.J. Lewendon: *Notes on Newbury Baptists 1640 – 1940*. Newbury Weekly News 6/1/1916.

W.J. Lewendon, a Newbury antique dealer, was his son.

³ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – The Wharf. Harold Peake took over in 1909.

⁴ Newbury Advertiser 21/7/1987. Sue Ellis.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 26/11/1903. The Rechabites were founded in Salford in 1835. They were a Friendly Society dedicated to total abstinence from alcohol. The name derives from an Old Testament reference. Press reference supplied by Brian Sylvester.

⁶ Joseph Herbert's son Joseph Alfred Hopson was killed at Gallipoli in 1915. Newbury Weekly News 13/8/2015.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 29/12/1904 and 28/12/1934.

⁸ 1881 census.

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 10/11/1938.

¹⁰ Newbury Advertiser 16/11/1905 and 16/10/1984

¹¹ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Carnegie Road.

Mayors of Newbury



Thomas Henry Pratt (1846-1918). Liberal. Pharmacist in Bartholomew Street, inheriting the business from his father. Elected to the Council 1903. Chairman of the Housing Committee. Bachelor. Member of the Congregational Church, temperance campaigner, and teetotaler.¹ Initiated the extension of the Mayor's chain (see 1907).

The Qualification of Women Act 1907 enabled women to be elected as Borough Councillors and to serve as Mayors or Aldermen. Newbury's first woman Councillor, Elsie Kimber (Mayor in 1932) was elected in 1922.

1907

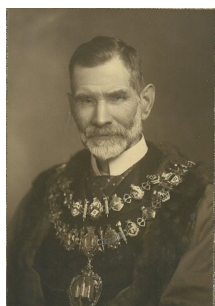


James Stradling (1857-1950). Cycle and then motor car dealer at 79 Northbrook Street.² Came to Newbury 1866. Elected to the Council 1898. Chairman of the Finance, Water, and Education Committees. Almoner of Christ's Hospital. Alderman 1918. Mason. In his youth, he sang with the Newbury Christy Minstrels. Founder member in 1879 of what became the Newbury Symphony Orchestra, playing the double bass. His motor car business partnered with Jack Plenty (1868-1949), son of Edward Pellew Plenty, Mayor in 1865, under the name Stradling & Plenty Ltd until 1918.³ It sold Benz cars. Chairman of Newbury Building Society. Also Mayor in 1924.⁴

As Mayor, he followed the custom of distributing half-crowns to poor widows on St Thomas' Day (21st December). 78 were distributed, only 12 of which were covered by mayoral expenses.⁵

A second crescent or festoon was added to the Mayor's chain. The proposal was initiated by Mayor Pratt, who raised funds for it, and completed by Mayor Stradling. It first came into use in 1908.⁶

1908



Thomas Wheildon Turner (1839-1924). Journalist. Founder with Walter Blacket in 1867 of the *Newbury Weekly News*, remaining editor and publisher until 1920.⁷ Town Councillor for West Ward 1905-21. As Mayor, he opened the Borough's new Council Schools and laid the foundation stone for the extension to the Town Hall (replacing the demolished mansion house). Politically neutral. A Primitive Methodist, he raised funds for the chapel in Bartholomew Street (now demolished). Teetotaler.⁸

Thomas Turner's second son Hugh Turner (1877-1957) was editor of the *Newbury Weekly News* 1929-57. His third son Wesley Turner (1884-1973) was Chairman of the newspaper company 1957-73. Wesley was the step-father of Ernest Willis, Mayor in 1956.⁹

1909, 1910

¹ *Newbury Weekly News* 1/8/1819, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

² 1911 Census.

³ It was not then possible to buy motor cars parts. The partnership with Plenty's was to enable the parts to be manufactured (Tim Green).

⁴ *Newbury Weekly News* 17/11/1949 and 2/2/1950. His father, Alfred Stradling, was a clock maker with premises at 78 Northbrook Street. Sue Hopson, *Newbury – a Photographic Record 1850-1935* (1995). p. 15.

⁵ *Newbury Weekly News* 26/12/1907.

⁶ Booklet on the mayoral regalia by the late Rod Thomason, macebearer. Council records 31/5/1907 and 24/12/1907. Brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁷ The holding company was and is called Blacket Turner & Co. Ltd.

⁸ Penelope Stokes: "no apology is needed..." *The Story of the Newbury Weekly News 1867-1992*.

⁹ Jeremy Willis.

Mayors of Newbury



Alfred Camp (1859-1932). Born in Barnstable, Devon. Founder in 1886 of the Camp part of Camp Hopson as a drapery bazaar in 6-12 Northbrook Street. The merger into Camp Hopson took place in 1921 following the marriage of his daughter Norah with Paul Hopson (1895-1980), the son of Joseph Herbert Hopson (1861-1930), son of Joseph Hopson, Mayor in 1882. Alfred Camp was the first Chairman. Mason. Camp Hopson was acquired by Morleys Stores in 2014.

As Mayor, he issued Coronation medals for the Coronation of George V and Queen Mary in June 1911.

He changed his surname, originally “Scamp”, to Camp on moving from Barnstable to be a draper’s assistant in London, before moving to Newbury in 1886.¹

1911



Stephen Knight (II) (1865-1945). Tin-smith and copper-smith. Son of Stephen Knight, Mayor in 1890. Town Councillor 1905-21. Captain in the National Reserves guarding the internees at Newbury Racecourse in 1914-17, where he lost an eye as a result of illness.² Bee-keeping expert. Founder member and leading figure of the Newbury and District Gardeners’ Mutual Improvement Association. ARP warden during the Second World War.³ He lived at the same address as his father, Holland House Stroud Green (47 Greenham Road). Mason.

1912



C. Adrian Hawker (1870-1960). Born in Newbury. Photographer at 84 Northbrook Street.⁴ Member of St Nicolas Church. His first name was Charles. Also Mayor in 1916, 1917, and 1918.

1913



William Edwards (1842-1915). Ironmonger in the Market Place from 1884 to 1910. As Mayor at the start of the First World War he was involved in recruiting and social work.⁵

¹ Information from Graham Hunt, former Town Council CEO. Censuses 1861 to 1891.

² Newbury Weekly News 6/12/1917, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester. Information from Phil Wood and David Peacock.

³ Newbury Weekly News, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁴ 1911 census. Newbury Weekly News 14/11/1912, supplied by Brian Sylvester. Many of the Mayors’ portraits at this time were taken by him.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 29/7/1915, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

1914, 1915



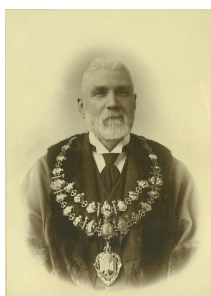
Frank Doveton Bazett MC (1883-1963). Born in Newbury. Admitted Solicitor 1906. With his partner Warren Pitman, he practiced as Pitman and Bazett at 41 Cheap Street. Elected to the Council in 1912. Called up 1915 in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and served in France 1917-19. Promoted Lieutenant 1917 and Acting Captain 1917. Awarded MC 1918.¹ Chairman of the governors for many years of both St Bartholomew's and Newbury Girls Grammar School.² Member of St Nicolas Church choir and Newbury Operatic Society.³ Member of Berkshire County Council 1921-61 and alderman of the County Council for about half that time.⁴ See 1942, 1943, and 1944.

1916, 1917, 1918

C. Adrian Hawker. See 1912. Took office on the resignation of his predecessor to join the Forces. Freeman of the Town 1955. Led a procession and made a speech to a large crowd to celebrate the end of World War I, November 1918.⁵

The Representation of the People Act 1918 extended the Parliamentary franchise to all men, and also to women over 30 subject to some limitations.⁶ The requirement to be a ratepayer in order to vote in local government elections was removed.⁷ In 1928 the Parliamentary franchise was extended to all women on the same basis as men.

1919, 1920, 1921



George Griffin (1857-1932). Purchased what became known as Griffins butchers, Bridge Street, in 1891. Elected to West Ward 1912. Borough Magistrate 1922. Alderman 1928. Lay preacher for the Primitive Methodist Church, Bartholomew Street.⁸ In October 1922 he unveiled the Newbury War Memorial, commemorating those fallen in the First World War. He had previously chaired the War Memorial Committee.⁹ He must have felt this responsibility keenly, as the War Memorial included (and includes) the name of his son Hedley Griffin (born 1897), who was killed during the second battle of Ypres in 1917.¹⁰

Greenham House was acquired in 1920 and its grounds were formally opened to the public by Mayor Griffin in 1921.¹¹ He was called "The Children's Mayor" because of the parties for children held by himself and his wife.¹² He collected old clothes for distribution to the poor.¹³

A scarlet robe was purchased for the Mayor's use. Until then, the Mayor's robe had been the same blue as other Councillors, trimmed with sealskin.¹⁴ The new robe was replaced in 1957.

¹ *Record of Service of Solicitors and Articled Clerks 1920*. Liverpool Medals web site. Research by Brian Sylvester.

² Phil Wood.

³ Newbury Weekly News 30/7/1942 and 28/3/1963.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 11/12/1969.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 21/11/1918.

⁶ In addition to being aged 30, women voters had to be householders, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5, or graduates of British universities.

⁷ K.B. Smellie, *A History of Local Government* (Unwin, 1963), p 98.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 13/11/1919, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁹ Phil Wood: Local listing submission for Newbury War Memorial, October 2014.

¹⁰ Phil Wood: www.westberkshirerwarmemorials.org.uk brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

¹¹ Press report 16/6/1921. The house was used as children's welfare centre until 1977. J.N. Day (Mayor 1902) and A.D. Cater (Mayor 1922 & 1923) were also instrumental in the purchase.

¹² Newbury Weekly News 12/11/1922; 20/10/1932, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

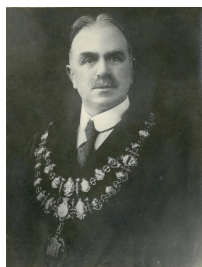
¹³ Newbury Weekly News 1/12/1921.

¹⁴ Newbury Weekly News 25/1/1920.

Mayors of Newbury

The Borough electorate in November 1920 was 8086.¹

1922, 1923



Arthur Dan Cater (1879-1937). Tailor at 77 Northbrook Street.² Came to Newbury 1904. Elected to the Council 1912. Instrumental in laying out the gardens of Greenham House. Chairman of the Estates Committee. While he was Mayor, the purchase of Newbury Water Company was negotiated. Alderman 1930. Retired to Swanage in 1936 on falling ill.³

1924



James Stradling. See 1907. Elected, because of his expertise as Chairman of the Finance Committee, in order to obtain a private Act of Parliament to purchase Newbury Water Company.⁴ Lived at Dolmans, Shaw Hill.⁵ Freeman of the Town 1944.

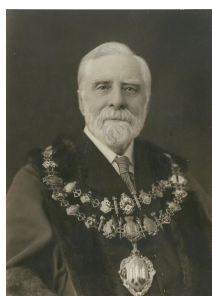
On the abolition of Newbury Borough in 1974, Newbury Water Company was separated and taken over by the newly formed Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

1925, 1926



Frank Hill (1863-1934). Born in High Wycombe. For 28 years until his death, he was the landlord of the Railway Hotel, Greenham Road (now demolished).⁶ Elected to the Town Council 1919. Opened the new vertical retort plant of Newbury Gas Works in Kings Road, July 1925. Chairman of the Allotments Committee. Chairman of the Licensed Victuallers' Association.⁷

1927



John Henry Thompson (1854-1943). Liberal. 1875-1919 he was employed by Hickman & Metcalf Chemists in the Market Place (see Joseph Hickman, Mayor in 1852, 1853, 1872, and 1873; Harry Metcalf, Mayor in 1929). Elected to the Council 1921. Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Member of the Independent Order of Rechabites (see 1903) then a Methodist after the union of the Methodists in 1932. Teetotaler and temperance advocate. Author of *The Newbury Martyrs* (1905), published by his brother William Thompson, proprietor of the Slough Journal.⁸ Raised funds for the memorial to the Newbury Martyrs in Enborne Road.⁹ JP.¹

¹ Reading Observer 6/11/1920.

² 1911 census.

³ Newbury Weekly News 30/12/1937.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 13/11/1924.

⁵ 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 10/2/1951, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery, for his wife Mary Ann Hill.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 29/11/1934 and 11/5/2017, supplied by Brian Sylvester. The Gas Works had originally been built in 1880.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 15/7/1943 and 11/5/2017.

⁹ Phil Wood.

1928



Arthur Coles Elliott JP (1882-1949). Son of Joseph Elliott, Mayor in 1893, and Mary Elizabeth Freeman (1846-1933). Succeeded his father in management of his boot and shoe business at 33 Northbrook Street. Elected to the Council 1920. JP 1933. Alderman 1935. Retired to Highclere in 1945.²

1929



Harry Railton Metcalf (1877-1959). Born in Newbury. Pharmacist and optician at 21 and 23 Market Place. Mason. Son of Benjamin Metcalf, business partner of Joseph Hickman, Mayor in 1852-53 and 1872-73. Elected to the Council 1920-57. Chairman of the Gas Committee, 1928-49 until nationalisation. As Mayor, he hosted a visit from Newburyport, Massachusetts. Alderman 1935.³ Admitted to the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers 1905 and to the Freedom of the City of London 1910. Mason; initiated into the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope 1910; Worshipful Master 1922.⁴ ARP Head Warden in World War II.⁵

1930



F. Arthur Greet (1874-1943). His first name was Frederick. Ironmonger. Son of Ella Greet, daughter of Neville Maskelyne Toomer (1823-1907), son of Samuel Neville Toomer (1796-1888), son of Joseph Toomer, Mayor in 1791, 1801, and 1814. After serving in other engineering companies, in 1907 Arthur Greet took over from his grandfather as Director of the Toomer ironmongery business, changing its name to House of Toomer in 1926 and expanding the premises in Northbrook Street.⁶ Elected to the Council 1920-32. As Mayor, he opened the South Newbury water tower in Wash Common. Donated with his wife Annie the present Mayoress' pendant. 1932 President of the National Federation of

Ironmongers.

Their daughter (Elizabeth) Dinah Greet (1916-2004) was a theatre and film costume designer. She was head of the wardrobe department at the Old Vic⁷ and in 1966 won a BAFTA award (jointly with Osbert Lancaster) for the costumes in "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines". She also designed costumes for "Help!", and "The Italian Job", amongst other films.

1931

¹ 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

² Newbury Weekly News 10/2/1949.

³ Newbury Weekly News 5/2/1959.

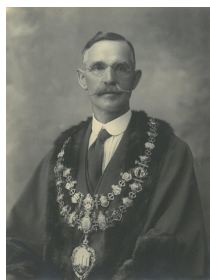
⁴ Information from Brian Sylvester.

⁵ 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁶ Biography of Samuel Neville Toomer (1796-1888) by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk/ Newbury Weekly News 9/9/1943.

⁷ Aberdeen Evening Express 16/3/1955. Private information.

Mayors of Newbury



John Ridgeby Witts JP (1872-1946). Postal Service Inspector.¹ Elected to the Council 1920. Chairman of the Public Health Committee, instrumental in building new houses. Member of the St Nicolas Parochial Church Council. Member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows.²

1932



Elsie Kimber (1889-1954). The first woman Mayor. Born in Newbury. She took over from her father Ernest Kimber the grocery and provision merchant business at what is now 64 Bartholomew Street, formerly “Kimber’s Corner”, retiring in 1953. Her father had managed the business 1906-39 with her support. Taught swimming to children. Elected to the Town Council in 1922, she was described as “one who has an infinite capacity for taking pains.” Advocate for better housing. One of the first intake of the Newbury County Girls' High School in 1904. The first woman alderman 1943. An ARP Warden during the Second World War.³ Retired in 1953.

In his 1990 autobiography, the author Richard Adams wrote: “Alderman Elsie Kimber was a legendary figure in Newbury. She had rimless glasses, wore a heavily-skirted, brown belted garment, sandals and no hat, and she rode a motor-bike. She was emancipated, bizarre, no fool and excellent company, even to a small boy. To me it seemed entirely natural that the Mayor should look somewhat unusual. I vaguely supposed that that was what mayors looked like.”⁴

1933



Reuben Frank Jeffery (1874-1962). Born in Stow-on-the Wold. Came to Newbury in 1895. Ran a cycle repair business in Cheap Street, retiring in 1924. Elected to the Council 1922, retiring in 1952. Alderman 1945. Member of the Newbury Volunteer Fire Brigade. Supporter of the Newbury District Hospital. Mason in the Hope Lodge.⁵ Initiated into the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.⁶

1934

¹ 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

² Newbury Weekly News, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

³ Tony Higgott. Newbury Weekly News, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

⁴ Richard Adams, *The Day Gone By: An Autobiography*, Hutchinson 1990 p. 82. Brought to my attention by David Peacock.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 4/1/1962.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 11/3/1937, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

Mayors of Newbury



Charles William Burns (1874-1959). Tailor at 128 Bartholomew Street until 1933.¹ Elected to the Council about 1917. 6 May 1935, presided over the celebrations of George V's silver jubilee.² Donated the Victoria Park bandstand and 12 park benches in 1935. Instrumental in erection of the Park café in 1937.³ ARP Warden in World War II. Alderman 1943. President of Newbury Town Football Club. Chairman of Newbury Building Society 1942-59. Chairman of Newbury Trustee Savings Bank 1955-59. Chairman of Newbury and District Hospital Helpers' League 1939-58. Performed in Gilbert and Sullivan for the Newbury Operatic Society.⁴

1935



Major Henry Rummins OBE (1875-1956). Born in Iron Acton, Glos. Retired military officer. Joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1893 and served in the Boer War and First World War near Ypres. Mentioned in Despatches 1914-15.⁵ Invalided home in 1915 and became Assistant Provost Marshal on Salisbury Plain, being appointed OBE. On leaving the army in 1920 he became landlord of the Cross Keys Hotel. Elected to the Council 1926. Alderman 1939.⁶ Mason; Master of the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope 1934. Initiated into the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.⁷

1936



Reginald C. Clifford (1885-1953). Born near Chester. Ran an antiques centre at Dower House, London Road, which he acquired in 1918.⁸ Elected to the Council 1925, remaining until 1939 when he became Food Controller. As Councillor he was Chairman of the Estates Committee. As Mayor, he led the 1937 celebrations for the Coronation of George VI. Credited with improving conditions in the Corn Exchange for concerts by the Newbury Symphony Orchestra and others.⁹ Chairman of the Newbury Amateur Dramatic Society. Racehorse owner.¹⁰ Initiated into the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.¹¹

1937

¹ 1911 census. His father Alexander Burns had started the business in 1861.

² Newbury Weekly News 29/8/2024, illustration.

³ Newbury Town Council, *Public Consultation on the Community Café in Victoria Park* (2014).

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 26/3/1959. 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁵ Phil Wood.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 12/4/1956.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 11/3/1937, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

⁸ Dower House was formerly called Speenhamland House. It was visited by Queen Mary, who admired the 18th century staircase, and by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. It was demolished in 1956. The antiques business extended beyond Newbury to London and the US.

⁹ *Centenary History of the Newbury Symphony Orchestra* (1979).

¹⁰ Newbury Weekly News 7/5/1953. Probate information supplied by David Clow.

¹¹ Newbury Weekly News 11/3/1937, brought to my attention by Brian Sylvester.

Mayors of Newbury



George Ernest Slater (1868-1942). Born in Matlock. From 1890 he worked for Prudential Insurance, as a sales manager from 1904, retiring in 1926. Came to Newbury 1908. Elected to the Town Council 1928. Chairman of the Public Health Committee. As Mayor, he was instrumental in implementing air raid precautions. A primitive Methodist, then a Methodist after the union with the Methodists in 1932.¹ His second wife Edith was the daughter of George Griffin, Mayor in 1919, 1920, and 1921.² His son John Slater was Mayor in 1951. His daughter Mary (Mollie) Slater (1895-1962) married Ernest Willis, Mayor in 1956.³ Also Mayor in 1939, 1940, and 1941.

1938



George Golding Green (1879-1960). Born in Clare, Suffolk. Wounded at Ypres while serving in World War I 1916-19. Manager of J. Webb & Sons, Grocers at 50 Northbrook Street, which was purchased by his uncle G.H. Sage in 1919. Elected to the Council 1929. Chairman of the Water Committee. Retired from work in 1944. Methodist.⁴

1939, 1940, 1941

George E. Slater. See 1937. "A steadfast man: a man of the people, indomitable, imperturbable". Died in office July 1942. A civic funeral service was held at the Methodist Church in Bartholomew Street.

Walter Bentley, a Quaker watchmaker, was due to be elected Mayor in 1940, but was obliged to withdraw because of his open support and encouragement of conscientious objectors.⁵

1942, 1943, 1944



Frank Doveton Bazett MC. See 1914 and 1915. Elected in 1942 on the death of his predecessor. Newbury's Chief Air Raid Warden during the Second World War. January 1945 attended a tea party in the Corn Exchange for over 500 children of Newbury men serving in HM Forces. June 8th 1945 Thanksgiving Service for VE Day 8th June 1945.⁶ VJ Day was celebrated on 15th August, but with only limited participation by the Town Council.⁷ The only person to have been elected Mayor five times. Retired from the Borough Council 1948. Freeman of the Town 1949. After his death in 1963, his Solicitors' practice continued as Pitman and Bazett at 34 London Road until 2001.⁸

Newbury was bombed on 10th February 1943, resulting in the deaths of 15 people.

1945

¹ Newbury Weekly News 10/11/1938, 23/7/1942, and 30/7/1942, transcribed by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery. Information from Phil Wood.

² George Slater's first wife Millicent Holmes (1868-1909) was the mother of his children. He married secondly Edith Griffin in 1910.

³ Information from Margaret Pearson and ancestry.co.uk/

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 28/9/1938 and 24/3/60. Information from Brian Sylvester and David Clow.

⁵ Newbury Quaker Meeting House records, researched by Jane Burrell.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 9/1/1945 and 7/5/2020.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 23/8/1945 and 20/8/2020.

⁸ When Warren Pitman died in 1948, Frank Bazett took as partner Peter Faulks, father of the novelist Sebastian Faulks. The practice also had premises at Station Road, Reading (Newbury Weekly News, 8/1/2015).

Mayors of Newbury



Leonard Edwin Shergold (1883-1968). Auctioneer and surveyor. Born in Basingstoke. Came to Newbury 1890. 1904 he joined as a clerk the auction business of J.N. Day (Mayor in 1902), based at 1-3 Wharf Street. Partner of the firm 1918. 1925 the firm was joined by Alfred Herbert and became Day, Shergold, and Herbert, with Shergold as head.¹ Member of the Council 1930 to 1961. 1939-45 he ran the servicemen's canteen in Bartholomew Street, on premises provided by Charles Burns (Mayor in 1934). As Mayor he presided over the Newbury Victory celebrations. Donated a bus shelter in Andover Road and supported the municipal charities. Methodist.²

1946



Major Albert Victor Bradshaw MC (1888-1957). Soldier. Born in Loughborough and left school aged 12. Joined the Scots Guards. 1911 took part in the siege of Sydney Street. 1911 Coronation of George V: King's Orderly at Buckingham Palace and member of the King's Guard of Honour to Holyrood Palace. Corporal 1913. 1914 promoted Sergeant and saw action in France. 1915 Regimental Sergeant Major in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 1918 commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. 1918 awarded MC through gallantry and devotion to duty in France. 1919-20 served in Iraq and India. 1922 retired with the rank of Captain and settled in Newbury. Formed the Newbury British Legion from comrades in the Great War. 1937 attended the Coronation Parade of George VI. 1939 joined up as Lieutenant in the Pioneer Corps, serving in the Coventry and Birmingham blitzes. 1943 retired with the rank of Major.³

Special Constable 1923-37. 1928-48 elected to Newbury Borough Council. As Mayor, he conferred the Freedom of the Borough on the Royal Berkshire Regiment, July 1947.⁴ Arranged a day out for Newbury old folk to Highclere, transported by private volunteer cars. This anticipated the Mayor's Drive, set up in 1955; about 360 people took part.⁵ His brother ran a hairdressers at 1 Bartholomew Street. Mason.⁶

1947



Oliver Stephen Brown (1896-1991). Served in the Air Force 1914-18. Came to Newbury 1929 and carried on business as a builder under the name Love and Brown until 1936.⁷ Elected to the Council 1934. Chairman of the Estate Committee. ARP Warden in World War II. As Mayor, he instigated adding to Newbury War Memorial of the names of those who fell in World War II.⁸ His term of office was extended by six months until May 1949, when the next mayoral elections took place.

1948

No mayoral election, due to a change in electoral law. The present Coat of Arms was granted.

The Representation of the People Act 1948 removed the right to additional votes in local government which was previously available to owners of more than one property.

¹ The auction firm continued until 1987.

² Berkshire Record Office. Newbury Weekly News 8 & 15/11/1945; 29/2/1968. He was refused enlistment in 1917 on health grounds.

³ Albert's own biography, supplied by his grandson Jim Bradshaw and forwarded by Phil Wood.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News March 1957, supplied by Brian Sylvester. Also 3/11/2022.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 19/6/1947.

⁶ Phil Wood.

⁷ London Gazette 1936. His partners were George and Harold Love.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 13/11/1947. A total of £1500 was raised 1948-50 for the project.

1949



Richard Albert Wickens MBE MM (1889-1962). Born in Newbury. Known as “Dick”. Served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment 1914-21. Awarded Military Medal in 1916 and subsequently commissioned. In World War II he was controller of the Newbury Council of Defence Services, comprising 20 organisations. Took over his father’s building company in 1906 and subsequently became an architect. Designed the Grade II listed electric filling station in Newtown Road. Elected to the Council 1935, retiring in 1960. JP 1942. Alderman 1954. Mason in the Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope. During his mayoralty, land was purchased in Pelican Lane for the Berkshire Royal British Legion premises.¹ His younger son John was killed in Sicily in the Second World

War.²

In December 1949, greetings and gifts were exchanged between Mayor Wickman and John M. Kelleher, Mayor of Newburyport, Massachusetts, to commemorate the centenary of the incorporation of Newburyport as a city in 1851.³

1950



John Herbert Hole (1909-2007). Known as “Jack”. Born in Sevenoaks. Opened in 1931 and managed, with his family, the Tudor Café at 102/103 Northbrook Street.⁴ Co-opted to the Council 1942 and then elected in 1947. During World War II was Head Warden, Head Fireguard, and Acting Secretary of the Town Emergency Feeding Committee. Arranged food supplies during the 1947 floods. As Mayor, he unveiled the addition to the Newbury War Memorial to include those fallen in the Second World War. Involved in setting up the Fair Close Day Centre.⁵ Planned Newbury’s Festival of Britain programme. Chairman of the Estates and Town Planning Committee and the Civic Publicity and Finance Committees. President of the Chamber of Commerce. Alderman

1964. Freeman of the Town 1969.⁶ Founder member of the Newbury Camera Club and an expert in pictorial photography.⁷

1951



John William Slater (1897-1966). Known as “Jack”. Son of George E. Slater, Mayor in 1937 and 1939-41. Born in Matlock. Served in the Royal British Yeomanry 1914-18; he was wounded and subsequently torpedoed, having to swim for several hours. 1919-62 raw materials buyer at Colthrop Board and Paper Mills. ARP Warden in World War II. Member of the Council 1942-65. As Mayor, he presided over the Festival of Britain programme. JP 1954. Alderman 1955. Tenor singer with Newbury Operatic Society.⁸ Brother-in-law of Ernest Willis, Mayor in 1956.⁹

1952

¹ See 1955.

² Brian Sylvester. Phil Wood. Newbury Weekly News 26/5/1949 and 15/11/1962. Sue Ellis.

³ Newbury Weekly News 29/12/1949.

⁴ Susan Tolman, *Newbury History and Guide* (1994), p. 92. They renamed it the “Tudor Café”.

⁵ Gillian Durrant.

⁶ Adrian Edwards. Newbury Weekly News 8/11/2007, brought to my attention by Sue Ellis.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 1/10/1942 and 5/10/2117.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 24/5/1951 and 29/12/1966. 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁹ Margaret Pearson.

Mayors of Newbury



Clubs.²

Douglas Fox Cameron (1889-1966). Starting as a plumber's mate in Deptford, he came to Newbury for construction work 1914-18. In 1919 he married Irene Cox (1896-1953), daughter of Alfred Cox (1868-1943), and became a partner in the Newbury Mineral Water Company in King Road West, which had been founded in 1860 by Alfred's father Edward Cox (1841-1909).¹ Major in the Home Guard in World War II. Member of the Council 1943-53. Chairman of the Rating Committee and Road Safety Committee. Chairman of Newbury Operatic Society. President of the Newbury Boys' Club. In February 1973, he received the Duke of Gloucester, President of the National Association of Boys'

In October 1953, while he was Deputy Mayor, he was found guilty of sexual relations with an adult male, which at that time (unlike the present) were illegal. On the grounds that he had previously committed himself to a mental hospital, he was placed on probation provided that he continued at the mental hospital for 12 months. The other man involved was however imprisoned for 12 months. Cameron's wife Irene died in 1953, and he eventually retired to Ferndown, Dorset.³

1953



Ethel Mary Elliott (1881-1967). Daughter of Robert Powditch Elliott (1853-1935), a Newbury draper and member of Newbury Borough Council and Berkshire County Council. Born in Norwich, she was not apparently connected with the other Newbury Elliott families. Came to Newbury with her parents in 1902. Lived on private means.⁴ Member of the former Board of Guardians and of seven Committees concerned with health and education. ARP Warden in World War II. Member of the Council 1943-59. The second woman Mayor, she chose as her Mayoress the wife of John Freeman, Mayor in 1959. Deacon of Newbury Congregational Church.⁵ 1959 retired to Hailsham, Sussex.

1954



Reginald John Huckle (1909-2010). Came to Newbury in 1937. Known as "Reg". Manager of the grocery store J. Webb & Sons, 50 Northbrook Street, 1944-61. In 1961 he helped to establish Jay Bee Pork Products Ltd in Fifth Road, with James and Gordon Blackford, retiring in 1979.⁶ Co-opted to the Council in 1943. Chairman of the Parks Committee, Coronation Celebrations, Road Safety, and Housing Committees.⁷ 13th April 1955 Princess Margaret laid the foundation stone of the rebuilt St John's Church.⁸ Involved in setting up the annual Mayor's Drive. Involved in the twinning agreement with Braunfels in 1963. Berkshire J.P. 1954-79. Chairman of Newbury Toc H. President of Newbury Rotary.

Mason: member of the Victory Lodge.⁹ The only Mayor of Newbury known to have reached 100 years. Methodist.

1955

¹ Newbury Weekly News 6/10/1966 and 27/8/2015. Information from Judith Thomas and Sue Ellis. The company was also managed by Alfred's brother Frank Cox (1878-1943). Its original name was the Great Western Mineral Water Works.

² Newbury Weekly News 22/5/1952 and 30/04/2020. Reading Standard 27/2/1953.

³ Reading Standard 9/10/1953. At that time, the practice was for a Deputy Mayor to be the Mayor preceding the current Mayor, not the expected successor Mayor as at present. Research by Deirdre Duff.

⁴ 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 21/5/1953 and 13/4/1967. Information from Sue Ellis.

⁶ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Fifth Road. His full name was Reginald John Brighton Croft Huckle. See Frances Berry, Mayor in 2002.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 27/5/1954. Information from Jean Younis, daughter.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 2/10/2025.

⁹ Brian Sylvester.

Mayors of Newbury



Francis Philip Pirouet (1901-1961). Known as “Philip”. Born in Henley. Served in the First World War in Mesopotamia and India, leaving the army in 1926. Earlier a mail van driver for the GPO,¹ he ran a fruiterer shop in London Road, retiring in 1953. Started a physical culture and boxing club, forerunner of the Newbury Boys’ Club. Chairman of the Berkshire Royal British Legion and instrumental in building their headquarters in Pelican Lane.² Elected to the Council 1946. Alderman 1959-61. Raised over £2000 for the Old Folks’ Restaurant. Chairman of the Council’s Welfare Committee.³ Donated a trophy cup (since lost and replaced by West Berkshire Council Chairman Mrs R. Sanders-Rose) to initiate an annual bowls competition, now held between Newbury Town Council and Newbury Bowling Club.

1956

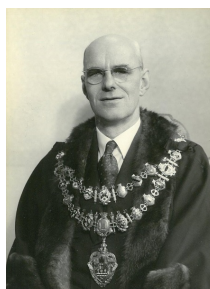


George Ernest Willis OBE (1896-1979). Known as “Ernest”. In World War I a member of the Army Cyclists Corps. Joined the *Newbury Weekly News* 1915. Chief Reporter 1929, Editor and then Managing Director 1958-75. JP 1951-61. Alderman 1960. OBE 1966. Instrumental in obtaining the Borough’s grant of arms in 1948. Author of Newbury’s entry in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Chairman of the Council’s Festival of Britain Publicity Committee, the Museum and Library Committee, and the Road Safety Committee. Member of the Newbury Salonika Reunion Association and author of *Salonika Memories 1915-1919*: excerpts from *The Mosquito*, its official organ, issued as it was ceasing printed publication in 1969. Borough Almoner (governor) of Christ’s Hospital School, Sussex, under the West family bequest which sends Newbury children there. Methodist. Supported reconstruction projects in Greece after World War II and was received by King Paul of the Hellenes 1953.⁴

His wife Mollie was the daughter of George Slater, Mayor in 1937, 1939, 1940, and 1941, and sister of John Slater, Mayor in 1951. Because of her state of health, his Mayoress was his daughter-in-law Mrs Christine Willis.⁵

Ernest Willis was the step-son of Wesley Turner (1884-1973), third son of Thomas Turner, Mayor in 1908 and joint founder of the *Newbury Weekly News*. His grandson Jeremy Willis is now Chairman of Newbury News Ltd, publisher of the newspaper.

1957



Maurice William Paine MBE (1905-79). Gentleman’s outfitter at 21 Northbrook Street. His father George Paine (1862-1928) had established the business in about 1910.⁶ Elected to the Council 1947. The present Mayoress’ pendant was purchased. Chairman of the Newbury Divisional Education Executive. Manager of six schools, in particular Park House. Chairman of the Newbury Trustee Savings Bank. 1961 awarded MBE for services to the National Savings Movement. Instrumental in setting up the Newbury Citizens Advice Bureau in 1963. Chairman of the Municipal Charities. Churchwarden of St Nicolas. Freeman of the Town 1969.⁷

1958

¹ 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

² *Newbury Weekly News* 3/11/1949.

³ *Newbury Weekly News* 19/10/1961.

⁴ Jeremy Willis. Penelope Stokes: “no apology is needed...” *The Story of the Newbury Weekly News 1867-1992*. Bequest of John and Francis West, 1728. *Newbury Weekly News* 18/10/1979. Information from Sue Ellis.

⁵ *Newbury Weekly News* 24/5/1956.

⁶ *Newbury Weekly News* 12/4/1928.

⁷ *Newbury Weekly News* 15/5/1969 and 1/11/1979. Information from Sue Ellis.

Mayors of Newbury



H. Geoffrey Thompson (1911-93). His first name was “Herbert”. Conservative. The son of Alfred Thompson, who with his brother Frederick established in 1928 Thompson Brothers, coal merchants in Cheap Street.¹ Geoffrey joined the business in 1929 and became owner in 1957. In 1960 it acquired John Flint & Son and assumed that name; it later moved to the former railway goods yard and also sold oil. Geoffrey retired in 1970 and the business continued until the 1990’s.²

Founder Chairman of Newbury ToCH. Treasurer of the Newbury Relief Committee. Commandant of the Newbury Red Cross 1954-66. Freemason.

Ran an amateur band, “The 4 Aces.”

Served in the Royal Artillery during World War II, leaving in 1947 with the rank of Captain. He was elected that year to the Council.³ As Mayor, he took the salute in May 1959 from the the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) during its march through the town before its amalgamation into what became The Rifles.

It appears from the photographs that a new mayoral robe was adopted, continuing until 2019.⁴

1959



John McDonald Freeman (1912-96). Born in Newbury. Chartered Accountant, partner with James & Cowper, Market Place, retiring in 1977.⁵ Served as an officer in the Second Army throughout the campaign in Europe from D-Day until the Lüneberg Heath surrender. Twice mentioned in despatches. Elected to the Council 1959. Chairman of the Housing Committee, overseeing the building of the Shaw and Love Lane Estates and the start of the Valley Road Estate.⁶ Chairman of the Estates and Finance Committees. Alderman. JP 1951-83. Chairman of Governors of St Bartholomew’s School.

1960



Reginald Lovegrove (1897-1990). Labour. Elected to the Council in 1945. Served in France and Italy in the First World War. Owned two gentlemen’s outfitters, in Northbrook Street and Cheap Street, jointly with his brother Victor. Retired 1962. He had started as a tailor’s apprentice at Camp Hopson.⁷

1961

¹ The business had been founded in Camberley in 1918 and moved to Newbury.

² David Peacock. John Flint & Son was the last coal merchants in Newbury.

³ Newbury Weekly News 22/5/1958 and 26/8/1993. Geoffrey’s son Steve ran the business while he was Mayor.

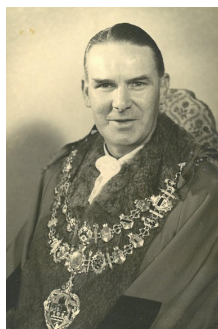
⁴ Elisa Mullen, Civic Manager.

⁵ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Badsworth Gardens.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 21/5/1959 and 21/11/1996. The latter incorrectly gives him name as “Jim”.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 28/12/1990.

Mayors of Newbury



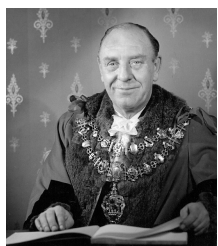
Herbert Kingsley Potter FRICS (1908-86). Chartered surveyor and estate agent. Partner of Day, Shergold, and Herbert 1938.¹ Town Councillor 1954-63 and Alderman 1963-74. Chairman of the Estates and Town Planning Committee. Chairman of the Divisional Education Committee. Chairman of Governors of John Rankin School. Methodist. Chairman of the Abbeyfield Society, a charity providing sheltered accommodation and care homes for the elderly.² The Old People's Welfare Association, founded on the initiative of his wife Winnie Potter, was responsible for establishment of the Fairclose day Centre in 1967.

1962



Robert French (1924-88). Labour. Born in Thatcham. Served in the RAF in Malta and Italy during the Second World War. 1947 an instrument mechanic at BOAC Aldermaston. 1948 a cashier at the Southern Electricity Board, located on the present Waitrose site, then an accountant at Dreweatt Watson and Barton and subsequently at RICS Basingstoke.³ Elected to the Council 1957-74. Alderman. Raised £3000 for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Accepted a challenge from the Mayor of Andover to walk to Andover. The Mayor of Andover walked to Newbury.⁴

1963



John Marshall (1921-89). Independent. Senior partner of Charles Lucas and Marshall, Solicitors. Born in Newbury, the son of Angus Marshall (1891-1967), who had formed the partnership in the 1920's with the firm founded by Charles Lucas (Mayor in 1880). Served in the Royal Armoured Corps in North Africa, Italy, and Greece, being mentioned in despatches (Major). Qualified as a solicitor in 1948, entering his father's practice. Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and the Housing Committee. As Mayor, he presided over the farewell parade of the US Air Force from Greenham. 1963 he signed the twinning agreement with Braunfels. Opened the new football club in Faraday Road, made necessary by the building of what is now the A339. Instrumental in raising funds for the Fairclose Day Centre and in setting up the Northcroft Leisure Centre. Chairman of Governors of St Bartholomew's School. Supporter of St Nicolas Church. Clerk to the Town and Manor of Hungerford 1968-84.⁵

1964



Robert Henry Burgess (1912-92). Carpenter, born in Bucklebury. Chief Shipwright in the Royal Navy 1939-51. Came with his family to Newbury 1955, where he was employed at UKAEA Harwell, subsequently a shopkeeper in Ecchinswell, a salesman for Toomers and then for the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Association. Elected to the Council for the Ratepayers Association 1959. Chairman of the Road Safety Committee and the Highways Committee. Retired with his wife Elizabeth to Whimble, Devon in 1978.⁶

1965

¹ Newbury Weekly News 1/6/1961.

² Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – St John's Road. Newbury Weekly News 10/4/1986.

³ Newbury Weekly News 26/5/1962 and 8/12/1988. Information from Dawn Proud, daughter.

⁴ John Norris, brother-in-law.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 27/5/1963, 28/5/1964, and 6/4/1989.

⁶ Suzanne Barrett, daughter, with details from his funeral eulogy.

Mayors of Newbury



Frank Harvey Graham (1922-2011). Liberal. Came to Newbury 1964. Geography teacher and careers master at Kennet School from its foundation in 1969.¹ Chairman of the Parks and Health Committee. Founder member and Chairman of Newbury Twin Town Association 1973-81. While he was Mayor, building started on the Fairclose Day Centre.² Father of Peter Graham, Managing Partner at Charles Lucas & Marshall until 2014.³

1966



Mrs Elizabeth Ganf (1911-86). Conservative. Born Elizabeth Violet Ruxton in Weybridge, daughter of Commander Walton C. G. Ruxton, a naval officer (RN) (1875-1964), and his wife Violet.⁴ Elizabeth was principal ballerina with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, where she met her husband, Włodzimierz Ganf (1907-89; naturalised British 1953).⁵ They married 1935 in London. Her professional name was Lisa Serova. 1937-38 they toured from Britain and France to New York and Melbourne.⁶ Between tours they lived at Wellington, Somerset, with her parents. After the War they opened the “The Magpie” restaurant and cake shop at 75 Northbrook Street. Elizabeth was elected to the Council 1960. President of Newbury Chamber of Commerce. President of Newbury Soroptimists.

While she was Mayor, the Pearl Assurance building in Bartholomew Street was opened by Lord Porchester. It was described as “Newbury’s finest development”.⁷

1967



Christopher Compton Hall RBA RCA (1930-2016). Liberal. Professional artist, painter of landscapes, people, and architectural structures. His work is represented in the collections of the Arts Council, Barclays Bank, the Museum of London, the National Library of Wales, Oxford University Press, Shell UK, Allied Lyons and the Art Galleries of Reading and Carmarthen. As Mayor, he started Saturday surgeries. The Fair Close Day Centre was opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 30th November 1967⁸.

Brought up in Inkpen, the son of a diplomat. Served as an intelligence officer in the Malaya emergency. Lived and worked in Porchester Road for many years. Played village cricket. A Roman Catholic, he was a governor of St Joseph's School in the 1960s.⁹ As a member of the Governing Body, he oversaw the construction of the School at Newport Road in 1964-65, and the move from the School's former site at the north end of Victoria Park. He was involved in appointing Frank Rowbottom as the first Head of the new school at Newport Road in 1966.¹⁰

¹ Newbury Weekly News 5/1/2012.

² Newbury Weekly News 27/5/1965.

³ Gillian Durrant.

⁴ A naval officer during World War I, he was awarded the French Legion of Honour, Officer Class, in 1917. He retired to Newbury. His retirement rank was Captain. 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

⁵ He also travelled with a Russian Passport under the name Wladimer Ganf.

⁶ Ship passenger lists. During WWII, Włodzimierz Ganf served in the Polish army, was captured, escaped, and rejoined the British forces (Newbury Weekly News 6/4/1989).

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 6/10/1966. It was demolished in 2017.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 22/8/2024, illustration..

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 25/5/1967, 11/8/2016, and 21/1/2021. Valuable informant on the Council before abolition of the Borough in 1974.

¹⁰ Private information.

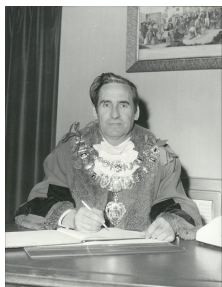
Mayors of Newbury

1968



Leslie Lister Hall (1910-1980). Liberal. Chartered Secretary. Born in Lancashire. Came to Newbury 1960. Head of the Southern Works Organisation at AERE, responsible for all construction work at Harwell, Aldermaston, and Winfrith.¹ Previously, he had worked for the North West Electricity Board in Manchester and the National Coal Board. Retired from employment in 1970. Alderman. His passing was unfortunate; he was greatly disturbed by plans to emigrate to Canada where his son lived, and took his own life a few days before the intended departure.²

1969



John William Jones (1922-93). Liberal. Born in Woolwich. Came to Newbury in 1953 to work at AWE Aldermaston as a Senior Technical Officer. Town Councillor 1963-72. As Mayor, he raised money to install a lift at Sandleford Hospital, Newtown Road.³ He was the last Mayor who functioned ex-officio as a Borough Magistrate.⁴

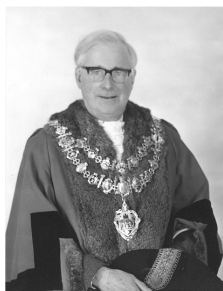
He was married to Rosina May Beaurain (1922-98) (known as “Pat”) in 1945. In 1971, he was cited as co-respondent in a divorce petition by a Newbury resident, but his marriage seems to have survived the affair.⁵ They retired to Kedington, Suffolk.

1970



Arthur William Luff (1915-94). Independent. Educated in Newbury. During World War II he served in the Royal Engineers on bomb disposal and in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. 1947 he purchased the Post Office and grocers in the Broadway. Elected to the Council 1965-71. Magistrate 1967. Twice President of the Newbury Chamber of Commerce. In retirement, he served as Clerk to Church & Child’s Almshouses, Newtown Road. Retired with his wife Margery to Bristol 1986.⁶

1971



Percy W.G. Burgess OBE (1913-91). Born in Bath. RAF 1930-60. Commissioned 1941. Flight Lieutenant 1946. Served as a pilot in World War II and the Berlin Airlift. Wing Commander 1954. OBE 1957. 1960-78 Senior Experimental Officer at AWE Aldermaston. Chairman of the Estates and General Purposes Committee.⁷ Mason; Master of the Hope Lodge 1980.

1972

¹ Newbury Weekly News 3/5/1968, 22/5/1980. Lionel Goodall, former colleague. The principal contractor was Chivers at Devizes.

² Newbury Weekly News 22/5/1980.

³ Newbury Weekly News 6/5/1993. Research by Judith Thomas.

⁴ Kelly’s Directory for 1970. The Mayor had in earlier times often been described as “Chief Magistrate”.

⁵ Reading Evening Post 23/5/1969 and 26/11/1971. Research by Deirdre Duff.

⁶ Private information. Newbury Weekly News 4/3/1970 and 6/4/1989.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 18/3/1971, 5/12/1991. Gazette. Information from Sue Ellis. Brian Sylvester.

Mayors of Newbury



Wilfred Cannings (1918-91). Born in Doncaster. Fought and was wounded in the Battle of Kohima (1944). Founder member in 1975 and Chairman of the Newbury Burma Star Association. Active member of St Mary's Speenhamland 1947-72 and thereafter of St Mary's Shaw Churches.¹ As Mayor, he welcomed Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to St Bartholomew's School to commemorate its 500th year. He also secured heating for the swimming pool at Northcroft.²

1973



Mrs Pauline Mada Bodin (1933-93). Conservative. Born Pauline Mada Orchard in Edinburgh. Came to Newbury in 1956 when her husband Dr Hugh Bodin worked for AERE Harwell.³ Town Councillor 1970-74 until the Council was abolished. She was elected Mayor when three more senior Councillors refused to serve.⁴ District Councillor 1974-77 and 1983-93. First woman Chairman of West Berkshire Council 1976-77. Chairman of Governors of John Rankin School.⁵ Introduced the children's play equipment to Goldwell Park.⁶ Her Mayoress was Marion Paterson, Mayor in 1993.⁷ Also Mayor in 1987.

1974

Newbury Borough Council was abolished and its powers were transferred to what became West Berkshire Council. The Mayor was elected by ten Charter Trustees, constituted by those District Councillors who represented Newbury wards. For Newbury Water Company, see 1924.



Dr Elizabeth Dyson (1911-2002). Retired General Practitioner. Moved to Newbury in 1952 and elected to the Council in 1967. President of the Wash Common Community Association. Chairman of Governors of Turnpike School and Mary Hare Grammar School. 1967 Captain of the Newbury and Crookham Golf Club.⁸ Supporter of the Fairclose Day Centre.⁹ Also Mayor in 1977.

1975

¹ Newbury Weekly News 14/3/1991.

² Newbury Weekly News 26/5/2022 and 3/5/1973.

³ Catherine Pick.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 23 or 30/5/1996.

⁵ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Bodin Gardens.

⁶ Jeremy Holden-Bell.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 3/5/1973 and 30/9/1993.

⁸ Newbury Weekly News 23/5/2002.

⁹ Margo Payne.



Mrs Ellen Symons (1926-2014), officially Sophia Helena Symons. Born in the Netherlands as Sophia Helena Schaap. Educated in Arnhem¹ District Councillor 1973-76. She married Norman Symons in Kensington in 1957, under the surname Hulbert from a previous marriage. Her husband Norman Symons² founded CBS (Automotive and Industrial Ltd), a supplier of car parts in Arnhem Road. They subsequently moved to Ashted, Surrey.³

1976

Wilfred Cannings. See 1972.

1977

Dr Elizabeth Dyson. See 1974.

1978



Engela Mary Archer (1910-97). Conservative. Born Engela Mary Petch in Yorkshire, the daughter of a school teacher. Around 1912 her parents and family emigrated to Bergen in Norway and then to Oslo, where Engela was educated.⁴ Returning to Britain, she trained as a nurse. Married in 1934 Edward Archer (1909-90), an army officer who served in India, Egypt, and Germany. 1939 practiced as a nurse in Alton. Came to Newbury 1967. Elected to the Council 1976.⁵ Once widowed, she moved to a retirement home for nurses.

1979



Bryan Philpott (1936-89). Conservative. Born in Newbury. Flight Lieutenant in the RAF, then sales manager for Chilton Electric (Hungerford), later UK Solenoid. Member of the Council 1978-83. Author of books on the RAF and Luftwaffe during World War II: *Challenge in the Air: The Story of the Air Training Corps* (1971); *RAF Fighter Units: Europe 1939-42* (1977); *Royal Air Force Bomber Units 1939-42* (1977); *RAF Fighter Units: Europe 1942-45* (1978); *World War II Photo Album: Fighters Defending the Reich* (1978); *RAF Combat Units: SEAC 1941-45* (1979); *Mosquito (Classic aircraft)* (1980); *In Enemy Hands* (1981); *German Maritime Aircraft* (1981); *Encyclopedia of German Military Aircraft* (1982); *English Electric/BAC Lightning* (1984); *Meteor* (1986); *History of the German Air Force* (1986); *The Real Aviation Enthusiast* (1987); *German Bombers Over England* (1988); *Famous Fighter Aces* (1989); and *Eject! Eject!* (1989), a history of the ejector seat. Also author of *The Bombing of Newbury* (10th February 1943) (1989). Commanding Officer of Newbury Air Training Corps. Chairman of Governors of Park House School. Chairman of the Anglo-American Community Relations Committee. Model aircraft enthusiast and author of books on that subject: *Aircraft Modelling* (Airfix, 1974); *Making and Improving Plastic Models* (1975); *Luftwaffe*

¹ www.agb1908.nl/intro_bestanden/adressen/index.htm

² Full name Charles Bertie Norman Symons (1926-2013). He was imprisoned in Changi Gaol following the fall of Singapore, returning to the UK in 1946. Further information from Deidre Duff.

³ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Arnhem Road. Arnhem Road was named after the Battle of Arnhem, 1944.

⁴ Norwegian census of 1923, when her father Charles Henry Petch (1867-1944) was a school teacher in Oslo. The name “Engela” is Scandinavian. The background to the Norwegian connection has not been ascertained. “Petch” is a Yorkshire name, and Engela’s mother was born Alicia Mary Salisbury in London.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 25/5/1978 and 3/7/1997. 1939 Register, researched by Judith Thomas.

Mayors of Newbury

Camouflage of World War Two (Airfix, 1975); *Modelling Jet Fighters* (Airfix, 1976); *German Fighters of World War 2* (Airfix, 1977).¹

1980



Douglas Lawrence (1928-2000). Telecommunications engineer for the Post Office. Liberal. Born in Cranbrook, Kent. Came to Newbury 1952.² Campaigned for the establishment of Newbury Town Council and preservation of the Corn Exchange. Attended the opening in 1980 of Northcroft Leisure Centre by Reg Stubberfield. Member of Newbury District Council 1979-97 (Chairman 1992-93). Lawrence Place is named after him.³

1981, 1982



Mrs Jo M. Lindsay. Liberal. Born Josephine M. Hicks in Kingclere in 1942.⁴ Married to Jim Lindsay 1963. Driving force behind the pre-school playgroups association. Interested in the effects of planning on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Lost her seat on the District Council in 1983.⁵ Retired to the Canary Islands.⁶

1983



Mrs Barbara J. McMahon (1922-2017). Conservative. Born Barbara Hill. Born and lived all her life in Newbury.⁷ Married secondly in 1955 John McMahon (1907-67). Roman Catholic.⁸ Teacher at Greenham Court Primary School (now The Willows Primary School). The Kennet Centre was opened.⁹

¹ Susan Scott-Picton, widow. Newbury Weekly News 22/3/1989 and later.

² Newbury Weekly News 5/6/1980 and 5/10/2000.

³ Roy Tubb, *Newbury Road by Road* (2011) – Lawrence Place.

⁴ Inferred information.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 4/6/1981 and 20/5/1982.

⁶ Margo Payne.

⁷ Newbury Weekly News 5/1/2017 and 12/1/2017.

⁸ Bernard Eggleton.

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 12/5/1983.

Mayors of Newbury

1984



Jack William Gambling (1914-93). Conservative. Retired Director of Toomers, where he worked for 47 years.¹ Came to Newbury in 1937. The present Mayor's pendant was purchased, the previous one having been stolen in April 1984. Also Mayor in 1988.

1985



Robert Ieuan Tuck (1944-2025). Conservative. Known as "Ieuan". Born in Pontllytyn, Glamorgan. Came to Newbury 1975 as a mathematics teacher at Shaw House School.² Elected to West Berkshire Council for St John's Ward in 1983-87 and to Newbury Town Council in 2007, retiring in 2015. His wife Helen found the Councillors' formal gowns in a chest, mislaid since 1974. Helen served for many years as the choirmistress of Newbury Harmony.

1986



Mrs Josephine Goodfellow (1922-2012). Born Josephine Birkhill in York. Lived in Canada with her husband Colonel Hodgson Goodfellow MBE (1915-80), a Canadian army officer who took part in the allied occupation of Japan.³ They came to Newbury in 1965. Elected to the Council for St John's Ward 1983. Instrumental in securing a lights-controlled crossing at the bottom of Wendan Road so that the school children could cross to St Barts.⁴ She retired to Marlborough.⁵ (Portrait © Newbury Weekly News.)

1987

Pauline Bodin. See 1973.

The Liberal Democrat party was founded in March 1988.

1988

Jack W. Gambling. See 1984. Resigned as Mayor in November 1988 because of illness. Christine Fairbrother was elected for the remainder of his term.⁶

¹ Ieuan Tuck. Newbury Weekly News 31/5/1984.

² Jonathan Tuck, son

³ Catherine Pick.

⁴ Julie Goddard.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 25/5/2012. In Marlborough, she supported the Merchants House history museum (Margo Payne).

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 3/11/1988.

Mayors of Newbury

1988, 1989



Mrs Christine Fairbrother. Conservative. Born Christine Edwards in Hampstead Norreys. Brought up at Banterwick and attended Shaw House School. After marriage, moved to Newbury in 1971. PA to the Managing Directors of two local firms, for a total of nearly 50 years. Elected to Turnpike Ward in 1987. As Deputy Mayor, she exercised the functions of Mayor from June 1988 because of the illness of Jack Gambling, and was elected Mayor in November 1988 when he resigned. Re-elected 1989. She therefore served two consecutive terms, one of the few recent Mayors to have done so. Chairman of the Charter Trustees.

Governor of Turnpike School. Secretary of the ATC 211 Squadron for 18 years. Trustee and Secretary for the Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust for many years. Raised funds for the Duchess of Kent Hospice, Reading.¹ After standing down as Councillor, she supported both the 400th anniversary of the Town's charter and the Millennium planning Committees²

1990

Adrian Edwards. Conservative. Arrived in Newbury in 1977 on retirement from the Army. Employed at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority until 1993 when he was transferred to the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston. Retired in 2004. Elected to Newbury District Council 1987-91.³ Also Mayor in 2007.

1991



Raymond John Beale (1922-2014). Liberal Democrat. Falkland Ward. Formerly teacher of French and German at St Bartholomew's School, where he commanded the Combined Cadet Force. Elected to Newbury District Council 1987. His daughter Inga Beale (now Dame Inga Beale) served as Chief Executive of Lloyds of London 2013-18.⁴

1992

George Kenneth Baker. Liberal Democrat for St John's Ward, serving for 12 years. Born 1940 in Basingstoke. Founded the Newbury computer repair company GKB Electronics Ltd, selling it on retirement. As Mayor, he revived the Mayor's Ball.⁵

¹ Mayor Fairbrother.

² Margo Payne.

³ Mayor Edwards.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 3/4/2014. Inga's mother Astri was Norwegian (information from Mary Hassall).

⁵ Rod Thomason, Macebearer. Pearl Baker.

Mayors of Newbury

1993



Marion Paterson. Liberal Democrat. Came to Newbury 1967. Primary School teacher at Fir Tree Primary School, retiring in 1991. Elected to Newbury District Council in 1991 for Falkland Ward, later Northcroft Ward. Chairman of West Berkshire Council 1998-99.

The first woman Mayor to be addressed as Madam Mayor. With Lord Porchester (now the Earl of Carnarvon) she co-hosted a fair in the grounds of Highclere in aid of the Mayor's benevolent fund and local charities.¹ Her Mayoress was Pauline Bodin, Mayor in 1973 and 1987, until Pauline unfortunately fell ill.

1994



Philip Ashley Barnett. Liberal Democrat. Known as "Phil". Born and brought up in Newbury. Educated at Park House School. Employed at Harwell Laboratory 1963-95. Founded in 1995 Barnett's Safety Equipment Services Ltd, providing health and safety advisory and retail services, based in Newbury with customers nationwide. Elected to the Town Council 1997-2000 and 2007-15, and 2019.² As Mayor, he organised in September the Mayor's Steam Day in aid of charity. A steam engine came to Newbury station for the first time since the 1960's, and traction engines assembled on the Racecourse. (Portrait by Charles Mackinnon.) Also Mayor in 2008. His wife Vera Barnett was elected to the

Council 2000-2007 and 2023.

Elected to Berkshire County Council 1995-97. Elected to Newbury District Council/West Berkshire Council 1991-2007 and 2019.³ Chairman of West Berkshire Council 2000-01. Adult Services Executive member.

Governor of Park House School 1986 onwards. Member of South-East Employers 1993-2007; Vice Chairman 1999-2007.⁴

1995



Mrs Sally Jane Hannon (1955-2007). Born Sally Arnold. Liberal Democrat. Came to live in Thatcham 1980. Elected to the District Council 1991-2007. 2004-06 Chairman of the Thames Valley Police Authority.⁵

¹ Mayor Paterson. Previous woman Mayors had been addressed as "Mr Mayor".

² See <http://barnettsafetyservice.co.uk/>

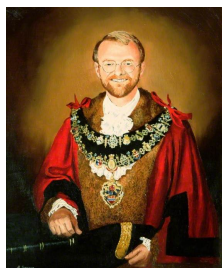
³ Newbury District Council was renamed West Berkshire Council in 1998, when it took over the functions of Berkshire County Council within West Berkshire.

⁴ Mayor Barnett.

⁵ *Guardian* obituary 17/8/2007. Newbury Weekly News 24/5/2007. Information from Sue Ellis.

Mayors of Newbury

1996



Garry Poulson. Director of the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire 1998-2024, achieving the Queen's Award in 2005 and the best volunteer recruitment results in England in 2010. Chairman of the Newbury and Thatcham Welfare Trust since 2002. During his mayoralty, Queen Elizabeth II visited Newbury in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the 1596 Borough Charter. With others, Garry secured the reparishing of Newbury to create Newbury Town Council in 1997. The theme of his mayoral year was encouraging partnership between business and education. On 23rd June, a resolution was passed to award the honorary Freedom of the Town to the Corps of Royal Engineers.¹

Mason in the Hungerford Lodge. At various times, Garry has been Chairman or President of the Old Parkinsons Association, the Newbury Society, Newbury and Thatcham Round Table, and the Newbury 41 Club.² 2024 appointed Mayor's Attendant, in succession to the late Ian Campbell. (Portrait by Alan Sporne.)

The newly elected Town Council came into being in April 1997 and the Charter Trustees were abolished.

1997



Martha Vickers. Liberal Democrat. Former health visitor. Elected to the Council 1997-2003 and 2007. Formed the Newbury Youth Council. The Corps of Royal Engineers, represented by 42 Survey Engineer Group, was awarded the Freedom of the Town during a parade on 15th September.³

1998



Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE. Liberal Democrat. Elected to the Town Council 1997-2000. Also member of West Berkshire Council. Involved with David Rendel MP and others in obtaining Government agreement to build the A34 bypass. Trustee of Donnington Hospital.

Moved to Portsmouth 2003. Leader of Portsmouth City Council 2004-14. CBE 2016.⁴ (Portrait © Portsmouth City Council.)

¹ See 1997, 2005, and 2014.

² Mayor Poulson. Newbury Weekly News 6/6/1996.

³ Mayor Vickers. See 2002, 2009, and 2025.

⁴ Mayor Vernon-Jackson.

1999



Michael Rodger. Liberal Democrat. Proprietor of the Desmoulin Art Gallery and café in the Wharf (now part of the museum). Formerly a lecturer at Bournemouth Art College.¹ Elected to the Council 1997-2007. Presided over the millennium celebrations. As Mayor, he held a fundraising ball at the Racecourse. Also Mayor in 2004.

Elected as the first Leader of the Council 2000-03.

2000



Susan (Sue) Farrant. Liberal Democrat for Turnpike and Northcroft Wards. Came to Newbury in 1989 and worked as a management consultant, mainly in social housing. Elected to Newbury Town Council 1997-2003 and 2019, and to West Berkshire Council 2003-07. Chaired the Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee. Initiated the Town Trail, a public art project, setting up a multi-disciplinary steering group, and commissioning the first major piece, “Ebb and Flow” at Newbury Lock. Worked with Newbury Art Group to establish the very popular Art on the Park. Set up The Mayor’s Fringe, an outdoor arts festival. May 2000, started a community campaign to bring a cinema back to the town, finally achieved in 2009. Raised money for West Berkshire Cruse Bereavement Care.² Instrumental in the return of two of Queen Victoria’s lions from Beale Park to her statue in Victoria Park, rejoining the two lions already there.³

Before abolition of the Borough in 1974, the roles of Mayor and Leader had been combined in a single person, and this practice was continued when the newly elected Town Council came into being in 1997. In 2000 the two roles were separated, on the grounds that the Council is politically elected, and the Mayor is apolitical. Michel Rodger, Mayor in 1999, was elected the first Leader. The Mayor was confined to the ceremonial and honorific position that he/she had fulfilled in the period of the Charter Trustees 1974-97.⁴

2001



Clive Hillman. Liberal Democrat. Previously a physical trainer for the RAF. In Newbury, worked in financial services for the Royal Bank of Scotland. Elected to the Council 1997-2007. Supported the National Council for Epilepsy.⁵ The Town Hall lift was installed.⁶ Moved to Lincoln.⁷

¹ Gillian Durrant.

² Mayor Farrant.

³ Margo Payne.

⁴ Information from Gillian Durrant, Mayor in 2006.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 24/5/2001.

⁶ Martha Vickers.

⁷ Information from Joyce Lewis.

2002



Frances Mary Berry (1923-2015). Liberal Democrat.¹ The daughter of James and Gertrude Blackford of Oaken Hedges, Fifth Road, then a farm.² James ran a welding and scrap metal business and Gertrude founded Jay Bee Pork Products Ltd, making and selling sausages and bacon from their own livestock. They also sold chickens and eggs. (Photo © West Berkshire Council.)

Frances worked for Wessex Electricity Company before it was nationalised as the Southern Electricity Board.³ Elected to the Town Council 2000-03. While she was Mayor, a reunion took place of those affected by the bombing of Newbury Council School in 1943.⁴ 29 properties were passed to the Town Council, including the Town Hall.⁵ She raised £3000 for the Salvation Army and the RNID, including by a Mayor's Ball.⁶ The Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated. The Corps of Royal Engineers exercised their right to march through the town, under the Freedom awarded to them in 1997.⁷ Author of *A Newbury Family* (1996), *The Way We Were in Dear Old Newbury* (1997), *Here in Newbury in the Second World War* (1999), and *Mayor-making and being Mayor of Newbury* (2003).

2003



Peter Greenhalgh. Liberal Democrat. Previously, he worked at Harwell. Elected to the Council 1997-2007. As Mayor, he opened the new West Berkshire Community Hospital and helped raise £900,000 for new equipment there.⁸

In 2003, Queen Elizabeth II visited St Nicolas Church.⁹

2004

Michael Rodger. See 1999. Instrumental in creating the Newbury Mosaic outside the library. Moved to Carlisle 2006.

2005



Valerie Ann Bull (1946-2024). Liberal Democrat. Came to Newbury from Singapore 1987. Married to Stuart 1988. Elected to the Town Council (St John's Ward) 2000. Chairman of the Small Grants Committee. Elected to Newbury District Council (Falkland Ward) 2003. Specialised in planning. Retired from both Councils 2007. Board member of the Corn Exchange. One of Newbury Lions Club's first lady members.¹⁰ Subsequently moved to Fareham.

As Mayor, she led the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe

¹ Tribute by St Nicolas Church upon her election as Mayor.

² James Blackford (1890-1971) was reportedly the first welder in Newbury. He dismantled the Jubilee Clock and removed the Crimean War gun, then in the Broadway. Gertrude Blackford (1891-1896) was born Gertrude Chivers (Newbury Weekly News, undated article).

³ Private informant.

⁴ Newbury Weekly News 15/5/2003.

⁵ Newbury Weekly News 28/11/2002.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News 17/9/2015. Information at her funeral.

⁷ Information from the Corps of Royal Engineers.

⁸ Mayor Greenhalgh.

⁹ Newbury Weekly News 15/9/2022.

¹⁰ Margo Payne.

Mayors of Newbury

and Asia, jointly with the Royal Engineers, 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic), and the Royal British Legion. On 17th July 2005, a combined Veterans and Freedom Parade was followed by a drumhead service in the Market Place.¹

2006



Gillian Durrant. Former tax consultant. Liberal Democrat for St John's, Turnpike and Victoria Wards 1997-2007. 2003-06 Leader of Newbury Town Council, the second person to hold that post, and, so far, the only woman.² Organiser of the Council's annual Newbury in Bloom competition and member (with others) of the Town Trail group that installed the sculptures Ebb and Flow, Couple in Conversation and Symphony of the Trees, the first public art in Newbury since the statue of Queen Victoria. The first Mayor of Newbury to write a blog during her year of office.

Since 1999, trustee/director of the Newbury Community Resource Centre Ltd, the charity that runs the Community Furniture Projects in Newbury and Basingstoke and Growing Together. 2015-19 Finance and Corporate Services Manager of Newbury Town Council. 2021 Clerk of Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council. Chairman of the Newbury Twin Town Association. 2022 instigator and organiser in Newbury of finding hosts for Ukrainian refugees. Former governor at Speenhamland and Trinity Schools.³

2007



Adrian Edwards. See 1990. Elected for Falkland Ward to Newbury Town Council 2000-19 and to West Berkshire Council 2007-19. Chairman of West Berkshire Council 2012-13. Appointed Honorary Alderman of West Berkshire Council 2020. 2022 elected Chairman of the Royal British Legion Newbury branch.⁴

2008

Philip Barnett. See 1994. Organised in August the Three Mayors' Walk along the Kennet & Avon Canal from Thatcham to Hungerford.⁵ Chairman of the Planning & Highways Committee 2010-15.

In 2008, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Vodafone's Newbury Headquarters.⁶

2009



Kuldip Singh Kang. Conservative for Falkland Ward 2007-19. Came to live in the UK from the Punjab in 1962, aged five. Lived and educated in Slough, Berkshire. Married to Manjit, with three children and eight grandchildren. Trained and worked as a motor vehicle and fork lift technician. Moved to Newbury in 1989 and ran the Fifth Road Post Office and Store for 17 years. Worked part time in General Post Office Newbury for ten years.

As Mayor, he raised funds for the Mayor's Benevolent Fund and the George Goes

¹ Mayor Bull.

² See 2000.

³ Mayor Durrant. See <http://mayorofnewbury.blogspot.com/>

⁴ Mayor Edwards.

⁵ Mayor Barnett.

⁶ Newbury Weekly News, 15/9/2022.

Mayors of Newbury

Green Project at St George's Church in Wash Common. 3rd July, he hosted the Freedom Parade of the Corps of Royal Engineers, exercising their Freedom to march through the town (see 1997).¹ He served on all main Committees and as Chair of Civic Pride Arts & Leisure. Trustee of the Newbury Almshouse Trust, the Wash Common Community Centre, and the Friends of Wash Common Library. Deputy Mayor 2018.²

2010



Dr Ian Grose. Liberal Democrat. Physics teacher at Kennet School, Thatcham. Elected to the Council 2003-11. Helped to secure the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for West Berkshire Mencap.³ Emigrated to New Zealand 2015.

2011



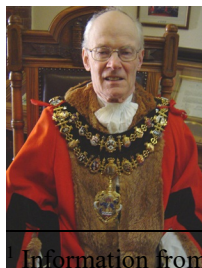
Jeffrey George Beck (1932-2024). Known as "Jeff". Conservative. Born in the Wirral. Agricultural engineer. Came to Newbury 1969. Elected to the Town Council and West Berkshire Council for Clay Hill Ward 2000-03 and 2007-23. Chairman of West Berkshire Council 2014-15. His wife Alma Beck (1932-2016) was a Newbury Town Councillor and West Berkshire Councillor 2000-03. 2018-19 he was consort to Cllr Jan Cover, Mayor of Thatcham. (Portrait © West Berkshire Council.)⁴

2012



Arthur Johnson. Liberal Democrat. Elected to the Council 2003-19. Presided over the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II in Newbury in June. Welcomed the Olympic Torch as it passed through Newbury in July. Unveiled the memorial in St John's Gardens to the 15 victims of the 1943 bombing of Newbury. The singing Mayor.⁵

2013



Anthony Corbett Pick. Conservative for St John's Ward. Born in Worcestershire. Came to Newbury 1981. Information technology management consultant, retiring in 2003. Former Chairman of the Newbury and District National Trust Association. Elected to the Town Council 2011-19 and to West Berkshire Council 2015-19. As Mayor, he promoted restoration of the four historic portraits in the Town Hall and an interpretation panel in Speen Recreation Ground for the Second

Information from the Mayor's office.

² Mayor Kang.

³ Mayor Grose.

⁴ Roger Beck, son.

⁵ Mayor Johnson.

Mayors of Newbury

Battle of Newbury. Raised funds for the Duchess of Kent Hospice, Reading, where his first wife Irene had died in 2007. Chairman of the Planning & Highways Committee 2015-19. 2018 Chairman of the Steering Group which wrote the Newbury Town Plan 2019-36. 2012-26 Chairman of the Council's Heritage Working Group which introduced blue plaques and dendro-dating of historic buildings to Newbury, continuing in that capacity by invitation after losing his seat in 2019.¹

2011 Chairman of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, which introduced in 2012 the local listing of West Berkshire heritage assets. In 2014 he married his Mayoress, Catherine Kent (Town Councillor 2011-15). Compiler of this survey from multiple sources.

2014



Jo Day. Liberal Democrat. Formerly Joan Ferris, she was born and grew up in Newbury. After studying and teaching maths in Kent for 20 years she returned to Newbury with her husband and two children in 1991. Jo continued teaching in Whitechurch, Hants until her retirement in 2011. Her husband sadly died in 2010. Elected to the Town Council in 2007, she served as governor of the Winchcombe School and as a trustee of Citizens Advice West Berkshire. A member of Newbury Baptist Church.

On 22nd June, she inspected the farewell parade when the Corps of Royal Engineers left their Hermitage Barracks for the last time. 2023 her present husband Ian Jee was elected a member of the Council.² Also Mayor in 2026.

2015



Howard Bairstow. Conservative. Mechanical engineer. Elected to the Council 2007-19. His Mayoress was his predecessor, Jo Day.

2016



Julian Swift-Hook. Liberal Democrat. Elected to the Town Council on its formation in 1997, retiring in 2019. Chairman of Kennet Community Radio and West Berkshire Mencap.³

2017



David Fenn. Conservative. Retired accountant. Elected to the Council 2011-19. His wife Marion Fenn was elected to the Council 2007-11.

¹ Mayor Pick.

² Mayor Day.

³ Mayor Swift-Hook.

Mayors of Newbury

2018



Margo (Margaret) Payne. Conservative. Born in Manchester. Came to Newbury in 1975. Attended Newbury County Girls Grammar School. Married to John and has two children. Elected to the Council 2015-19. A Trustee for the West Berkshire Volunteer Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau. A keen singer, she has been a member of Newbury Choral Society and Kennet Opera.

As Mayor, she reintroduced the Mayor's Cadet, led the town in commemoration of 100 years since end of WW1, and inaugurated the 'Clean for the Queen' for HM The Queen's 90th birthday, which became the Community Clean. President of Newbury Lions 2023-24. 2023 elected Chairman of Shaw-cum-Donnington

Parish Council.¹

2019, 2020



Elizabeth O'Keeffe. Liberal Democrat. Elected to the Council 2011-14 and 2016. Came to Newbury in 1981. Formerly worked in education and Youth Services. She also worked with British Army on the Rhine. Served on the Planning and Highways, Policy and Resources, Staff Sub and Civic Pride Arts and Leisure Committees. In her first year she emphasised youth provision and community involvement. In her second year she also promoted organisations supporting victims of domestic abuse, which sadly had risen during the Covid 19 lockdown. She established Newbury Youth Theatre in 1983. Is a Trustee of Time To Talk Youth Counselling and Trustee of Citizens Advice Newbury.² The Mayors' robe, which was edged with sable (Martes zibellina) and dated from 1957/58, was replaced with a new robe funded by public donations and the Mayor.

Her term was extended for one year because the 2020 Covid 19 lockdown limited the Mayor's range of activities. Her consort for both terms was John Gardner, Member of the Council 2015-19.

2021



William (Billy) Drummond. Liberal Democrat. Moved to Newbury in 1988 and employed as the head chef of Newbury Racecourse, retiring in 2006. Recovered from two serious strokes, one in 2005 and one in 2017. His wife Sharon works locally at the NHS. Elected to Greenham Parish Council in 2000, West Berkshire Council in 2003, and Newbury Town Council in 2019. Chairman of West Berkshire Council 2024-25. His mayoral charity was Speakability, who help people who suffer from strokes. They have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.³

2022



Gary Arthur Norman. Liberal Democrat. Born in Edmonton, North London, and educated in Newmarket, Suffolk. After a first-class degree in economics he entered the IT industry, coming to Newbury in 1986 to work for Norsk Data. At University, he met his wife Sabrina Chetcuti, an infant refugee from Egypt during the 1956 Suez Crisis. She worked in the health sector and retired in 2022 as a non-executive director in the NHS. They have one son, Daniel. Gary retired in 2017 after 20 years as a project manager with R.R. Donnelley and has since served as a school governor and charity trustee.

Elected to the Council in 2019. His mayoral charities were Speakability and Eight Bells for Mental Health.¹ 2023 Leader of the Town Council.

¹ Mayor Payne.

² Mayor O'Keeffe.

³ Mayor Drummond.

Mayors of Newbury

He led the Town Council's celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II on 3rd June. 11th September HM King Charles III was proclaimed in Newbury Market Place by Cllr Rick Jones, Chairman of West Berkshire Council, attended by Gary Norman who gave a supporting speech. The event was introduced by Paul Dick DL.

2023



Nigel Foot. Liberal Democrat. Retired dental surgeon. Elected to the Town Council 2019. Chairman of Planning & Highways 2019-23. Elected to West Berkshire Council 2023, when he was appointed West Berkshire Heritage Champion. His Mayoress was his wife Sarah Slack, also elected to the Town Council in 2019 and Deputy Mayor 2025. His mayoral charity was West Berkshire Homeless.

2024



Andy Moore OBE. Liberal Democrat. Engineer. Came to Newbury 1974. Career in Ministry of Defence; appointed to the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator 2002. OBE for services to MoD 2012. Retired 2015. Churchwarden, St Nicolas Newbury, 1981-86. Chair, Newbury & District Badminton Association 1996-2006. Pastimes: badminton, singing. Married to Sheila (Mayoress); two children and five grandchildren. His mayoral charity was West Berks Foodbank.²

Elected to the Town Council 2019. Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee. Elected to West Berkshire Council 2019-2023. As Mayor, he unveiled the statue of Paddington Bear in Northbrook Street and presided over the Town Council's VE Day 80 commemorations.

2025



David Harman. Liberal Democrats. Environmental consultancy professional specialising in assessing and cleaning up former industrial sites. Chartered Scientist. Previously resident in Sussex and Australia. Came to Newbury 2015. Elected to the Council 2023. Deputy Chairman, Planning & Highways Committee. Chairman, Climate Emergency Subcommittee. His mayoral charity was Berkshire Youth.³

Armed Forces Day (28th June), he hosted the Freedom Parade of the Corps of Royal Engineers, exercising their Freedom to march through the town (see 1997), supported by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire (Andrew Try) and the Commander Royal Engineers (Geographic) (Col A.J. Harris).

2026

¹ Mayor Norman

² Mayor Moore.

³ Mayor Harman

Mayors of Newbury



Jo Day. See 2014. Her charity is Newbury Cancer Care.

9th June 2026

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