

CIVIC REPORT

Councillor Hugo Mieville 31st October to 27th November 2023

| DATE | FUNCTION | COMMENTS |
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| 5 th November | Royal British Legion Commonwealth War Graves Service | There was a lovely service on Sunday morning, full of meaning and poignancy, to mark the idea of Memorial, at the Commonwealth War Graves in our beautiful Blandford Forum Cemetery. Following the ceremony, I was privileged to leave a poppy display at the grave of a Korea veteran with Blandford links, and then forget-me-nots on some German war graves. Many thanks to the RBL for their excellent organisational and later hospitality - including sandwiches! A splendid and moving morning. |
| 5 th November | The Salts | We enjoyed a rip-roaring evening of nautical shanty fun at the Corn Exchange last night, with the visit of The Salts, moving up the Trafalgar Way from Falmouth to London via Blandford. The audience had a rollicking time, revelling in the music and salty good humour of our visitors. Good sums of money were raised for The Salts' disabled sailing charity and for my mayoral charities. Many thanks to Mike Lofthouse and Peter Clark for their generosity - they know why! A lovely, foot-stomping evening! |
| 7 th November | Filming with DAPTC | It was really enjoyable to be interviewed by the DAPTC about the role of Councillor (and in my case, the role of Mayor) on Tuesday morning, and about what makes this work so interesting and enjoyable. Let's hope that the films produced have the effect of persuading more people, of all ages and backgrounds, to put themselves forward for election next May! |
| 8 th November | BFBS Radio Interview | The Town Clerk, myself and Bob Brannigan all enjoyed being interviewed yesterday morning by the excellent Jason Herbert of BFBS at Blandford Camp on the importance and organisation of our Remembrance events, including of course the Parade and Church Service on Sunday afternoon. We underlined the closeness of the relationship between the Town and the Garrison, and also how important this event is in the calendar of both the Town and the Council. Thanks, Jason! |
| 10 th November | Schools Remembrance Event | On the Friday morning before all the Remembrance weekend excitement, there was a delightful ceremony, which involved schoolchildren from all the local schools planting crosses (representing local servicemen and women) in the churchyard. Before all this, Rev. Will Burditt and Cllr Roger Carter had explained very carefully inside the church the meaning of what they were about to do. Their |

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| | | tribute made, the children and adults escaped the wind and rain, and headed back inside for drinks and biscuits! A lovely morning.... |
| 11 th November | Armistice Day | Thanks to Pat Patrick for taking great photos of Saturday morning's Armistice Day event. There was an excellent turnout and we are grateful to all the participants and attendees, as well as the passing drivers, who were very respectful. We loved the excellent musicianship of young trumpeter Harry Watling and Bagpipe- playing of Lyndon Wall. Well done too to the young ACF cadets on parade. And with great planning - and some luck - we managed to get the eleven o'clock chimes of the church clock to coincide with the Last Post! It was a memorable moment in a brief but lovely service... |
| 12 th November | Remembrance Parade and Church Service | Thanks to all the hard work and organisation put into yesterday's events on Remembrance Sunday by a whole range of people, including the Town Council staff, the Corps of Signals, the BSVB, the Parish Church, the RBL, St. John's Ambulance and many others, it was all a great success - and both the parade and the church service were greatly appreciated by encouragingly large numbers of people! Even the rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm and emotion experienced by hundreds of people. Thanks so much to all concerned! I enjoyed it hugely as Mayor and consider it a great privilege to have been at the heart of it. |
| 17 th November | Blandford and Stour Rotary Short Story Competition Prizegiving | We really enjoyed presenting the prizes - including the Mayor's Cup - at the Blandford and Stour Rotary short story competition prize-giving last night at the Parish Centre. Some of the stories were of an incredibly high standard - clearly, we have some future Rowlings and Tolkiens in our midst! Huge thanks to all who organised this most enjoyable event, and indeed the overall competition: it was a lovely occasion. |
| 25 th November | Fashion Museum Raffle Draw | It was a great pleasure to spend Saturday afternoon with the lovely people from the Fashion Museum, and to draw out the winning tickets in their Christmas Draw - with some fabulous prizes at stake. We were then treated to some delicious tea and cake, before embarking on a tour of this fascinating museum, which was featuring some special exhibitors on the day. Thank you so much for the hospitality - we will be back! |

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Meetings Attended by the Chairman of Council

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