



## Newsletter February 2021

### Christmas High Teas given to Atherstone's most vulnerable

Two hundred High Teas were a welcome early Christmas present for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents in Atherstone courtesy of an idea from Cllr Denise Clews (Atherstone Town Mayor).

The project was funded by North Warwickshire Borough Council and Atherstone Town Council and Cllr Clews was very grateful to everyone at Churches Coffee Shop who provided the High Teas at cost and a team of volunteer drivers and co-ordinators who delivered freshly prepared scones, sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps and chocolate along with a Christmas card from the Mayor.

The tea recipients had all been nominated by those who volunteered helping local residents who were shielding for many weeks during the first lockdown.

Cllr Clews was overwhelmed by the impact the tea delivery had, and she said there were "some lovely smiling faces and even a few tears of joy knowing that people in the community cared so much."

One 93 year old resident who received a tea wrote a letter of thanks saying: "to know that someone out there is willing to do this restores my faith in the goodness

of human nature. I wish everyone involved in this very thoughtful enterprise and their families a very good Christmas."

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The youngest Atherstone Community Volunteer - George Jones (right) is pictured with the Atherstone Town Mayor Cllr Denise Clews (left) delivering a high tea to his neighbour Mrs Jackson (centre) who he has helped by running errands and walking her dog Archie.



# Your Town Councillors



[Cllr Sara Bishop](#)  
**North Ward**  
01827 717480



[Gary Chamberlain](#)  
**Central Ward**  
07486 474037



[Cllr Jacky Chambers](#)  
**Central Ward**  
07966 425052



[Cllr Denise Clews](#)  
**South Ward**  
07477 607255



[Cllr Tony Clews](#)  
**North Ward**  
07867 650810

Position  
currently  
vacant

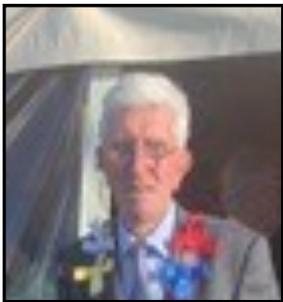
**Central Ward**



[Cllr Dawn Downes](#)  
**Central Ward**  
07805 545937

Position  
currently  
vacant

**South Ward**



[Cllr Carl Gurney](#)  
**North Ward**  
01827 713976



[Cllr Brian Henney](#)  
**North Ward**  
07931 588218



[Cllr Ray Jarvis](#)  
**South Ward**  
01827 716534



[Cllr Mark Jordan](#)  
**Central Ward**  
07775 987866



[Cllr Angie Spencer](#)  
**Central Ward**  
07974 302910



[Cllr Mejar Singh](#)  
**North Ward**  
01827 712305



[Cllr David Wright](#)  
**North Ward**  
07711 330040



# Mayoral Diary

This Mayoral year, which started back in May 2020, has been a rollercoaster of emotions. Despite the loss, sadness and worry that so many have suffered I would like to take the opportunity to think about how inspirational my local Community of Atherstone has been during this past year and the many positive outcomes that have left me feeling even prouder than ever to be Atherstone Town's Civic Head.

Throughout the Covid crisis I have volunteered at Edible Links the local foodbank serving Atherstone and surrounding areas. The work they do all year round has never been needed more than this year and I have seen at first hand the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

Back in March at the very start of the Covid crisis a brand new initiative began as over 80 Volunteers registered covering between them an incredible 4,300 households with help being offered for essential shopping, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs or just a friendly phone call for those who were unable to leave their homes. This was a remarkable achievement in a matter of weeks with thanks to the Atherstone Partnership and the two Clerks at the Town Council who helped to set up the team, many of whom are still helping people today.

In addition to this of course an incredible network of keyworkers kept our community safe as doctors, nurses and all the staff at George Eliot and other local hospitals faced the biggest challenge of their careers. Local businesses adapted to keep us supplied with essential food and workers in schools and councils kept key services running to keep us all as safe and well as possible.

Atherstone also found a way to ensure that Remembrance Sunday was observed with due reverence and an online streaming of the service meant that local people could join this important act of remembrance.

As I reflect on our volunteers and our community and its history I am sadly reminded of the recent passing of a fellow councillor, Lorna Dirveiks, one of the most valued and inspirational members of our community. Lorna did so much for the Town, particularly all her volunteering work with Atherstone



Above: Town Mayor and consort Cllrs Denise and Tony Clews observe a minute's silence on Remembrance Sunday at Atherstone Cemetery.



# Mayoral Diary

Civic Society and The Friends of Atherstone Heritage group and the Heritage Centre on Long Street. Lorna will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Finally, on a lighter note, the Town faced its next challenge of how to safely perform the annual 'switching on' of the Town Christmas Lights. Normally a duty carried out by the Mayor I needed some special help this year. With a bit of seasonal magic from Atherstone Partnership I was "whisked away to Lapland" to ask a favour of Father Christmas himself who kindly offered to help me spread a bit of Christmas cheer to all the young children of Atherstone by switching on the lights. If you want to see this remarkable treat for yourself here is the link!

[The official start to Christmas in Atherstone - YouTube](#)

Wishing you and all your families and friends an extra measure of comfort, joy and hope this Christmas.

**-Town Mayor, Cllr Denise Clews**

## Cup Final joy for Adders Hockey



Mayor Denise Clews, Cllr Tony Clews, and the High Sheriff of Warwickshire Joe Greenwell CBE DL alongside members of the cup winning Atherstone team.

Local sporting heroes Atherstone Adders Men's First XI were honoured with a Civic visit for their fantastic achievement of winning the England Hockey Tier 3 Cup Final 2020. The achievement comes on the back of a successful league season, in which the Men's First XI achieved promotion in a Covid-shortened campaign.

After a decisive 4-0 victory in the semi-final against Sussex side Lewes, Atherstone came up against a tougher opponent in Southport. In a tightly fought contest, Atherstone secured their first title in a national competition with a 2-1 victory thanks

to a brace from captain and local secondary teacher Martin Webb.

Atherstone used all of their experience, alongside the advantages of a youthful team to edge past Southport in their second consecutive final, after falling to defeat against serial winners Nottingham University in the 2019 edition.

In recognition of their achievement, mayor Cllr Denise and her consort Cllr Tony Clews met representatives of the team in advance of a recent match. The Mayor congratulated not only the team but also acknowledged the whole Adders Hockey Club and its family friendly approach to delivering hockey at all levels and ages groups.

The Mayor was delighted that on the day the High Sheriff of Warwickshire Joe Greenwell CBE DL and his wife Anne also joined the civic party to celebrate such an historic and important win for Atherstone.



# Tribute



## Tribute to Councillor Lorna Dirveiks

I would like to take a couple of moments on behalf of myself and my fellow Labour Councillors to pay tribute to Councillor Lorna Dirveiks, who passed away recently.

She served the people of Atherstone over many years, firstly as a Borough Councillor, during which time she served as Mayor of North Warwickshire, and then, since 2015, as an Atherstone Town Councillor.

Lorna was well-known for her passion for preserving Atherstone's local history and heritage. Despite the challenges she faced in recent years, due to her failing health, she maintained a very positive attitude and had a

great depth of knowledge and insight into local issues, which she brought to Council debates and discussions. She demonstrated energy, integrity and passion throughout her public service. We are proud to have known her as both friend and colleague. She will be greatly missed by us all.

- **Cllr Sara Bishop**

## Police SNT News

Hello from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. I would like to start by thanking the local community for their continued support and also to the vast majority of people who are following the government covid-19 guidelines. I am well aware what impact the area going into tier three restrictions has on local businesses and the wider local community. I am pleased to say that Halloween and Bonfire night which I know are key dates for many families and businesses showed me how residents are following the guidance and the nights passed away reasonably peacefully for the emergency services.

Over the past few weeks, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been working hard to address local concerns and have been involved in several initiatives to help keep the community safe including road safety operations, drug warrants and arrests relating to anti-social behaviour. More detailed updates on these incidents can be seen on our Atherstone and Coleshill facebook page.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation during these difficult times, keep to the guidelines, look out for each other and stay safe.

- **Sgt. Adam Skelsey, Warwickshire Police**

Your local Atherstone officers are: PC 825 Walton, PCSO 6001 Snape and PCSO 6162 Scott.



# Honorary Citizen Award 2021

Do you know someone who deserves to be Honorary Citizen of Atherstone 2021?

The Town Council would be interested to hear from you with the names and details of individuals who volunteer their time for the good of the community of Atherstone and who have done so for a number of years.

The award is decided by resolution of the full Town Council at the meeting on 17th March 2021, with an Awards Ceremony as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Written nominations must be made through one of the Town Councillors and received no later than 10th March 2021.

See our website [www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk](http://www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk) or contact the Town Council directly on 01827 720829 for further information about how to nominate and for a copy of a nomination form.

## NEW - Ruby Chambers Sports Award



Cllr Ruby Chambers in 2013

This year the Town Council has decided to introduce a new annual award, dedicated to former councillor Ruby Chambers and given to an Under 18 in the Atherstone community who has overcome adversity to realise a sporting achievement.

The late Cllr Chambers was Town Mayor in 2009 and dedicated much of her life to furthering the opportunities for young and disadvantaged members of the community. She had a natural affinity with young people, and was always the champion of the underdog. Cllr Jarvis once described Ruby as “fiercely independent, a real fighter for a good cause... generous, kind and convinced that everyone has the potential to be more than they think can be.”

If you know a young person who embodies this spirit of determination and persistence, then please write to the council to Town Council at:

clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk, or post your nominations to

PO Box 2000, Atherstone, CV9 1YN.

The deadline for nominations is 10th March 2021.



# Arcade News

## Farewells and Welcomes at Arcade

Atherstone Town Council own and manage the Arcade in Long Street; this year has been a challenging time for the tenants with the COVID 19 lockdown restrictions. During the first lockdown the Town Council supported the tenants by giving them 3 months free rent.

Two long standing tenants, Dorothy Farmer and Paul Pollard, made the decision to retire and they were each presented with farewell gifts from Town Mayor Cllr Denise Clews to thank them for their service to the Town.

The past few months have therefore seen new tenants taking on units in the Arcade, with 'Kim's An Apple A Day' Fruit & Veg shop 'Matt's Past Best Before' food and household shop, Revival Holistics and a mobile phone shop. We wish them success when the current restrictions are lifted and shoppers can return to the Arcade.

Currently there is an Arcade Working group who are looking at the future of the Arcade in particular the upstairs that is currently empty. Anyone that would be interested in using this area should contact the Town Clerk at [clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk).



Paul Pollard (above) and Dorothy Farmer (below) are presented with their leaving gifts.



**census 2021**

**Now hiring for Census 2021**

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[censusjobs.co.uk](http://censusjobs.co.uk)

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**Let's keep up the goodwill**

Recent events have shown us how valued community support is

- Continue to support our neighbours
- Continue the community spirit

So whether you want to volunteer for the first time or continue to help your community....



**Help to support your local community**

Everyone has something to give to their local community regardless of age or financial situation. It could be helping with the weeding, or fixing a leaking tap. You could help with the weekly shop, walk a dog or wash a car. What's more, you can benefit too by asking another participant to help with all the little things that you can't do. You get to know your local community and make new friends.

For more information, please contact:

**Kate Launchbury**  
 t: 07779 257109  
 e: [k.launchbury@cwcdca.co.uk](mailto:k.launchbury@cwcdca.co.uk)



# Community News



## Free Creative Arts packs to residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV)

Warwickshire County Council and the five District and Boroughs are offering a suite of creative arts packs for those residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable during Lockdown 2 to improve mental health and wellbeing. For details of the CEV criteria, please refer here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinically-extremely-vulnerable-receiveupdated-guidance-in-line-with-new-national-restrictions>

*If you know of any individuals who are eligible, please signpost them to the following offers and liaise with the relevant artist. Due to limited numbers, we are offering one "pack" to individuals on a first come first serve basis and limited to one pack per enquiry.*

*Please signpost to the relevant artist who can arrange for a pack to be sent to individuals. For more general enquiries about the project please contact Karen Higgins: [karenhiggins@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:karenhiggins@warwickshire.gov.uk)*

### Creative arts offer

#### 1. FREE Storytelling Activities Pamphlet

At its heart this course will be about storytelling and the fact that every one of us is a natural storyteller. Through thought-provoking exercises and games, each of the six lessons will introduce various techniques used in the art of storytelling so that, without realising it, you will build up confidence and skill. By the end of the lessons you will have grown in your ability to express yourself and have some solid tools and exercises that you can use for storytelling and creative writing in the future. Contact Jenny Davis for the activities pamphlet 07946 585978 [jenny@artsuplift.co.uk](mailto:jenny@artsuplift.co.uk)

**2. BIG PICTURE SHOW @HOME** Inspiring films and activities for you to enjoy at home. We will post out a DVD containing a number of inspiring short films suitable for a wide range of ages. The pack will include suggestions for ways to explore the films fully and ideas for related activities. You will need a DVD player connected to a TV, computer or laptop so you can watch the films on the disk. Some of the activities may suggest using everyday household objects, but these are completely optional and no specialist equipment is required. Please contact Live & Local on 01926 402173 or [admin@liveandlocal.org.uk](mailto:admin@liveandlocal.org.uk) to request your DVD pack.

**3. Sundragon Community Pottery** will send out a pack containing air-drying clay, tools, paints and an ideas and instruction booklet. Participants can follow our instructions to make particular projects eg a container and decorative tiles or they will be able to follow their own ideas. We hope that participants will find that working with clay is calming, focussing, enables self-expression, offers skill development, distraction from worry - all disguised as fun. For would be participants contact phone number: 077611 45720., email address: [sundragonpackpics@gmail.com](mailto:sundragonpackpics@gmail.com)

#### 4. The Escape Box - Creative Journaling Pack

A gift with all the art materials you need to create your own creative journal and keepsake box. Lots of guided creative activities to have a go at make things personal to you, all delivered to your door. To receive yours contact [info@escapearts.org.uk](mailto:info@escapearts.org.uk) or call (01789) 532110 (answer machine in operation).

Jan 2021



# Market Square Events

## Atherstone Market

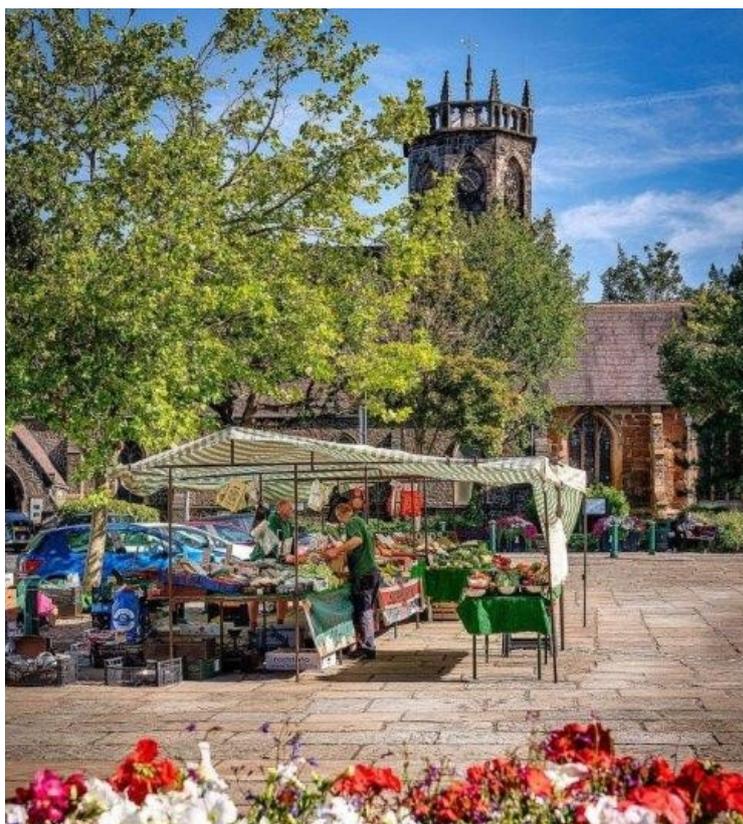
Every Tuesday and Friday  
9am to 3pm  
in the Market Square, Atherstone

Come and visit your local market with:

- Fruit & Veg
- Butcher
- Fishmonger
- Menswear
- Ladies wear
- Household goods
- Jewellery, and more



The market is great value for money, bringing you quality products at affordable prices.



Note: The market is currently only open for the Butcher and Fruit & Veg stalls as essential businesses.



# Contact Details

## Contact Us:

### In Person

Town Council Office, The Old Mortuary, North Street, CV9 1JN.  
Every Weekday 9.30 – 11.00am

### Write to

PO Box 2000, Atherstone,  
CV9 1YN

### Telephone

01827 720829

### Email

clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

### Website

www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk

## Have Your Say!

Councillor surgeries are held at 6.30pm until 7.00pm prior to the monthly Town Council meeting.

All council meetings also include a public session when items for a future agenda can be raised.

## Meeting Dates:

All meetings are currently being held virtually due to the Covid-19 outbreak and social distancing measures. For up to date meeting dates see our website.

## Town Councillors:

Sara Bishop	01827 717480
Gary Chamberlain	07486 474037
Jacky Chambers	07966 425052
Denise Clews	07477 607255
Tony Clews	07867 650810
Dawn Downes	07805 545937
Carl Gurney	01827 713976
Brian Henney	07931 588218
Ray Jarvis	01827 716534
Mark Jordan	07775 987866
Angie Spencer	07974 302910
Mejar Singh	01827 712305
David Wright	01827714885

