

MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT TO VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

December 2009

Jenny Porter Singers

On 28th November I attended a concert entitled Christmas Reflections by the Jenny Porter Singers at the Methodist Hall. The concert was roundly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience, who were treated to coffee and mince pie afterwards.

Ferrett Green Christmas Lights

On 29th November, I pretended to assist with the Christmas Lights on Ferrett Green; an annual task undertaken by Adrian Read, Darren Read, Adrian Wareham, Sean Cheater, Oliver Nixon and Terry Cheater. Inside the Heritage Centre putting up the decorations and supplying the men with coffee were Pam Reeks, Sandra Ground, John Pym and Ann Page. The Mayoress took a number of photographs which eventually found their way to the newspapers.

Verwood Scouts

On 2nd December the Ararat Troop of Verwood Scouts met in the Town Chambers. I gave them a tour of the Chambers and an outline of the function of the Town Council. Following a briefing on the way a typical Town Council meeting is conducted, various scouts were nominated to take the roles of Chair, Deputy, Clerk, Councillors, etc and they proceeded to have a meeting with an agenda suited to themselves. It was a very successful evening and clearly ignited the enthusiasm of scouts, Leaders and parents. In the New Year there will be a similar mock meetings involving the other half of Verwood Scouts and the Verwood Guides. I hope local schools will be able to follow their examples

On this occasion, the scouts showed no reticence in giving their views on what amenities they would like to see in Verwood.

EDDC Christmas Reception

On 4th December I represented Verwood Town at the Chair of EDDC's Christmas Reception at the Council Chamber in Furzehill.

Verwood Town Mayor Reception

On 6th December Verwood Town Council hosted a Christmas Lunch Reception for various dignitaries from Dorset and local community figures from Verwood and Three Legged Cross. Visitors from outside the Town were given a very interesting presentation on the history of Verwood by Pam Reeks at the Heritage Centre before joining the other guests for lunch at the HUB.

Funeral Of Phillip Allen

On 8th December I was able to represent Verwood and Three Legged Cross at Wimborne Minster for the funeral of Rifleman Phillip Allen. The service was a magnificent tribute to a young man who was an exemplary example to all. Virtually all the Mayors of Dorset were also in attendance at the Minster, as was the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset and the High Sheriff of Dorset.

The funeral cortege passed through Verwood prior to the service and it is a mark of the strong community spirit that a huge number of people lined Ringwood Road in tribute and sympathy. Mrs Allen was deeply moved by the widespread expression of support.

A Reception was held after the service at the British Legion in Verwood which provided the only fitting location for such an occasion.

Verwood 50+ Forum

On 10th December I was pleased to attend a meeting of the Verwood 50+ Forum at the HUB. The meeting included an update on current issues followed by a very informative presentation on a new scheme to give local social services users more say in how their benefit allocations are used.

Burial Of Ashes

On 11th December I represented Verwood Town at a small private ceremony in Verwood cemetery to bury the ashes of Phillip Allen. In conversation with Mrs Allen we discussed the possibility of a bench on Ferrett Green dedicated to the memory of her son. This will be brought to the Town Council for consideration.

Three Legged School

On 11th December I attended the Three Legged Cross Nativity Play, which was a very well attended and well performed play. A real credit to the school staff and parents.

Ferrett Green Christmas Lights

On 12th December I was able to switch on the Verwood Christmas Lights in conjunction with Heather Ryall and Father Christmas. The annual event was very well attended by many residents and visitors and the fun included sterling performances from Verwood Concert Brass and representatives from the various choirs in Verwood. The Scouts and Guides provided hot dogs, the Heritage Centre provided hot mulled wine and mince pies. The Heathland Heritage Centre showed amazing generosity in that they have donated the proceeds of the mulled wine and mince pie sales to the Mayor's Charity Appeal. The princely sum of £277.28 was donated.

Churches Together in Verwood

On 13th December I attended the Churches Together in Verwood Christmas Carol Concert in the HUB.