

Cllr Gordon Mackay

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MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS



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John Lawson Circus

On the 12th July, my family and I attended the first of five nights in Midsomer Norton to see a packed Big Top marvel at **John Lawson's Circus**, held at the town's Norton Down rugby ground.

Our town is lucky this excellent show stops here and it was great to support it.



With the Blue Moon Band and Cllr Pughe

Richard Robertson's Celebration

Lynda was kind enough to invite me to Welton Rovers on the 23rd July for a celebration of the life of Richard who gave so much to our community. The Silver Band entertained before we ate a hearty buffet and marvelled at Richard's sock and tie collection.



Music at the Station

The stormy afternoon weather on the 5th August gave way to a pretty sunset over the **Somerset and Dorset Railway** as the **Blue Moon Band** entertained locals and even a few travellers from Australia who happened to be visiting the West Country having chosen Midsomer Norton as a perfect base for exploring.

Thanks to Cllr Pughe for dragging me out of the house on a Saturday evening.

Beautiful Days Festival

Away from Midsomer Norton, in August, I was at the Beautiful Days Festival held near Exeter. This three day event has a crowd of 17.500 people. I spent a good deal of time talking to traders, particularly at the many clothes stalls, to see what can be learnt about possibly bringing such trade to high streets where traditional retail is facing many challenges.

Outfield Festival



Cllrs Plant and Auton

The third Outfield Festival was a huge success on the 27th August. I had the honour of opening the event which sold out on the day.

The event organisation was fantastic, the same team having run the bar at the Midsomer Norton Music Festival earlier this year.

I'm proud the Council have been able to support this festival three times now, this year having worked with Youth Connect South West to secure tickets for families who might not have otherwise been able to attend an event such as this.



Town Fayre and Show



Diana Walker was declared the Grand Champion of this year's Midsomer Norton Town Show which took place on Saturday 8th July as part of this year's Midsomer Norton Fayre.

A huge number of entries were submitted across a range of categories – with special categories for Children to enter as well.

Midsomer Norton Fayre was organised by Midsomer Norton Community Trust and sponsored by the Town Council and a range of local businesses. It is set to return to the Town Park next year on Saturday 13th July 2024.

Category information for the Town Show will become available later this year.



Dan Dorris and Richard Burgess



Cllrs Plant, Warren and Evans



Royal British Legion

Ale Train

The Train Station also held a Real Ale Festival on the 22nd of July which I was delighted to attend.



With several local beers to try and train rides included, this was an excellent way to spend an afternoon in Midsomer Norton

Local Plan Workshop



Cllr Wells and I attended the Local Plan workshop held at the Somer on the 26th July. This was an great chance to give input towards what will form the future planning policy for the authority.

It was also good to hear the views of other neighbouring towns



Farmers' Market

We had another excellent day at the Somerset Farmers market on the 5th August despite the rain which unfortunately meant the ukulele band couldn't make it.

Despite the weather, the market was well attended and the traders all seemed to do well. With the news that several towns markets are struggling, it's more important than ever, we do whatever we can to help ours succeed.

