

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – to 25th September 2022

Sunday 4th September – Uttoxeter Civic Sunday

I journeyed to Uttoxeter to join fellow civic guests to witness the mayor making of the Mayor of Uttoxeter. The service was lovely, with songs sung by a newly formed choir to entertain and make the start of the Mayor's Year. We wish the mayor all the best for her year in office and offer her the friendship of Stone.

Friday 9th September 2022 – The week of Mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

I will always remember the time and place when I heard the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. As we move through our lives, moments like that never leave us and are a starting point for pause and reflection. The constant presence of her has, to some, been a foundation of their pride in their British identity. However, it is her role as mother, grandmother and great-grandmother that I think she will be most fondly remembered by her family. My first duty of the week was to lead the book of remembrance at St Michael and Wulfad's Church on the Friday morning and be part of the congregation to remember the Queen in a short service. It was then that I realised that although there was sadness, there was a strong sense of happy fondness for her Majesty from the residents of Stone that I was meeting. This was reinforced on the services for the Queen on the two following Sundays, where we met young and old and read the heartfelt messages in the book of remembrance. The mayoress and I were invited by Christchurch to take part in a short 'Remembering Her Majesty the Queen' service on the eve of the state funeral. Joining young and old, we were moved by the memories of the Queen in a short video tribute and joined the nation in the one-minute silence. We then helped with a lovely flower tribute at the front of the church, where all joined in by placing flowers into two wooden crosses. It was again so heart-warming to see the residents of Stone coming together to share memories and to help with the sadness of the time. From the granddaughter helping her grandfather into the church to sign the book of remembrance, one of the mayor's cadets and her family attending the Queen's tribute and hugging the mayoress when the emotion of the evening became too much and to the mother explaining the occasion to her two small children. Once again Stone, you never disappoint, and I'm honoured to stand with you. God save the Queen!

Saturday 10th September – Stone and District Swimming Club Awards Evening

The Mayoress and I, and County Councillor, Jill Hood, joined the Stone and District Swimming Club for their awards evening. The room was full of the coaching staff, volunteers, young people and families joining together to celebrate the achievements of the club and its members. The age range was wide, and the abilities of the young people were amazing. It was an honour to join them, enjoy the food and I apologise for not joining in with the dancing and music. A great night and thank you.

Sunday 25th September – Cheadle Civic Sunday

The Mayoress and I joined other civic members, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, the High Sheriff of Staffordshire, Sir Bill Cash and other guests in supporting the Mayor of Cheadle as she started her year in office with her civic service. The theme was one of inclusion and all having a part in our society. We wish her all the best for her year in office and offer her the friendship of Stone.

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – to 25th September 2022

No report for this period