

Mayor's Diary

20th August – Administration at Memorial Hall, catching up on events following my holiday. This was followed by a visit to the cemetery to survey a broken headstone, caused apparently by an act of vandalism.

24th August – Administration at Memorial Hall. Meeting with Barry Kitchin re Water Festival. Site visit with County Council Highways officers to review routing through town of heavy goods vehicles, and local delivery trucks. Visit to witness first hand the mindless and callous desecration of several parts of the cemetery, undertaken by what one believes to be local youths, at the same time noting the dozen or so windows being replaced at The Scout Hut following acts of vandalism there also. Meeting with Police officers to discuss ongoing security of the cemetery and their intentions to deter such acts of anti social behaviour.

25th August – Priscilla Beattie's last day as Town Clerk.

26th August – Site visit with local farmer to discuss future vehicular access to his land. Liaison with our Town Caretaker, Colin Bayliss, to discuss the ongoing daily tidying of the cemetery brought about by repeated evening visits by youths thought to be responsible for the further acts of vandalism. Liaison with Police re the same.

27th August – Further site visit to the cemetery to survey yet more damage to the cemetery and now damage to the Chapel and Lodge.

28th August – Attended the opening of the 14th Upton Water Festival, returning later in the day to enjoy the spectacular firework display.

30th August – Out of town today to Ledbury, to give an unbiased hand to mayoral representatives from Ross and Bromyard with the judging of the carnival floats which we then followed by foot in their procession through Ledbury town.

1st September – Administration at Memorial Hall, whilst Clerk on leave.

4th September – Presentation at Upton Library of “Rollercoaster” awards to about 30 local children who undertook the reading of a certain volume of books during the school holidays.

5th September – Attended the 125th anniversary service of the consecration of our Parish Church, followed by a reception at the Memorial Hall.

7th September – Attended the monthly Finance, Hall & General Purposes committee meeting at the Memorial Hall.

8th September – Site visit with members of County Council Highways department and Co-Op management to review delivery routings and arrangements to their store in Old Street.

10th September – Travelled to Leamington Spa with members of the Upton in Bloom committee to a presentation of awards for the Heart of England in Bloom competition. Upton, having entered the Large Village category for only the second year in a row, walked away again with a GOLD award. In addition to that accolade, they received a merit for the display at Berrow Court, and I had the pleasure to receive an additional award on their behalf, this being the Severn Trent Award for Water Conservation, and this was in recognition for the hanging basket irrigation system fitted through parts of the town, which ensured regular yet efficient use of water to maintain the plants within the baskets. All credit to Doug Fletcher and members of the Upton in Bloom committee for their outstanding achievement.

13th September – Meeting with Town Clerk to plan next week’s agenda for the monthly Town Council meeting.

Mark Kerrigan.
14th September 2004.