

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

I have really enjoyed my year as Town Mayor. It's given me the opportunity to meet lots of people, those who work for charitable organisations or as volunteers for the benefit of the people of the Parish, as well as Civic Heads from neighbouring Councils. And along the way raised over £1200 to donate to my chosen charities – Derbyshire Autism Services Group and Amber Valley Alliance for Learning Disabilities.

It seems a long time ago now since my year started with the Well Dressing being blessed by Reverend Wigram, followed by the Spring Fair on Ripley Market place.

The Band Concerts In Crossley Park were often very wet afternoons this year in contrast to the 10k race where the temperature was extremely high and not very suitable for running. I'm pleased I only had to start the race and present the medals and trophies to the winners.

I had the pleasure to attend the Crich Supper at West Bridgford, followed the next day by the Pilgrimage to Crich Stand, arranged annually by the Sherwood Foresters/Mercian Regiment. It was an honour to be the first Ripley Mayor to be invited to this. Later in the year we went to Lichfield for the Mercian Regiment's 10th Anniversary dinner held in the Cathedral.

It was the first year of Ripley's Big Day Out, a free event for the older generation of the Parish held at the town's Midland Railway Centre, and all the months of planning proved worthwhile as the day was a huge success.

The Fair arriving in town in October is always an enjoyable time & the Fair dinner is a chance to meet up with old friends.

I attended the annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service, this year organised by the Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion, whilst my Deputy attended the services at both Heage and Ambergate. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Town Council at all three events.

The Civic Service was very well attended and All Saints Church was full to capacity. My thanks go to everyone at the church and the community for an inspiring and enjoyable event. The winner of the 2017 Certificate of Merit, Mrs Gwen Mitchell was presented with her award during the service.

The Christmas Lights switch on was enjoyed by both young and old. This year there were additional Christmas Lights in the town and in some of the outlying villages and other local Councils commented on how impressed they were with the Ripley display. Two days later the Town Council held their Family Christmas Market with many free rides and presents for the younger members of our community, as well as family entertainment and the chance to buy Christmas gifts from the many stalls. A great start to Christmas with Santa Claus and Carols. And what a lot of carols I sang at the many Christmas events I went along to!!

The year ended with my Civic Dinner at the Village Inn with my guests Major Ruth and Major Tim Dykes from the Salvation Army. They are leaving Ripley shortly for pastures new but have done such a lot of good work for our Town during their time here.

And now some 'thank you's' :-

To the Town Council for giving me the opportunity of serving as Town Mayor for the past year

To the Sea Fish restaurant for their generosity in helping my Charity event raise £860

To both the Town Clerk, Linda and our locum, Deb for their help and support throughout the past year

To the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lobley for attending events on my behalf

And lastly to my Consort, Roland for his support and for also being my chauffeur

Cllr Sheila Emmas-Williams

May 15th 2018