

Raunds Town Council Mayor's Report – April 2019

After a quiet start to the year, activity picked up in March. What follows is a summary of my activities.

1 March	Historic Stamford walk	I joined a guided walk around historic Stamford followed by tea in the Mayor's Parlour. We were then treated to a display of the mayoral regalia.
1 March	Greyhound racing at Peterborough *	The Mayoress and I joined the Mayor of Peterborough and several other local mayors at Peterborough greyhound track to raise money for the mayor's charities. Peterborough City Council sponsored one race and all the mayors attended the prize-giving, at which each one of us was announced to the public.
2 March	St Ives Town Assembly *	The Mayoress and I attended this event to gain ideas for future town assemblies in Raunds. This assembly was held on a Saturday evening and consisted of a Q&A session with, inter alia, the local police sergeant, PCC, district councillor, CEO of the district council and the Town Clerk. Around 100 residents attended and asked questions. The meeting was managed by a professional facilitator.
9 March	Cabaret evening in Rushden *	Charity dinner and cabaret in the Masonic Hall in Rushden. Entertainment by, amongst others, the Mayor of Rushden's daughter.
9 March	Mayor of Wellingborough Civic Dinner	<i>The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Wilkes</i> and Cllr Howell supported the Mayor of Wellingborough in fundraising for his chosen charities. The guest speaker was Revd Richard Coles.
10 March	Civic Service in Wisbech *	A service to celebrate the mayoralty of Cllr Peter Human. Seeing how it was done in Wisbech has germinated a number of ideas for the upcoming service in Raunds.
11 March	Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth	I led this short ceremony to raise the Commonwealth flag outside the Town Hall to celebrate Commonwealth Day. Various messages were read by myself, the Clerk and Cllr Bill Tirebuck. Children from Park Infant and St Peter's Schools attended.
12 March	LGPS briefing on pensions for local councils	The Clerk and I attended a briefing on local government pension schemes, which highlighted a number of areas that the Personnel Committee needs to revisit.
13 March	Quiz night in Peterborough *	Raunds sent a team of eight competitors, consisting of myself, the Mayoress, Cllrs S Hughes, Beattie and Curtis, Mrs Anja Curtis and two other residents of the town. We didn't win.
15 March	Charity curry night in Thrapston *	The Mayoress and I, together with Cllrs Wilkes and Howell, supported the Chairman of East Northants District Council's charity event. We took over the Thrapston Tandoori opposite the Bridge Hotel in Thrapston. The restaurant is highly recommended.
16 March	Singing for Hope evening in All Saints Church, Northampton *	The Mayoress and I, together with Cllrs Wilkes and Howell, supported the Mayor of Northampton in raising money for the Hope Centre in Northampton.

		The singing was performed by the Northampton Male Voice Choir and 2008 Britain's Got Talent finalist Faryl Smith. Both were excellent.
17 March	Civic Service in Brackley *	The Mayoress and I were delighted to support the Mayor of Brackley at his civic service in the Methodist Church in Brackley. The sermon focussed on the importance of nurturing talent while it was still developing, using the analogy of the germination and initial growth of seeds.
23 March	Big Spring Clean in Raunds *	I launched the Spring Clean from Saxon Hall. Over 50 people turned up on a bright sunny day, with the result that we ran out of equipment. Meanwhile, the Mayoress and I photographed all the daffodils that were planted last back-end so we knew where to continue during the bulb planting planned for September 2019.
23 March	Charity ball in St Neots *	The Mayoress and I were pleased to support the Mayor of St Neots at his "Motown" charity ball in the Priory Centre in St Neots. Over 150 people attended, including representatives from the Mayor's chosen charities.
24 March	Civic lunch in Corby *	The Mayoress and I were glad to support the Mayor of Corby at his charity lunch, held in his restaurant, the Bombay Dynasty in George Street, Corby. It was a splendid lunch, supported by representatives of the Mayor's chosen charities. This restaurant is also highly recommended.
24 March	Civic Service in Huntingdon	<i>The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lee Wilkes, and Cllr Howell attended the Mayor of Huntingdon's civic service.</i>
29 March	Stamford Civic Dinner *	The Mayoress and I supported the Deputy Mayor of Stamford at her charity dinner held at Burghley Golf Club, Stamford.
29 March	Chairman of Northampton County Council's charity dinner dance	<i>The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lee Wilkes, and Cllr Howell supported the Chairman of NCC at his dinner dance to raise funds for his charities.</i>

* Occasion where I was joined by the Mayoress, Mrs Magdalena Levell.