

**CIVIC REPORT**

**Councillor Roger Carter – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

DATE	FUNCTION	COMMENTS
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Mental Health in Dorset: Everyone's Business	I did not realise, before the day, that Dorset is a leader in Rehabilitative mental health. This was a fascinating day with lectures, film and interactive activities, amongst people from varied backgrounds, most of them employed in some way with mental health. There is a strong link between physical health and mental health and Dorset are leading the way in setting up programs to enhance this. It would be useful at some time for similar awareness 'training' to come to Blandford.
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	'The Legacy' Poachers Moon	An enjoyable but thought-provoking evening of songs, slides and readings connected with WW1. It was also a pleasure to present a young 12-year-old singer and piano player with the winning prize in a song-writing competition related to the theme.
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Blandford Commonwealth War Graves Memorial Service	Although damp this was a touching memorial service to young men who had died on Blandford Camp in 1917/18/19. It was an honour for me to lay single flowers on other WW1 graves (not CWG) that are scattered around the churchyard – all were servicemen who had fought in WW1.
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Snooker Club Open Day	Blandford snooker club began virtually as WW1 ended. It was a club set up by two far-sighted Congregational ministers who realised that young men returning from the front would need a club in which they could interact and talk with others. Apart from snooker, table tennis, darts and board games were also played. Both the football club and the cricket club arose out of the original snooker club. A snooker match was arranged between me and the new URC minister – neither of us had picked up a que recently! I scraped a win by 1 point mainly thanks to the fantastic away support!
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Blandford Camp Remembrance Day Service & Curry Lunch	Deputy – This was my first time visiting the Blandford Camp remembrance services. I was blown away by the support and number of people in attendance. The main service was exceptional, as was the Collingwood memorial and Roosevelt garden memorial. The curry lunch and company were excellent.
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Yeovil Civic Day	We visited 'Augusta Westland' helicopters, a subsidiary of 'Leonardo' a multi-national company based in Italy. The factory undertakes repairs and upgrades on existing helicopters and the design and build of state-of-the-art rotary winged aircraft and more recently drones. The parent company employs 25,000 people in the UK with an annual turnover of 12 Billion Euros. The factory is vital to the local economy in Yeovil. A wonderful civic lunch at an Italian restaurant was followed by a visit to a re-furbished clothes factory (owned now by the District Council). The conversion has been into multiple office spaces, where first time and established small businesses (usually with a high tech aspect) can conduct their

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		business with a relatively low rent.
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Molly McGowan 102 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday celebrations at Whitecliffe House	What a remarkable woman Molly is! She is witty and funny and has a clear grasp on all her many memories. It was sheer delight to chat with her and present her with a card and flowers. Her secret of longevity is apparently a glass of sherry every day!
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Mortain Twinning Association AGM	An honour to preside over this meeting, where the outgoing chair, Steve Hitchings, was warmly and rightly thanked for his 10 years as chairman. Lee Hitchings was also thanked for his excellent two years as treasurer. Both Steve and Lee are remaining on the committee. The formal proceedings were followed by a blind wine tasting from different French regions along with English ‘French style’ cheese. Trying to guess the region, neither I, not Cllr S Hitchings did very well!
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Blandford Fashion Museum Celebration Open Day	We are fortunate to have this unusual and well-tended museum in Blandford, run by dedicated volunteers. It has become part of the ‘fabric’ of the town. It was therefore a real pleasure to help them out by visiting and drawing the raffle
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Inaugural Artsreach Event	The solo performer reminded everyone of the wonderful, art of story-telling; probably a tradition that began with human societies. The stories were told through the spoken word and through unaccompanied ballad singing with the occasional intercession of a penny whistle and Irish bodhrán. A very entertaining evening, well- attended and pointing the need for more events like this in Blandford
<p><b><u>Meetings Attended by the Chairman of Council</u></b></p> <p>None</p>		