

Ilminster Town Council: Deputy Mayor's Report

19th March 2024

Since our last full council meeting in February 2024, I have attended the following events representing or in company with the Mayor on behalf of the Town of Ilminster.

Firstly, my apologies I am not able to attend the last ever meeting of Ilminster Town Council in its historic home in North Street. As many of you will know, I have been whisked away to celebrate a significant milestone birthday, which has been a long time in the planning and on the cards for 60 years.

Things are beginning to pick up on the Civic event front as we enter the Spring season and the weather becomes warmer.

- **1st March 2024.** In the afternoon I attended a lunch hosted by the outgoing High Sheriff of Somerset, Mr. Robert Drewett DL, held at the Bath & West Showground. Robert has been a great supporter of Ilminster during his twelve-month stint in the role of High Sheriff and attended numerous events in his official capacity. The lunch had the dual purpose of introducing Mr. Rob Beckley, who is the High Sheriff in nomination and should be 'pricked' at the next meeting of the Privy Council, as well as networking with many of the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and volunteer organisations from across Somerset doing wonderful work. At our table I had the pleasure of meeting Gordon East, Co-founder and CEO of Charis Refugees and listening about how his organisation helps settle individuals and families seeking refuge in Somerset through the UK Home Office Community Resettlement programme.
- **3rd March 2024.** In the company of Carol, I attended the annual Axbridge Civic Service and Community Awards, followed by a reception in their Town Hall. The presentation of the two Community Awards was carried out by the High Sheriff, the first of which was the Youth Award, given to Ellen Campbell, a young person whose achievements to date made us both feel like underachievers! The second award was to Andy Laken, who helped set up the Axe Valley Men's Shed as well as contributing to the community in many other ways over the years. Once again, it was good to see the 'Chain Gang' out in force to support Franchesca Mitton, Axbridge's Mayor.

Brian Hamilton | Deputy Mayor | Ilminster Town Council