

Mayor's Communications, Wednesday 25th July 2018

It's been a couple of busy months with lots of memorable events.

I was delighted to welcome the Dunkirk Little Ships to Ipswich during my first weekend as Mayor. Adam and I joined the Lord Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries for a service of commemoration on the Waterfront before having the opportunity to visit the ships.

There has also been the opportunity to meet lots of young people during these first few months. The 26th Ipswich Brownies visited the parlour and I went to meet students and staff at the Thomas Wolsey School. I opened the 36th Ipswich Scouts Community Fete at Sprites Primary School and also attended the Ipswich School's Speech Day. I also opened new classrooms at St Margaret's CEVAP School and joined pupils at Stoke High School for their "World of Work" event.

I also met pupils from local schools when I visited the Crucial Crew project at Hallowtrees. Crucial Crew is the children's safety awareness initiative, which has benefited many thousands of youngsters over the past decades. I was also pleased to be able to host a Thank You event for the volunteers who make Crucial Crew such a success.

As Mayor I have opened 2 new businesses in the town: the Skydan Furniture Store in Sailmakers and the new TUI Travel Store in Upper Brook Street.

I have also marked several milestones and anniversaries in Ipswich:

- The "Windrush Lecture" in the Town Hall marked the 70th anniversary of the SS Empire Windrush arriving in the UK in June 1948.
- Doris Thurlow and Freda Smith celebrated their 100th birthdays in June and July, and I was delighted to visit each of them and join in their special day. I also visited the Orwell Yacht Club for their 100th anniversary celebrations in June.
- It was the 125th anniversary of The Girl Brigade and I joined them in Christchurch Park for this celebration.
- Around 20 Mayors and Chairs met in Sudbury on 21st June to mark "Suffolk Day" and as Mayor of Ipswich, I was delighted to be there.
- The Help the Homeless project in Ipswich marked their 1st anniversary with a cheque presentation, and I was pleased to be part of this event too.

It has also been the season for Awards. I have presented awards to students from St Albans High School, Suffolk New College, the Kumon School and Family Carers UK.

The school holidays are almost upon us and the council has again organised a variety of events to keep youngsters from getting bored. We also are in the middle of an exciting Events season - I recently enjoyed Ipswich Music Day, Global Rhythms and the Indian Summer Mela, and am now looking forward to the Ipswich Maritime Festival at the Waterfront on 18th and 19th August.

A COUPLE OF OTHER EVENTS

I'd like to thank those of you who attended my Mayor's At Home event in the Ipswich Museum this year. Yes, it was a very hot evening, but it was a pleasure to see so many people, and to have the opportunity to network. I'd also like to mention the Ipswich Reggae Choir who sang so beautifully for us at the beginning of the event.

And finally thank you to those of you who attended my first charity event – a curry night at the Maharani Indian Restaurant. It raised over £450 for my charity The Suffolk Law Centre, so a great start to the year.

My next charity fundraisers will be a historic walk around Ipswich followed by Supper on the evening of Tuesday 4th September, and a Folk Music event on the evening of Sunday 30th September. Tickets will go on sale soon via the Ipswich Borough Council Box Office.