

## **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – 4 Jun 24**

### **Thursday 28 Mar 24**

It was a huge pleasure for the Mayor and Mayoress to attend this year's Girl Guides' *A Handful of Songs*. The overall concepts, the staging as well as the choreography were brilliant, and the colourful and imaginative costumes were a particular highlight. Above all, the energy and enthusiasm of the performers was extraordinary. The only disappointment was that the performance still had to be put on outside of Stone because the Crown Wharf Theatre was not yet available.

### **Saturday 30 March 24**

The Crown Wharf Theatre may not yet be available but the success of the pub itself is self-evident and the Mayor and Mayoress were invited to assist in the judging of the *Chocolate Corker Dog Show*. This was a light-hearted event for local dog owners and was for the benefit of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### **Tuesday 2 Apr 24**

Jack Scott of our Town is an internationally acclaimed 'ultra runner' who, earlier this year, won the non-stop, 268-mile, Montane Winter Spine Race 2024 breaking the course record by over 10 hours in an incredible time of 72:55:05. The Mayor was delighted to present Jack Scott in the Council Chamber with a formal certificate of congratulations from the Town Council.

### **Thursday 11 April 24**

The Mayor and Mayoress joined many other local civic heads at the Stafford Borough Mayor's Civic Dinner at Stafford Rugby Club.

### **Monday 15 April 24**

The Town Mayor and Mayoress were honoured to be able to represent Stone and to promote the Town at the ceremonial opening of the Crown Court in Stafford. The other dignitaries present included HM Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire, the High Sheriff of Staffordshire and High Sheriff of Shropshire.

### **Tuesday 16 April 24**

The joint benefice of St Michael & St Wulfad, Stone, with St Saviour, Aston, is currently in vacancy. Until a permanent rector is appointed the Rev Preb Terry Bloor has taken control in the interim. To help build his familiarity with the Town the Mayor and Mayoress were pleased to welcome him to the Council Chamber and to discuss aspects of town life.

### **Saturday 20 April 24**

The annual re-enactment of the battle between St George and the Black Knight is always a crowd-pleaser. This year the sun shone and the swords flashed in the Market Square where the forces of evil were once more overcome by our Patron Saint. The Mayor avoided suffering any collateral damage and was pleased to award prizes for the best costumes worn by the children.

The evening brought an impressive gathering of local civic heads to the Stone House Hotel for the annual Civic Dinner. It is a measure of the high profile that Stone enjoys in the county that not only did the Mayor and Mayoress host visitors from South Staffordshire on the one hand and Staffordshire Moorlands on the other, but also the County Council Chairman and, for the first time for a long time, the High Sheriff. An excellent meal was enjoyed and the raffle realised an excellent sum for this year's charities.

### **Sunday 21 April 24**

The sun also shone as the local Scouts, led by the excellent Stone Scout and Guide Band, paraded through the town to St Michael & St Wulfad's Church for their annual Scouts' St George's Day Service. The Town Mayor joined the Scouts Commissioner, Phil Elliot, to take the salute.

### **Wednesday 24 April 24**

A good relationship between Stone and its military neighbours at MoD Stafford has always been of benefit to all parties. The Royal Air Force Tactical Supply Wing was founded at the then 16MU over 50 years ago and the Mayor and Mayoress were delighted to host the new Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Steve Bloomer, who was accompanied by the Wing Warrant Officer, Gav Morley. A walking tour of the town concluded with lunch in the Crown Wharf. Our visitors were both very impressed,

### **Saturday 27 April 24**

All good things are worth waiting for. After many years of false starts and abandoned promises a refurbished and much-improved Westbridge Park was reopened boasting a wide range of new facilities. The Town Mayor was present when the Stafford Borough Mayor conducted the formal opening ceremony.

The Mayor and Mayoress moved from Westbridge Park to the National Memorial Arboretum to represent the Stone community at the RAF Tactical Supply Wing (TSW) President's Dinner. They were welcomed by Air Vice-Marshal Graham Howard. Also present were HM Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire, the Mayor of Stafford Borough and many distinguished serving and ex-serving members. The evening was an opportunity to strengthen further the links reinforced three days earlier.

### **Friday 3 May 24**

It was an unexpected pleasure to have a third opportunity to visit HMS Collingwood during the mayoral year; the annual Ceremonial Divisions had been brought forward in the 2024 calendar. The Town Mayor and Mayoress were delighted to meet again the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham (to be the only civic representatives) and, in conversation with the reviewing officer (Vice-Admiral Martin Connell), the Town Mayor was pleased to learn of the continuing high respect in the Royal Navy for our most famous son, John Jervis, Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of St Vincent.

### **Saturday 4 May 24**

The Town Mayor and Mayoress were grateful for the support given to the Mayor's charity street collection, by the Mayor's Secretary, some councillors and, particularly, the ever-dependable Stone Lions.

### **Saturday 11 May 24**

For his last formal engagement of the year, the Mayor attended Stafford Borough Council's annual meeting where Cllr Frank James was made Mayor. The Town Mayor was pleased to attend also the civic service, parade and reception, and to have the opportunity to congratulate the new Borough Mayor.

### **DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – 4 Jun 24**

No report on this occasion