

Raunds Town Council
Mayor's Activities – December 2019

3 December	Raunds Rotary Club carol service *	I read a lesson at this carol service in St Peter's church. It was followed by refreshments.
4 December	Raunds coffee afternoon	I attended the coffee afternoon during which children from three schools sang. There was a nice Christmas spirit.
5 December	USAF Wing Commander's Annual reception *	This reception at RAF Alconbury is a good opportunity to meet civic leaders and personnel from the USAF. This year, we were entertained by a choir formed of wives of personnel at RAF Wyton.
6 December	St Ives Christmas concert *	I was pleased to support the Mayor of St Ives at this concert in aid of his charities. The band of RAF Wyton were superb as always.
7 December	Raunds Community Choir Christmas concert *	I was pleased to support the Community Choir at their Christmas concert, as it was good last year. I think they sang better this time, and it was again an enjoyable evening. The hall was virtually full, which shows the strength of support the choir has in the town.
11 December	Mayor of Raunds family carol service *	This is always a fun event, and it was a shame it was on the eve of the general election. Nevertheless, the Methodist church was full, with over 200 people in attendance, including around twenty members of the chain gang and their consorts, who were invited round to our house for refreshments afterwards.
12 December	Manor School Christmas concert	The musical talent at Manor school continues to amaze me, and this was demonstrated during this varied and enjoyable event.
13 December	The Hall tenants' lunch	Over 50% of the tenants attended the sandwich lunch, and it was a good opportunity to meet them and answer questions they had.
14 December	Raunds Temperance Band Christmas concert *	This was another excellent concert held by the band under a new musical director. As last year, it was a shame that so few members of the public attended it.
15 December	St Peter's Church Christmas lunch *	In a similar fashion to the harvest festival lunch, this lunch was eaten in the nave of St Peter's. The organisers did extremely well to provide a three-course hot Christmas dinner without the use of an on-site kitchen.
15 December	Wisbech carol service *	I was pleased to support the Mayor of Wisbech at his carol service in the beautiful parish church in the town. The occasion was particularly poignant as the mayor dedicated it to the memory of his wife, who had organised his carol service when he was mayor on a previous occasion in 2014.
16 December	Park Infant school nativity play *	This play was great fun and superbly controlled by the staff. Some of the budding actors clearly relished being in the limelight.
16 December	First Free Fitness photo call	I attended the end of the final fitness session before Christmas to pose for photos. It was humbling to be

		thanked by members of the group, one of whom said this was her lifeline as she couldn't afford to go to the Nene Centre. We are clearly doing the right thing in supporting Tanya Griffiths.
18 December	Raunds film afternoon	I opened this Christmas film afternoon, which was used to formally launch the new AV equipment. Filmgoers said they liked the better quality of the new kit.
19 December	Presentation of prize to the runner up of the wreath competition	The Clerk and I presented the runner-up prize to Raunds Fish Bar, whose entry had proved popular on social media.
19 December	Presentation of prize to the winner of the snowman competition	The Clerk and I presented the snowman prize to the winners on Titty Ho. The children were very excited to have the mayor in their home, and we took photographs for the council website.
19 December	Windmill school nativity play *	This play was good fun. The children certainly seemed to enjoy themselves.
20 December	St Peter's achievement assembly	I attended the prize-giving and recognition of achievement during the term at St Peter's CE school. There were so many winners that it had to be split into two events in order to accommodate all the parents.
20 December	Huntingdonshire District carol service	I was pleased to support the Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council at his carol service. The choir was made up of staff members from the council: they were excellent.
20 December	Windmill school Christmas fayre	This fayre was supposed to follow open-air carols in the playground, but they were cancelled because of the rain. The fayre was well supported.
21 December	Presentation of prize to the winner of the wreath competition *	Magdalena and I presented the winner's prize to Everyday Essentials.
21 December	Sandy carol service	I was pleased to support the Mayor of Sandy at his carol service.
22 December	Raunds Methodist Church carol service	I read a lesson at this service in the Methodist church, and then chatted to churchgoers over coffee for an hour afterwards.
22 December	Rushden carol service *	I was pleased to support the Mayor of Rushden at his carol service. We were impressed that the lessons were read by his wife and children.
24 December	St Peter's church carol service *	I read a lesson at this candle-lit service. As in prior years, it's a great way to kick off Christmas Eve.
25 December	Visit to Raunds care homes *	As last year, Magdalena and I donned Santa hats and visited the four care homes in Raunds, wishing staff and residents Happy Christmas and handing out biscuits. This is a hugely rewarding way to spend a morning, and we enjoyed it immensely. The mayors of some larger councils in the district (eg, Kettering and Peterborough) are expected to visit hospital wards on Christmas day to spread a little Christmas cheer, and we wanted to do something similar in Raunds.

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