

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – 2 April 24

Friday 1 Mar 24

In response to a request from Market Drayton Town Council and Joules Brewery, the Mayor welcomed their Town Mayor and other representatives at the Crown Wharf for a meeting with Anna Brakel from the brewery. Valuable discussions were had regarding the success of the partnership between Stone Town Council, Joules Brewery and the Theatre Trust.

Saturday 2 Mar 24

In March 1836 Texas won its independence from Mexico and to mark the anniversary, the flag of the Lone Star State was raised on the flagpole in the High St and the Florence Brass band accompanied the singing of the state song. In his speech the Mayor explained how Stone had become the sister city of Carthage, Texas.

Friday 8 Mar 24

A Quiz Night is always a popular fund-raiser, especially a quiz devised by Stone's own 'Quiz Inquisitor', Neil Norman. A full house at the Frank Jordan Centre enjoyed an evening of intellectual challenge and an excellent sum was raised for the Mayor's charities: Age Concern (Stone & District) and Oak Tree Farm. The Mayor and Mayoress's team triumphed by ½ point.

Wednesday 13 Mar 24

Stone is blessed with a characterful railway station building currently let to the Town Council. However, although in recent years a better and more popular train service has been provided at the station itself, new timetable changes have not improved the service. Nevertheless, Network Rail and the train operating companies have been keen to engage with the public and the Mayor was pleased to attend an Open Day to celebrate station improvements and the work of the station volunteers, organised by the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership.

Saturday 16 Mar 24

The Mayor had another opportunity to combine both his civic role and his role as a choir member at the Stone Choral Society concert at St Dominic's Priory School Hall. The Mayoress fulfilled her role as a music critic and was delighted to meet two excellent young singers who were appearing as soloists.

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT – 2 April 24

Friday 15 Mar 24

I was interested to attend a special preview evening for the Museum of the Moon exhibition at St Giles the Abbot church in Cheadle on Friday 15 March. The evening was staged to launch three weeks of events in Cheadle which celebrate the life of pioneering local astronomer Mary Adela Blagg. The centrepiece of the celebration is the Museum of the Moon art installation by Luke Jerram, an amazing model and projection of the moon, installed in the church for the duration of the festival. The preview event was very well

attended by a range of community representatives and was well-orchestrated with speakers and live music. Everyone was astonished at the impressive art installation, a photo of which is attached, (because it is impossible to describe). Cheadle is now enjoying a series of events based around music, theatre, crafts and education celebrating its famous resident. The events have been made possible through a collaboration of various organisations in the town inspired and led [OUTSIDE \(outsidearts.org\)](https://www.outsidearts.org/) which is a Staffordshire based organisation recently founded to support arts-based activities in Staffordshire.