

Mayor's Report for Full Council Meeting April 15th

Friday, March 13th Charity Quiz, Kenilworth Sports and Social Club

The Mayor and Mayoress of Kenilworth, Councillor James Kennedy and his wife Kit greeted us and informed us that all the proceeds from the evening, from ticket sales and raffle ticket sales would be donated to his chosen charity, The Parenting Project.

The table plan was consulted and we found ourselves teamed with "Chain Gang" friends, the Mayor and Mayoress of Coleshill, Councillor Ian Tomkinson and his wife Jan. Unfortunately, the two other team members were unable to attend on the evening. Despite our small number, our team put up a creditable showing, even scoring full marks on a couple of rounds. However, we did feel that we were a little disadvantaged when there was a "What do you know about Kenilworth?" round of questions. Nevertheless, we had a very enjoyable evening and the representatives of the charity were very pleased with the sum raised by the event.

Saturday, March 14th Murder Mystery and Fish and Chip Supper, Stratford Town Hall

At the beginning of the evening we were all introduced to the characters in the Murder Mystery - Mrs. Pritchard, the housekeeper, Lord Clopton, his daughter Lady Frances, and Highwayman Dick Merkin. The audience was invited to question the actors in order to find the murderer of the gardener, Mr. Greengrass, who had been discovered with a garden trowel embedded in his chest. As one would expect there were plenty of red herrings to misdirect the teams of sleuths. Our team included the Mayor of Warwick, Councillor Jacqui Darcy and the Mayor and Mayoress of Kenilworth, Councillor James Kennedy and his wife Kit. During the interval the Mayor of Stratford, Councillor Dani Hunter and her husband James, served us with a fish and chip supper. As with all Civic Events the raffle was very well supported.

Friday, March 20th Civic Dinner, Alcester War Memorial Town Hall

The Mayor of Alcester, Councillor David Henderson and his wife Lesley greeted us warmly on arrival at the Town Hall upper floor for this Civic Dinner. Prior to dinner being served The Rector of Alcester Minster led by saying Grace. Councillor Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council proposed the Loyal Toast, followed by the Mayor himself proposing a toast to all the guests in attendance. Councillor Katie Rolfe, Chair of Stratford-on-Avon District Council replied on behalf of the guests. During the Mayor's Civic year he has been raising funds for the Alcester Day Care Centre and a representative of the charity, Carole Zambonini spoke about the valuable support this offers to members of the community, providing support for dementia sufferers and respite for their carers.

After dinner musical entertainment was provided by a talented duo "The Backroom Crooks".

Sunday, March 22nd Shipston on Stour Mayor's Civic Service, St. Edmund's Church, Shipston

This Civic Service, coming towards the end of the Civic year of Mayor, Councillor Tony Booth, was a celebration of the efforts of those who have served the local community. This was a joint service including Methodist, Baptist Church of England and Catholic churches in Shipston. The service was led by Reverend Sarah Maguire, Rector of St. Edmunds, who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Shipston churches.

It was interesting to see on the projector screen lots of photos of events that the Mayor had attended during the year. During his address he presented a number of awards to community groups and individuals to recognise their contributions to the lives and well-being of local people.

After an address given by Reverend Daniel Pulham, from Stour Valley Baptist Church we were entertained by the Shipston Shanty Men, who encouraged audience participation in well known sea shanties. We were informed that "the Captain's daughter" actually refers to the dreaded "cat o' nine tails" used to punish errant seamen aboard ship. As they say "every day is a school day"!

Many thanks to The Mayor, Councillor Tony Booth and his wife Jane for their hospitality.

Saturday, March 28th Mayor of Coleshill's Traditional Oompah Night, Coleshill Town Hall

We were greeted warmly by Coleshill Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Ian Tomkinson and his wife Jan, who were dressed in their Bavarian Bierkeller outfits. The event was in aid of the Mayor's chosen charities Coeshill Cubs and Warwickshire Search and Rescue. As promised there was music provided by the Bierkeller Schunklers, lots of audience participation, dancing and not least yodelling. A very creditable yodelling demonstration performed, on stage with the band, by the Mayor, himself, wearing traditional lederhosen and jaunty hat helped to make the event quite special.

The hall was packed with enthusiastic revellers, which included a substantial representation from the Chain Gang- The Mayor and Consort from NWBC, Mayors and Mayoresses from Alcester, Leamington, Shipston, Stratford-on-Avon, Whitnash and Deputy Mayor from Solihull. A very entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Sunday, March 29th Mayor of Whitnash's Charity Bingo Event at Leamington and County Golf Club, Golf Lane, Whitnash

The event was held at the Leamington and County Golf Club as both the club itself and the Mayor of Whitnash, Councillor Adrian Barton, are raising money for the same charity - Warwickshire Hearts. This charity provides Community First Responders to West Midlands Ambulance Service, attending 999 calls in the South Warwickshire area. Not only does the charity provide life-saving treatment to patients in the vital first few minutes of an emergency until an ambulance crew arrives, it also offers CPR and Defibrillator training.

On arrival, we were served with tea, scones and cake setting us up for the eagerly anticipated bingo. The venue was in a very picturesque setting, with views over the golf course. The event was very well-supported by golf club members, local residents and Chain Gang friends, from NWBC, Alcester, Evesham, and Leamington. As a fund-raiser it seems bingo is one of the most successful events. The hall was packed and the bingo, together with the sale of raffle tickets raised lots of money for Warwickshire Hearts.