

## **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 7 October 2025**

### **Saturday 6 September – Nicholson War Memorial Centenary, Leek**

The town of Leek was bustling with visitors and residents for the centenary of the Nicholson War Memorial. This memorial is the tallest of its kind, and was a gift from the Nicholson family to the town of Leek to commemorate all those that had fallen during the war. The occasion had become an opportunity to include the work of local artists and educational campaigns, an important occasion in recognising the devastating consequences of war. The local choir, youth bands, poets, and orators delivered tributes, and the descendants of the Nicholson family were in attendance, reminding us how close a piece of our history the wars were.

### **Thursday 11 September – RAF TSW Battle of Britain Dinner, MOD Stafford**

I was warmly welcomed at the Officers Mess Hall at MOD Stafford and pleased to see our own Councillors Jim and Lin Davies. The dinner was interspersed with historical vignettes from records kept by the newspapers and participants during the Battle of Britain. Hearing from different military personnel from across the forces was inspiring and I was glad that they could have a night of relief from their busy and stressful lives. Prior to dinner, we had a fly over from a Spitfire - impressive, however very loud. A reminder of the stressful lives endured by many during the air raids of the 1940's, both in the military, and as citizens beneath the shadow of the bombers. I was glad to see the care and attention that is still paid to this important and historic event.

### **Saturday 13 September – Railway 200 Heritage Open Day**

Councillor Philip Leason opened the event to commemorate 200 years of railways with a tour through the town, and then supported with a tour of the Jervis Mausoleum and old priory by the High Sheriff. The tour concluded at the heritage centre, and it was great to be furnished with further history and trivia of our colourful town, and the impact that train travel had on our town. This event was managed well by our friends at the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership.

### **Saturday 13 September – Stone Scout and Guide band AGM**

I was given a very warm reception at this year's Stone Scout and Guide Band AGM. I was pleased to hear that they have recruited more members, and the value that these young people derive from the club is phenomenal. The work of the volunteers benefits our town tremendously in terms of event participation and for entertainment and skill development for young people. It was great to see some of the old archive footage of the local bands playing in the 1990's, as well as to meet familiar faces and new. Kerry Dawson was praised well for her exemplary contributions and the town is better for her ongoing contributions, along with the club as a whole.

### **Saturday 13 September – Bloom and Twine Opening**

One of our community volunteers, Jessica Norris has recently opened a mobile florists with a shop at the Walton Industrial Estate. It was a nice turnout with cakes and prosecco, and the store owners and independent business owners that I met were very glad to see me in the chain representing the town on the industrial estate. It was reassuring to see her conducting trade on the opening day through the publicity that

Jess has managed to garner within the community. Jess and her husband, Dave, contributed to this year's carnival and the bike rally earlier in the summer and they are true assets to the town.

#### **Friday 26 September – JD Weatherspoon, Recognising community contributions of the staff**

Wetherspoon's release a quarterly magazine with stories of interest and recognition of the staff and venues around the country. In the material for the latest article, the company wanted to feature our Deputy Town Mayor, Andrew Best. Having served as a local governor, serving a previous term as Deputy Town Mayor, all while acting as deputy manager at our local Poste of Stone. Andrew has been in post for 20 years, and it is great to have his community contributions as well as his work recognised by his employers. I was honoured to have the company of my consort who acts as a team leader there too. Photographs will be available in the next edition of the magazine available throughout the region in all venues.

#### **Saturday 27 September – Classic Car Event**

I was thrilled to peruse the pride and joy of many of our classic car owners from around the region all lined up from the very tip of the top of the town, to the very bottom! Clearly these events pull in a tremendous turnout, and our traders from every end of the high street will no doubt have seen the benefit in footfall. Whether people know the first thing about cars or not, the vision into the past is worth the visit alone. The high street became a museum with a real atmosphere about the town.

#### **Sunday 28 September – Staffordshire Moorlands Civic Service**

I attended the Chairman of Staffordshire Moorlands Civic Service and we were heartily welcomed outside Biddulph council chambers to their new monument to the local miners in the region. The service was very personal to Adam Parkes, and he truly spoke from the heart. He inspired many people in the audience and was complimented widely. Adam and his fiancé were beyond welcoming and personable and the mirth at the reception after the service was fantastic. I was pleased to represent Stone, with many attendees indicating their excitement to see the Crown Wharf after I told them of the new heritage centre and the work that has been put into the new theatre.

#### **Thursday 2 October – Stone Alzheimer's Club 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

Residents from around Stone and surrounding towns and villages came together to celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Stone Alzheimer's Club and also to commemorate and celebrate the memory of their founder. Volunteers and service users were well entertained with a singer, and everyone was dancing and enjoying cake. I was even asked to support the hostess by performing my best air guitar solo! It was wonderful to see the community officers attend, and I was honoured to express the town's gratitude for the hard work that goes in to supporting our elderly community. This club is more than just a social club, though it does serve as that for many of the members. It is also a point of contact for addressing and identify other health conditions. Over the last year through the health initiatives hosted at the club, 3 members identified critically important health conditions early - an essential requirement in addressing issues

before they progress. This club is a gem of our community, and filled with so much joy and support.

#### **DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 7 October 2025**

##### **14 September – Battle of Britain Commemoration and Tactical Supply wing, Royal Air Force Freedom Parade**

I attended the civic service to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain on the 14th September. It was well attended and our very own Cllr Jim Davis was there too. The rain held off until the end, we only needed umbrellas to get back to the civic centre. It was very meaningful and right, the way in which we all commemorated that time in Britain's history seemed very fitting. I was honoured to be invited to attend.