

**Mayor's Report, Councillor Sara Bishop,  
for November Town Council Meeting, 12.11.25**

**Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> Presentation of leaving gift to Ben Oldham**

I was very pleased to be able to present Ben with a gift card on behalf of myself and Town Councillors who donated towards a leaving present for him. The Council wish him every success for the future as he embarks on his new career with Birmingham University and thank him for his service over recent months as Admin Assistant.

**Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> Diwali Lights Switch on, The Parade, Leamington Spa**

My Consort, Alan and I arrived at Leamington Spa Town Hall, a very grand, listed building on The Parade, in the heart of Leamington, to be welcomed by Councillor Naveen Tangri, Chair of Warwick District Council. After a brief reception and time for photos the assembled civic dignitaries and invited guests processed along The Parade to the location of the Diwali Light array, stage and performance area. This was an opportunity for members of the local Indian community to come together with people of other faiths in a celebration of unity and cultural diversity, to mark the start of Diwali festivities. The Diwali Lights were switched on by Councillor Tangri supported by other community representatives and The High Sheriff of Warwickshire. The event featured performances of traditional Indian dance as well as Bollywood style dance, music and song. In addition there was a very lively traditional rhythmic Dhol Tasha (drum group performance). It was a very joyful and colourful celebration of Diwali, which symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> Whitnash Civic Service, Whitnash Methodist Church**

We were welcomed to the Civic Service by Methodist Minister, Reverend Sally Jones. Also taking part in the service were other Church leaders including Canon David Hartley of St. Joseph's Church, Whitnash and Reverend Ben Cook of St. Margaret's Church, Whitnash. The focus of the Civic Service was the commissioning of Councillor Adrian Barton, as Mayor of Whitnash. Councillor Barton announced the charities he would be supporting during his Mayoral Year, Warwickshire Vision, which supports residents suffering due to sight loss and impairment, and Warwickshire Hearts, a First Responders organisation operating in South Warwickshire.

### **Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Shipston Civic Dinner and D Day Darlings, Townsend Hall, Shipston**

Councillor Tony Booth, together with his wife Jane, had organised this event to coincide with Remembrance weekend and to raise funds for The Royal British Legion. The invitation had suggested that we wear 40s style costumes so many of guests wore a range of attire which referenced war time fashions. Guests were dressed in military style uniforms, nurse uniforms, whilst others dressed as air raid wardens, air crew from bomber command as well as spivs, land army girls, glamorous 40s ladies, and dapper gents. The Chair of Warwickshire County Council Councillor Harris even put in an appearance as Winston Churchill. The D Day Darlings did not disappoint. They put on a very nostalgic, musical performance, which had the audience singing along and dancing.

A very successful evening, which recognised and celebrated the support of Shipston Council in helping to secure a venue for Shipston Youth Club in a new modular building. In addition, the event was an opportunity to pay tribute to all those who gave their lives in armed conflict and to The Royal British Legion which supports veterans and their families.

The raffle had been well supported by local businesses with a wide range of prizes. Councillor Barton announced that the raffle had raised over £600 for RBL. It was an evening of great entertainment, great food and great company.

### **Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Service and Parade, St. Mary's Church and Sheepy Road Cemetery**

I am very grateful to Councillor Chris Jones and to the Deputy Clerk, Sally Oldham, for their time and effort in organising this year's Remembrance Service and Parade. It was very well-supported by many local community groups and members of the public, who had come together for Atherstone's traditional commemoration of Remembrance Day

This year, the service was led by, John Stock, acting as presiding minister. In attendance were Deputy Lord Lieutenant Sir Matthew Dugdale, our local MP, Rachel Taylor, County Councillor Robert Gisbourne, Deputy Mayor of North Warwickshire Councillor Davina Ridley and her consort, husband Steve, Leader of NWBC Councillor David Wright, North Warwickshire Borough Councillors, Atherstone Town Councillors and representatives of the British Legion. The church was packed with representatives of the Police Service, Fire Service, First Responders and members of community groups including the Girls Friendly

Society, Cubs, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Cohort 4, Atherstone Veterans and members of the public.

At the end of the service, DC Taf Evans, Parade Marshal, directed everyone to their allocated places outside the Church, before the Phantom Knights Marching Band led the procession down to the Cemetery. Many Atherstone residents lined the route as we made our way along Sheepy Road to the Cemetery. Thanks to the Phantom Knights for their help in making this a very memorable event

Thanks also to the numerous standard bearers and bugler Richard Moore for their contributions at both St. Mary's and The Cemetery.

This year I was pleased to welcome Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Sir Matthew Dugdale, who not only took part in the service at St. Mary's Church, but also accompanied me in receiving the salute of the parade as it returned to the Market Square, after the wreath laying and the customary two minutes silence at the Sheepy Road Cemetery. He told me that he was very impressed with the event and asked me to convey his thanks and appreciation to all those involved in its organisation.

We were very fortunate that the weather stayed fine throughout. Thank you to the volunteers at St. Mary's Church for hosting teas and coffees at the end of the event.