

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 7 April 2026

Thursday 5th March 2026 – Stone Trefoil Guild AGM

The Trefoil Guild welcomed me to their AGM and I learned about all of their amazing activities throughout the year. The AGM painted a positive picture of one of the most active local clubs in our community, and those in attendance boasted an extremely long history and tradition of volunteering, community service, and activity planning. In addition to the walks, they mentioned archery, and meals out, and arranging arts projects. At least one of the members had been involved in Girlguiding in some capacity for over 60 years! I was made to feel extremely welcome, and the home-made almond cake and coffee was a very welcome refreshment.

Saturday 7th March 2026 – Texas Flag Raising

The Texas Flag was raised to commemorate our ongoing friendship with Carthage, Texas. Cllr Jim Davies was on top form as always, welcoming the Florence Brass Band, and giving some erudite background on the history of our friendship. I truly valued the opportunity to support the event, and it is wonderful to hear of the different ways that we can continue to honour our international friendships at these similar events in the future. I also wish to express special gratitude for the Bella Balderson, one of the Mayor's Cadet's this year and member of the Air Training Corps. She was diligently on duty, and I had the pleasure of making acquaintance with her family who were supporting this event. It was wonderful to see our townsfolk in attendance, and we were proud to be honorary Texan's as we raised the flag.

Wednesday 18th March 2026 – Circle of Friends

I was welcomed by a very well subscribed meet-up at the Co-Op funeral building in Stone High Street. Word has been spreading about the value of the emotional and peer support amongst people from around our town and the wider area. It was lovely to see the friendships built out of mutual support that are helping those grieving the loss of their loved ones meeting together in harmony. The staff and trustees there were absolutely brilliant at keeping the mood jovial and compassionate, as well as kindly providing tea, coffee, and biscuits to those attending. I was so moved by the love in the room, and the inner strength that the attendees had to carry the positive memories and know that they needn't succumb to grief whilst they were surrounded by others carrying similar burdens. I was deeply grateful to the staff for inviting me along, and I hope that more people become aware of these meetings.

Saturday 28th March 2026 – Homeless Veterans Sleep Out

Members of the British Legion and veterans from the armed forces gathered in the high street to raise awareness for homelessness among veterans and to show solidarity by enduring a very cold night out in sleeping bags. The town was especially busy, and the bitter weather that evening was a cruel but important reminder of the serious challenges that face homeless individuals. I did not stay the evening with them, but I was glad to support them by joining them for a drink before-hand.

DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 7 April 2026

Wednesday 25 March 2026 – Christ Church Academy Charity Darts Tournament

I attended the Christchurch Academy Darts Marathon in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The children were playing darts constantly from 9am, scores being added up until they reached 100,000. There were 5 dart boards around a room and it was a lot of fun. I helped out with the challenge and was there when they achieved their goal.

Well done Christ Church Academy, a great challenge for a great cause. I look forward to attending more events.