

Mayor's diary 20th July/18th October

Traditionally, the Town Council has no scheduled meetings in August, so let's start with the Water Festival.

28th August – At 11 am, Henry Sandon (of Antiques Road Show fame) opened the Festival from the re-sited stage on the turntable area of the old bridge abutment. A succession of musicians, compered by the indefatigable Barry Kitchin, entertained large crowds through the day until the boat parade and the fireworks. The entertainers and most of the people we chatted with in the crowd agreed that the stage was better on the west side of the river.

Deirdre and I judged the fancy dress parade in the afternoon; the entrants, though few, had great ingenuity.

20th September – Full Council meeting. Two possible actions by the Malvern Hills District Council were discussed at length:

Planning procedures. At present, all District Councillors representing wards in the southern part of the District (Malvern, Upton and surrounding parishes) consider planning applications in the South and a similar committee considers those in the North. MHDC now intend to have one smaller Planning Committee for the whole district, which will not include all councillors..

Public lavatories. In a week's time, MHDC members will consider a recommendation from their Executive Committee to close the public lavatories in our Lower High Street, as well as one in Tenbury and two in Malvern. Their recommendation is to close them at the end of October, largely because of the costs of cleaning.

21st September – Informal meeting between members of the Town Councils of Upton, Tenbury and Malvern. Unfortunately I was the other side of the country, but judging from the minutes and discussions afterwards, we have many items of common interest (in addition to planning and the loos) and such meetings may be held on a regular basis. Councillor Simon Wilkinson and the Town Clerk then had a short meeting with MHDC to clarify their position re the loos.

24th September – Presented certificates and medallions to some 30 junior school children, who had completed a 'Voyage of Discovery' reading competition in our library. The children are to be congratulated, as are Jenny and the other library staff!

25th September – Together with other councillors, and former councillors (Thanks, Betty) helped District Cllr Mary Wilkinson to collect signatures on her petition to keep the Lower High Street conveniences.

27th September - Cllr Andrea Morgan and I attended the MHDC Council Meeting in Malvern. Mary Wilkinson presented her petition and there was considerable debate, after which the MHDC decided to defer closure until the end of November, pending further negotiations with the Town Councils.

4th October – Busy meeting of our Finance and General Purposes Committee. Topics included: a new permanent ramp for disabled access to the Hall and the urgent need to replace the central heating boiler, which is beyond repair.

6th October – Afternoon meeting for Sheena Walsh, Simon Wilkinson, Gill the Town Clerk and me, with MHDC Cllrs Di Rayner, Roger Sutton and Mr Ivor Pumphrey (Yes, the loos again).

7th October – Deirdre & I were guests of the Borough Mayor of Tewkesbury, for the formal (?) opening of the Mop Fair.

15th October - We donned borrowed shirts to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Upton Rugby Club.

16th October – Attended the Annual Service of the District Council in Malvern Priory.

At tonight's full council meeting, the resignation of Mark Kerrigan will be announced. Mark, who did such sterling work as Mayor last year, now lives in Colwall (when he's not jetting around Europe). I'm sure we'd all like to thank him for his work and wish him and his family well for the future.