

Mayor's Report 2020

17th October

It was my pleasure to present Bill Lomas, the town crier with a five-year service award. The council has commissioned a glass engraved plaque to express our heartfelt thanks for his work in the town over the years.

29th October

The High Sheriff of Staffordshire Commander Charles Bagot-Jewitt visited Leek as part of a county-wide tour of recognition for local volunteers response to the Covid crisis.

I welcomed him to Survive Together's HQ at St John's Church where he met with Grace Buckley and some key team members.

Earlier Deputy Mayor Cllr Lynn Swindlehurst greeted the High Sheriff party at Haregate Community Centre where volunteers were also praised for their valuable work in the community.

8th November

Remembrance Sunday was commemorated in an appropriate manner in view of the current precautions against Covid transmission. Some hundred or so folk attended the event but they were well spread out within the Sparrow park area. The British Legion aided by our local Vicar Reverend Nigel Irons, conducted a short service of Remembrance.

A wreath was laid from this council and the people of Leek. A wreath was also laid on behalf of our local MP the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP. Additional wreaths were laid by myself and Mick Brough Chairman of RBL Leek for several local clubs, associations and organisations.

The event was streamed live by Leek TV. Councillor Bill Cawley provided a running commentary of the event which was relayed to listeners on Moorlands Radio. I am grateful to both organisations for their support. Special thanks also to Councillors Matt Swindlehurst, Richard Benerfer and Roy Molson who managed risk and arranged the safe delivery of wreaths to the Nicholson War Memorial. They were key to facilitating the act of Remembrance despite the challenging circumstances.

During the afternoon, accompanied by my wife Julie and Deputy Mayor Lyn Swindlehurst, wreaths were also laid at war memorials in Ball Haye Green and Leekbrook.

11 November (Armistice Day)

After a short service at the war memorial in St Edward's churchyard I laid a wreath – together with representatives of the British Legion, Leek magistrates and local schools.

Correspondence

A letter of support from Leek Town Council has been sent to SMDC for their application in respect of a feasibility study around a Leek to Stoke direct rail link. The study if approved will look at connectivity infrastructure and service demands and will inform investment decisions at regional and national level.

Christmas preparations

A magnificent tree, kindly donated by Pam Abell in memory of her friend Pat Podmore, has been installed in the Market Place. I would like to thank Pam and her partner Ian for their generosity

This tree will be a fitting tribute and will also bring some cheer over the Christmas period

Town Clerk Office, Stockwell Street

The Town Clerk's Offices have been redecorated and upgraded to improve security and allow suitable facilities for small meetings and public access.

Finally, I would like to thank Cllr Matt Swindlehurst for his many hours spent in cataloguing the many artefacts discovered in the back office cupboard. Some of these are now on display.

Thank You

Stephen Wales

Leek Town Mayor