

## **Mayor's Report for Full Council Meeting 17.9.25**

### **Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Red Lion Hotel, Atherstone**

Meeting with Area Dean, Reverend David Poultney and Deputy Clerk to plan the content of this year's Civic Service at St. Mary's Church, which is due to be held on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Poultney will officiate at the service due to the recent retirement of Reverend Michael Brandsma.

### **Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> Lloyds Tour of Britain Men's Cycle Race 2025, Market Place, Atherstone**

Atherstone was chosen as the starting point for Stage 4 of this prestigious national cycling event. The crowd of spectators on the Market Square were treated to appearances by elite cycling teams from around the world as well as some of our own home-grown professional cycling athletes. A big screen had been erected on the Square early in the morning so that each of the teams could be seen and introduced. Having watched the start of the race I was then interviewed by BBC Sports Presenter Dan Pallett. The coverage of the cycle race appeared on the BBC Midlands News later that day. Dan told me, "It was a great clip which summed up the mood of the day". A very well supported event which showed what a wonderful town Atherstone is. Thank you to all the organisers, local partners, volunteers and public services who helped to make it such a success.

### **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, Atherstone Car Show**

My Consort, Alan, and I were met outside the Red Lion Hotel, Long Street by Chair of The Car Show Committee, Ken Warburton, together with a cavalcade of American Police Vehicles, lights flashing and sirens wailing. After being shown to the designated vehicle we climbed in and were driven around to the Market Square, where we were met by Mark Jordan, former Mayor of Atherstone and a member of the Car Show Committee, who invited me to officially open the show, which was celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year under the Chairmanship of Ken Warburton.

The Market Square was crowded with people who had come from far and wide to see this year's fascinating display of specialist and vintage cars, scooters, motorbikes, leisure vehicles, and service vehicles. There was even an aeroplane to be seen in the Sheepy Road Car Park. Exhibitors had also travelled from near and far to take part in the event and I chatted to several exhibitors as we explored the Market Place, surrounding area and car parks.

I thanked our local Police officers, from The Safer Neighbourhood Team, who were in attendance and was photographed in the cage of their Police vehicle. It was noted that so I had now been "detained" by the Police twice in one day!

Thank you to the newly-opened Darcie Mae's in Church Street for inviting us in for a very refreshing cup of tea. It was most welcome. We strolled around looking not only at the fantastic array of motor exhibits, but also at the various stalls that were set up. We went in to St. Mary's Church to see some of the other activities on offer, which included some virtual reality motor racing time trials. Well done to the enterprising young ladies who were there busy fundraising by selling friendship bracelets. I also purchased a few books from the book stall as well as having a lucky win on the tombola. It was lovely to see so many people getting involved in supporting this very popular annual event. The crowd was also treated to a fly-over by a Spitfire. Fortunately, the rain held off until early afternoon so that everyone could enjoy the event.

As we walked around the town I was very pleased to talk to numerous visitors, exhibitors and local residents. I was even greeted by a couple with their dog who had moved to Atherstone from Manchester only a month ago who told me how pleased they were to have come to live here and what a great town it is.

This family-friendly, free event draws more people in to Atherstone every year. I spoke to one gentleman, who had travelled from north of Aberdeen to see the show. Thank you to the organisers, volunteers, sponsors and public services that make this possible. I am pleased that Atherstone Town Council continues to give this high-profile event financial support year on year.

### **Coleshill Mayor's Civic Fashion Show, Cameo Suite, Coleshill Hotel, Coleshill**

Thank you to Coleshill Mayor, Councillor Ian Tomkinson and his Consort, wife Jan, for the very kind invitation to attend this Charity Fundraising Fashion Show and cream tea. This year the Mayor of Coleshill is supporting Coleshill Cubs and Beavers and Warwickshire Search and Rescue. The Cameo Suite was packed with ladies (mostly), as well as Civic Dignitaries from around the county, eager to see the outfits on the catwalk.

The fashion show was compered by Ryan and Billy, two local Coleshill business owners, of "Liliann: Styled by Ryan" and "Glitzy Bits Boutique", respectively. The volunteer models strutted their stuff on the red carpet displaying a vast array of ladies' fashion and designer clothing. The audience had an opportunity to purchase items at the end of the show and I must admit I did buy a couple of items.

The cream tea was served and the inevitable discussion about Cornwall or Devon style jam or cream first was had. The Mayor of Shipston, Councillor Tony Booth, pointed out that scones are also a Cotswold treat, but couldn't say how they might be served. The scones, jam and cream were very popular as was the raffle. Lady Luck wasn't with us this afternoon so unfortunately we didn't win anything. A very enjoyable afternoon though, which, I believe raised lots of money for the Mayor's chosen charities as well as supporting local business.