

TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 1 April to 12 May 2026

Councillor Jason Metters (Town Mayor 2025-26)

Friday 3 April 2026 – James & the Giant Peach Immersive Production at the House of Lawrence, Stoke on Trent

Sarah and I attended the new House of Lawrence theatre in Stoke-On-Trent. The group had been performing together for a year, and the passion that the actors showed was contagious and a brilliant conversion from an old favourite book and film to a well-adapted pantomime, utilising the stage effects brilliantly. Sarah and I were treated very well and the team at the House of Lawrence went out of their way to express their gratitude. I was incredibly impressed by the young actor playing James, who not only delivered a fantastic performance, but was also responsible for organising the invitations to the civic heads. Sarah and I commented how wonderful it was to see performing arts available in the city centre, providing a meeting place and venue for local fans of the arts, and hopefully encouraging those in nearby towns to bring their custom to the Stoke-On-Trent area.

Saturday 4 April 2026 – Stone Town Mayor's Street Collection & Easter Egg Trail

I was delighted to have been so well supported by the street collectors on the Easter weekend, and whilst our move towards a cashless society makes it challenging to collect in the traditional ways, the number of volunteers who came out for the day to help raise money collectively contributed more than expected! Furthermore, I was grateful to spend the morning and afternoon with Trudy and Lindsay who helped organise the Easter Egg Trail event. This was an activity for young children in the high street that day and involved visiting some of our local shops. My hopes were that it would drive footfall and promote local businesses, whilst raising some money for my charities, and of course providing an opportunity for participants to win some of the Easter Eggs. A special mention goes to our "competitors" from St. Michael's Church, who attracted lots of attention with their free easter eggs, but forwarded donations on to our tent next door. I was extremely grateful to this kind gesture from the volunteers from the church, and it made me very happy to be a part of this town and the good people in it. The children and parents participating seemed to have fun.

Saturday 11 April 2026 – East Staffordshire Mayor's Charity Ball at Burton Town Hall

The theme for the last event of the East Staffordshire Mayor, Councillor Kim Smith, was Glitz and Glamour. Kim and I met as Deputies before the commencement of our Mayoral term, and I have become very well acquainted with her and her consort. All of the civic guests in attendance seemed to feel the same, that the year has gone so fast and that we know each other well enough to appreciate the event all the more. The Town Hall hosted a fantastic event as we danced the evening away with a very talented live singer, and raised some money in our waistcoats, sequins, tailcoats and ballgowns! Kim is very well known and supported in her community but still made time to greet everyone she could. I will miss them dearly, but it was wonderful to share this occasion before our last farewells!

Friday 17 April 2026 – Staffordshire Moorlands Chairman's Charity Ball at Alton Towers

Sarah and I attended the Alton Tower's Charity Ball to support the Staffordshire Moorlands Chairman, Adam Parkes, and his consort. During the silent auction after a very opulent dinner, I was the delighted winner of one of the prizes! An annual fishing season ticket to enjoy commencing after the civic year. Whilst we were all lamenting the end of the mayoral term, we had cause for renewed celebration: Adam and Katrina had arranged the final details for their wedding, commencing after their duties end. An occasion worth looking forward to indeed. Katrina and Adam have been real friends to Sarah and I, and we were so happy that they had the opportunity to spend time with one

another after a very successful year of serving their communities and their chosen charities. Adam is a true champion of mental health awareness after some challenges and struggles, and we raised money in support of this noble cause. We were so happy to hear how much his fortune has changed now that he has Katrina. A wonderful occasion, with much cause for celebration.

Thursday 23 April 2026 – Stone Common Plot Annual General Meeting

I was welcomed to attend the Stone Common Plot Annual General Meeting, and was given the chairman's seat during the re-election period. Familiar faces were in attendance, many of whom keep Stone going! I was grateful for their kind welcome, and appreciated this opportunity to express gratitude to them for their work.

Friday 24 April 2026 – Stone Town Mayor's Civic Dinner

Sarah and I welcomed friends, family, civic guests, Sir Gavin Williamson MP, and local supporters of the charities that I am raising money for this year. It was a deeply meaningful evening at the Stone House as it was here where I first started to meet the civic heads last year during my term as deputy. The difference this time is that I had got to know so many of the people in attendance very well over the year, and my family and friends had the opportunity to see this too. I express such profound gratitude to the attendees supporting me with special mention to Trudy Williams who organised the event with the staff at the Stonehouse, Deputy Lieutenant, Brigadier Barry Smith, who gave a wonderful lecture on the Lieutenancy office and the philanthropic work of the crown and those holding the positions royally appointed to them. Finally, Councillor Jill Hood who helped with the raffle and auction, bringing cheer and humour to the evening. Her support over the last year has been felt throughout and Sarah and I were honoured to be able to express this on the evening.

Saturday 25 April 2026 – St George's Day in Stone High Street

This year's St George's Day parade was another fantastic turnout! Adults and young people alike turned up to see the knights battle it out in the heat as the knavish Black Knight once again attempted to beat St George. Sarah and I watched from the comfort of Saint George's tent with the intention of handing the crowd old coins featuring King George VI. As we watched the knight's battle, the Black Knight stole the coin purse from Sarah and I, until I took up a sword myself and battled him into submission! After retrieving the purse and distributing the coins to the excited crowd, the final battle between St George and the Black Knight commenced. Once more, St George won the day!

This event draws so many people to our town, and it is wonderful to see the best in our national spirit, all united in mutual celebration, community, and tradition. I was delighted to have been invited to take part.

Saturday 25 April 2026 – Stone Choral Society Spring Concert: Brahms Requiem 'Ein Deutches Requiem'

My fourth, but certainly not final instalment of the Stone Choral Society's events took place once more in Holy Trinity Church in Eccleshall. I was impressed at the great variety of music that the society is capable of. Having heard their own material, innovations on Christmas Carol's, and sea shanty's, I was greatly impressed to hear their proficiency in classical style operatic pieces. I learned a lot whilst there by talking with the locals and members afterwards, and Brahms Requiem was written and performed in German in order to bring religious awe to the common man, breaking from the tradition of Latin. Whilst my German is far from fluent, I did appreciate the sense of awe, and once more, I thank them sincerely for their invitation and hospitality.

Wednesday 29 April 2026 – Stafford Borough Mayor’s Civic Dinner at Stafford Rugby Club

This year's final event at Stafford Rugby Club was a lovely opportunity to say goodbye to everyone that I had befriended this year, and to raise a glass to a very successful term for the Lord Mayor of Stafford, Jenny Baron. Jenny and Ray will be well missed by Sarah and I, but there could not possibly be a better reminder of the mutual sense of wider community that Stafford and Stone share than the topics of discussion during the evening. I am hoping that Stafford continues to thrive and took great interest in the developments and future plans for the town. Jenny has been dedicated to her community and the charities that she has supported this year, and it was lovely to see how glad she was to have made a difference. We all gave farewell to civic friends made over the past year, and wished the new High Sheriff of Staffordshire all the best for the coming year.

I will miss everyone that I met this year, but I am glad to have had the opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation for all of my new friends made during our terms in office. A wonderful end to a memorable year.