

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS: 30 APRIL 2025

Two days after our last meeting I held my Mayor's Ball here in the Grand Hall, and I'm pleased to report that it raised about £9,000 for my very deserving charities, Cancer Support Suffolk and Genesis Orwell Mencap. Thank you to everyone who supported it.

I've welcomed 11 different groups to the parlour since we last met, many of whom were from associations representing Ipswich's minority cultures who I was keen to share the Town's rich history with.

I really enjoyed the Ipswich Gang Show, put on by the Scouts and Guides and a great example to all of us of how to have fun. Another event which was great fun was the Holi event at Alexandra Park where as usual everyone got covered in powder paint and generally had a fabulous time.

I've been to two different 20th Anniversaries – that of the Karibu African Support Group and that of Bluebird Lodge, the Community Rehabilitation Hospital on Ravenswood and both are still going very strong after two decades.

I attended the Roma International Day at the Hold, organised by Union Romani Voice who help to break down barriers between the Roma community and other parts of our community.

The Kingfisher Pub on Hawthorn Drive invited me to open their Charity Darts event which was really well supported and I also visited a resident on their 100th Birthday.

The Sea Cadets opened their new pontoon two weeks ago and both I and the Deputy Mayor went to their launch ceremony; I hope they have a wonderful time using it for many years to come.

Finally, I was pleased to attend the launch event for the Ipswich Book Festival, which will be taking place from 3-5 October 2025, and which I'm sure you are all now looking forward to.