

Mayor's Report – July 2023

Veteran Event – 24th June 2023

We all gathered at Ruby's Yard for an event to mark Armed Forces Week organized by Tam WEBSTER. The event ran from 11:00 until 16:30 and was free to attend.

I attended as Town Mayor with my partner and Consort, Nigel SOUTH, where we were accompanied by the Borough Mayor and his Consort, and town councillors from Atherstone Town Council. The event was held to commemorate Armed Forces Week, with a day for everyone in the town to come and enjoy some fun and games for all the family, including badminton, a bouncy castle, music provided by Tam, and food and drink through a bar, ice cream van, and a hog roast. Most of all this event was to commemorate all the hard work, show appreciation and respect for our veterans.

We had an excellent turn out from people around the town, the weather held out, the atmosphere was vibrant where people enjoyed themselves, and even I got involved with the Badminton. I walked around the event meeting with contributors thanking them for their support, and with the visitors attending the event introducing myself as the town mayor.

As the event was in full swing we were joined by the Local MP, Craig TRACEY and his wife Karen, who hold this event close to their hearts being veterans themselves. We were also joined by the local constabulary, with a first responder in attendance for any medical needs, which thankfully were appreciated, but not required.

I feel that special mention should also go to our official photographer, Graham BEALE, who sadly passed away last week. Having seen the outpouring of support given to his family and friends, he was clearly a pillar of our community.

I am thankful for all who provided their support to this event, the volunteers who helped to organize it, and set it up. It is without a doubt that the event was enjoyed by all that attended.

Civil Service Networking Success – 25th June 2023

I was privileged to attend a civil service event at the Alphege Parish Church in Solihull. The event began with a captivating church service, where I actively participated. The historical significance of the church building left me in awe, as its architectural beauty was breathtaking.

The church choir delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing their incredible talent and adding a melodious touch to the service. The warm and inviting atmosphere fostered a sense of community among the attendees. Following the church service, I proceeded to a meeting at the council building, where I had the opportunity to engage in extensive conversations with numerous mayors and councillors. One particular individual who stood out was the mayor of Coleshill, as they expressed keen interest in forging a close working relationship for future events. This interaction laid the foundation for potential collaboration and cooperation in the future.

Moreover, the mayor of Solihull was incredibly welcoming and engaged in lengthy discussions with me. Their interest in my dedication as an NHS worker was evident, and they expressed admiration for my commitment to public service. This interaction further strengthened the bonds between our offices and fostered a sense of camaraderie. Overall, the event was a resounding success. It provided a platform for building bridges and establishing connections with other civil service members. The conversations and interactions I had during the event opened up avenues for future cooperation and collaboration. I left the event feeling inspired and hopeful for the positive outcomes that lay ahead.

Adders Hockey Club 70th Birthday – 1st July

I had the privilege of attending the 70th Anniversary celebration of the Atherstone Adders Hockey Club at Queen Elizabeth School. The event was bustling with activity as hockey teams from all over gathered to commemorate this special occasion. The cake provided for the celebration was genuinely incredible, adding to the festive atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity to actively participate in the hockey games alongside the children, other councillors, and the entertaining mascot, Arthur Stone. It was enjoyable to engage in friendly competition and witness the enthusiasm of everyone involved. During the event, I had the pleasure of meeting the Borough mayor and mayoress, with whom I engaged in long and meaningful conversations. It was a great honour to connect with them and discuss various topics of interest.

I was delighted to see fellow councillors in attendance, actively participating and getting involved in the festivities. It demonstrated their support for the community and the value they place on events like this. The passion and diversity displayed by all the teams were truly inspiring. It was fantastic to witness such dedication and talent on the hockey field, with players from various backgrounds coming together to celebrate the sport they love. I had the opportunity to meet Sally Oldhan, who should be incredibly proud of the work and commitment she puts into the hockey team. Her passion for the sport shone through, and it was evident that she plays a vital role in the success of the Atherstone Adders.

Furthermore, I met several other coaches who were incredibly supportive of the kids, cheering them on as they scored goals and providing encouragement throughout the games. Their dedication to nurturing young talent was admirable. Overall, it was heartwarming to see how a sport like hockey could bring so many people together. The event provided a platform to celebrate the club's longstanding past and its continued success. Witnessing the camaraderie and the Atherstone Adders hockey club's positive impact on the community was truly inspiring.

Nuneaton first Gay Pride – 1st July

I had the honour of attending the Nuneaton Gay Pride event with my husband and consort, Joshua Wickham-Young, which was an incredibly welcoming and inclusive gathering right from the start. The event kicked off with me delivering a speech that garnered immense support from the crowd, resulting in cheers and applause. Following the speech, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony, with myself, the Nuneaton mayor, and MP Marcus Jones, symbolizing the unity and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Throughout the event, I had the opportunity to visit every stall, and I made several purchases of fantastic artwork from new and emerging businesses. The performances showcased during the event were outstanding, promoting a sense of inclusion and celebrating diversity at every level. It was heartwarming to witness families of all ages and children having a great time, creating a joyful and vibrant atmosphere.

During the event, I also had the pleasure of meeting with representatives from the Nuneaton fire service, police force, and ambulance crews. Engaging in lengthy discussions, I gained a deeper appreciation for the hard work and dedication they display in their daily duties, ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. The organizers of the event should be incredibly proud of themselves for putting together such an amazing and successful event. Their efforts created an atmosphere filled with love, support, and open arms for everyone from all walks of life. It was

particularly inspiring to witness the overwhelming support given to the trans community, a cause that I am passionately committed to.

Furthermore, the organizers expressed their support for Atherstone having its own pride event in the future. They offered assistance in various forms, including providing entertainment free of charge. The willingness to support and nurture the LGBTQ+ community in neighbouring towns showcased their dedication to fostering unity and acceptance. The event drew hundreds of proud attendees who were not only impressed by the festivities but also expressed their pride in Atherstone for electing an LGBTQ+ mayor. Many believed that this progressive step would make Atherstone a safer and more inclusive place to visit. The outpouring of support and encouragement from the community was truly heartening.

In conclusion, the Nuneaton Gay Pride event was a marvellous gathering filled with love, support, and open arms for individuals from all backgrounds. It celebrated diversity and inclusion, creating a space where everyone could feel welcomed and valued. The event's success and the positive impact it had on the attendees reflect the power of unity and acceptance within our society