

Deputy Mayor's Report

Ilminster Town Council

18th October 2022

Since our last meeting in September, I have had the honour and privilege of being present at the following events, on behalf of the Mayor and the Town of Ilminster.

- Thursday the 6th of October, I attended Marshall Herbert's Funfair at Stringfellow Crescent, Chard. Each year the funfair opens the fair rides to children with disabilities, from around the Ilminster and Chard area. They alternate it each year between Ilminster and Chard and this year it was the turn of the Chard site to host. For a couple of hours, Mr & Mrs Herbert and the ride operators open all the suitable attractions for the children, and their carers, to ride free of charge. Then, to top it off, they are all sent away with sweets and candy floss. This event has been put on for some years, but it was the first I had heard about it. So, it was a pleasure to attend and see the joy on the faces of those who dodged dodgems, flew parachutes and whirled on the Wurlitzer.
- On Saturday the 8th of October, I attended the Archie Gooch Pavilion to witness the official opening of the new children's play area. As the sun shone, Cllr Mitch Gunn, as Chair of the Open Spaces Committee, gave a few words of thanks and acknowledgements before the children were allowed to explore the new equipment. With the support of the Town Council, Ilminster Sports Club have managed to provide a lovely little play area and add to the amenities surrounding our town which are available to all. If the number of children that were crawling over the frames, spinning Town Councillors on roundabouts, see-sawing and flying high on swings is anything to go by, this will prove a popular place for families to go.
- Later that day, I attended the Chard Town Carnival. Another carnival that had been on hold since before the pandemic, it was wonderful to see so many people out lining the streets. What I wasn't prepared for was the walking at the head of the parade part. After

mustering at the Guildhall, all the mayors (and mayoral stunt doubles) walked down the High Street to join the parade. From outside the Tesco store, we walked the route around Chard, proceeded by some very large and very noisy HGVs, before returning to the Guildhall, where we could watch the rest of the parade go by from its balcony. It was a long parade and took nearly two hours to pass. It was great to see contingents from Ilminster taking part, including our very own Ilminster Diamond Majorettes. At least we had only sore feet after walking the route, so spare a thought for the baton twirlers and dancers of the Majorettes who had even further to go after they passed us!

- On Sunday the 9th of October 2022 I travelled to Wells Cathedral to attend 'A County Service of Thanksgiving to mark the contribution of Mrs Annie Maw CVO CStJ as HM Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset'. After eight years in the role, Mrs Maw had decided to step down and hand over the reins. Her last day will be the 29th of October 2022, when she will be relieved by Mr Mohammed Saddiq, DL. This was a lovely service of hymns, choral music and readings, which celebrated the work of Mrs Maw over the years. Particularly poignant was a choral piece dedicated to Ukraine, sung in Ukrainian by the Cathedral choir.

Brian Hamilton | Deputy Mayor | Ilminster Town Council