

News from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford 2023-2024



The Mayor, Cllr Linda Mascot and her Consort met the new CEO of Guide Dogs, Andrew Lennox, at Central Baptist Church with many puppy raisers, fundraisers and volunteers coming together over coffee and cake. Andrew shared his future vision for Guide Dogs and listened to experiences of puppy-raisers and puppy fosterers during and after the challenges of Covid.

The Wilderness Foundation held a Grand Opening of their Chandlers Shed at their Down to Earth allotments in Melbourne. The Mayor was delighted to officially open the shed that had been completely redesigned and refurbished with help and materials provided by Chandlers. The Allotment Project supports young people and adults with additional needs who learn and develop new skills which improve their physical and mental well-being. She thanked CEO Jo Roberts, her dedicated team and all the volunteers for their help in running this successful project for over 14 years.



Chelmsford Riverside Ice-Skating Club invited the Mayor and her Consort to a fun and entertaining performance of Alice in Wonderland on Ice. She was in awe of the talented young skaters and really enjoyed the show. Thanks to all the performers, coaches, and centre staff for working together to make the show such a resounding success.

The Mayor of Brentwood, Cllr Gareth Barrett hosted the Annual Brentwood Borough Council Civic Awards on Friday evening at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite in Hutton. The Mayor and her Consort attended this event to honour Brentwood Running Club and Sue Newth-Gibbs for Service to the Community. Tony Clark and Peter Mayo received Lifetime Achievement awards for supporting their communities with fundraising and other local events. Congratulations to all the recipients of awards.





The Mayor and her Consort were invited to visit the Dogs Trust in Basildon to celebrate their 10-year anniversary. Centre Manager, Lisa Cooper, showed them around the extensive facilities, with a special behavioural unit, hydrotherapy facilities and a specialist Veterinary unit. This charitable facility can cater for up to 120 dogs and covers all of Essex and beyond in offering expert care in rehabilitating and rehoming dogs. The Mayor has a recent and very positive experience of the centre after her son rehomed a puppy 2 months ago and was impressed by the love and care that is given to all the dogs by the excellent staff, including aftercare and support for the

dogs and new owners. To support the work of the Dogs Trust you can donate here <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/support-us/donation>

Sidra Naeem, Deputy Lieutenant and Chair of Feed the Needy, along with other volunteers, held their 11th Community Feeding event in Chelmsford. Sanctus, Chess & CAST (Communities & sanctuary seekers together) spoke about their important and collaborative work to help vulnerable people. Sidra gave an interesting and informative presentation on Ramadan.



The Mayor and her Consort visited 86-year-old Ronald to thank him for raising so much money for MacMillan nurses by selling his paintings. He continues to paint every day and his friend and neighbour Debbie helps to sell them to support this great charity. The Mayor was pleased to present him with a certificate and plant for his garden in gratitude for his fundraising over the years.

The Staff of Office was passed from Charles Bishop to the new High Sheriff of Essex, David Hurst, at a Declaration Ceremony held at County Hall, Chelmsford at the beginning of April. The Ceremony was presided over by HM Lord Lieutenant, Jennifer Tolhurst, in the presence of deputy lieutenants, judges, mayors, chairs and magistrates. The Mayor and her Consort witnessed the new High Sheriff being sworn in during this historic event and congratulated David Hurst as 844th High Sheriff of Essex.



The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jude Deakin was delighted to welcome members of the Essex Dementia Care Writtle group to Chelmsford City Council for a visit to the Mayors Parlour. She spoke about the role of the Mayor, explained about the robes and chains worn by the Mayor and Deputy, and answered questions as they all enjoyed tea and biscuits.

Sandon Parish Council invited MP Sir John Whittingdale and the Mayor to speak at their Annual Assembly in Sandon Village Hall. Chair of the PC Dee Hyatt spoke about the challenges of proposed new developments nearby enveloping the village and the importance of the right infrastructure to support expansion. The Mayor thanked Parish Councillors for being a local voice supporting their community.



Open Road is a leading charity in East Anglia and Kent providing wellbeing initiatives, counselling, and practical help for people affected by drug or alcohol addiction and other health and social problems, the Mayor was invited to join the Bishop of Chelmsford, to meet with Trustees and Staff of Open Road to hear about their great work supporting clients and their families in their journey to recovery and positive life choices.

The Mayor was happy to officially open 3C&Co in Market Road. This new family venture combines Crowned Beauty Hair Salon, Creative Crave Web and Design and Cecelia's Design Ltd, a fashion design outlet run by Mobolaji with her son and daughter.



The sun shone in Chelmsford City Centre for the Chelmsford for You Takeover by Essex Cosplayers. The Mayor and her Consort joined Transformers, Ghostbusters, Batman, Stormtroopers, Ursula and many other characters with The A Team van, Ghostbusters car, Batmobile and car from Back to the Future, all in front of the iconic Shire Hall, The market had dinosaurs roaming with a Jurassic Park vehicle and all raising money for Little Haven's Hospice. It was absolutely buzzing with people enjoying the fun and a great charity event, well done to the organisers for really bring the City alive!

The Mayoral party were all at Melbourne Stadium to cheer on Chelmsford City Women and Girls Football Club who played Colchester in the semi-final of the League Cup. Unfortunately, Chelmsford lost 2:1 but it was a well-played match with around 200 spectators. Pictured with the Mayoral party is Dawn Barnard, Secretary of Chelmsford City Women & Girls Football Club.





Janine and Caroline set up a support group - Breastfriends CIC, for breast cancer patients after they both received a breast cancer diagnosis and now, they deliver regular kits to Broomfield Hospital that contain items for patients that are having surgery, and also kits for women in medical menopause.

The Mayor heard about the great support they have provided to each other and many other women by sharing their experiences and setting up networks via their website <https://www.breastfriends.co.uk/meet-our-founders>

The Mayor and her Consort visited Age Concern Chelmsford in Cottage place to join Trustee (and Freewoman of Chelmsford) Freda Mountain for lunch with the daily visitors. They joined in with the seated exercise class before enjoying steak & kidney pudding followed by lemon pudding and custard. Age Concern is open Monday-Friday, with Community Transport collecting elderly residents to enjoy the day centre facilities. The Mayor, thanked volunteers and staff and enjoyed chatting to Freda as well as users of the day centre who appreciate the social connections and friends they make there.



Chelmsford County High School for Girls invited the Mayor to attend their Presentation of Certificates and Awards at Chelmsford Cathedral with an inspiring address by former pupil Revd Dr Carolyn Hammond who translated the school values into Latin. Headteacher, Stephen Lawlor reflected on the year, thanked the whole school community for the school's success, and congratulated all the recipients of awards for their achievements.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were pleased to welcome the Tea & Tiaras WI Group from Galleywood into the Mayor's Parlour to talk about the role of the mayoralty and show them the 'golden mile' leading to the Council chamber and containing historical artefacts connected with the mayoralty.





The Mayor and Consort had a very enjoyable evening at Riverside Ice & Leisure Chelmsford Ice Hockey Academy, meeting visitors from Brive in France and watching them in their under 20's match against Chelmsford.

It's always a pleasure to see how much of a supportive community the Ice Hockey Academy are and how inspiring it is to see the younger players supporting the older teams play such a fast paced and skilled match.

CYGAMS (Young Gen) put on a truly sparkling performance of 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' at Chelmsford Theatre which the Mayor and her Consort enjoyed immensely. The talented young people showcased their exceptional vocal talents in this heartwarming, funny and touching musical based on a true story, written by 'The Feeling' frontman Dan Gillespie-Sells. The standard of performance was excellent, well done to all involved.



The Mayor and her Consort attended a concert with Community Choir, New City Voices and Men2Sing at St. John's Church fundraising for YMCA Essex, the Mayor's charity. With a packed audience, the choirs put on a very good show. Thanks to musical director John Trent-Wallace and accompanist Clare Penfold. The fantastic total of £1149 was raised from the concert and raffle.

Sweta, owner of The Luxe Studio, beauty salon in Wharf Road invited the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to join customers and friends to celebrate their 5th anniversary. Sweta gave them a tour of the premises and told them about the extensive services they offer whilst clients enthused about the excellent customer service.



The Mayor was delighted to welcome Pupil Councillors from the school where she is Inclusion Manager, Baddow Hall Junior School along with Headteacher, Mr McIntosh and PA Mrs Douglas, to the Mayor's Parlour to show them her 'other office'. The Deputy Mayor also joined them and the children were keen to learn about democracy, the role of mayor, history around the mayoralty, town twinning, council meetings and Chelmsford Council governance through the years, asking many interesting questions for the Mayor and Deputy to answer.

The Mayor and her Consort really enjoyed spending a sunny Sunday morning at Hylands Estate Innovation & Creativity Day with Urban Food Festival where her Cadet, Sgt Walledge joined her. Hot Box provided live music in the Courtyard and the Mayor purchased lovely bespoke jewellery, pottery and 3D printed toys from the Artists' Studios. Chairman of the Friends of Hylands, Christine Rycroft, chatted about the exhibition in the house and they met staff entertaining the younger visitors with craft activities as well the enthralling storyteller. There is something for everyone at the Open Days & the food is varied and delicious - the problem being what to choose!



South Woodham Ferrers Town Council held their Annual meeting at Champions Manor Hall where the Mayor joined Town Council Mayor, Cllr Donna Eley in looking at the community displays and speaking to local residents who had won community awards.

Sgt Matt Collins from Essex Police spoke about local policing and their forward planning. Julie Taylor, from The Liam Taylor Legacy was invited to talk about her campaign to have catastrophic bleed kits held at premises all over Essex, in case of any injuries with open wounds. There were presentations from other Town Councillors about projects undertaken during the year on behalf of and for the benefit of residents.

Woodville Primary School, South Woodham Ferrers invited the Deputy Mayor to attend their school assembly with Olympic Gold medal cyclist Katie Archibald.

Katie happily answered the children's questions and spoke about her journey from cycling to school to training for world class events. In the assembly it was announced that Deputy Head Teacher, Paul White an ambassador for Active Essex will be taking part in the RideLondon Essex 100mile race in May. Katie currently riding for CERATIZIT-WNT Pro Cycling Team presented him with one of their team racing shirts.



Rev'd Simon Pearce invited the Deputy Mayor to the official launch of the St Andrews Church Defibrillator. Thanks to the British Heart Foundation who sponsored the equipment, it sits proudly on the front of the church hall in Melbourne Avenue ready for use in an emergency. Everyone enjoyed tea and cakes then watched a short film demonstrating how to use the equipment.

Chairman of Essex Council, Cllr Jill Reeves invited Mayors and Chairs to attend her Civic Dinner at Little Channels, the Mayor and her Consort were honoured to be invited and hear the Chairman speak about her first year in office.





The Boswells School and Community Partners held a lively and varied Dance Show which the Mayor and Deputy really enjoyed. Students of all ages from Boswells were joined by groups from Grapevine Dance, Silhouettes Dance & Theatre School, Dance 21, Community Glee, Bam Bam Boogies and Making Moves for a very entertaining evening.

The Mayor and her Consort joined Chelmsford Parkrun on a rainy Saturday morning to set off the runners, including Mayor's Cadet, Sgt Walledge, and wish the Mayor's Charity, YMCA Essex well as they raised money in the Moustache Run! She took the opportunity to thank all the Parkrun volunteers for helping so many people keep active for their physical and mental health.



Chelmsford RAFA club held their St. George's Day celebration lunch where the Mayor, her Consort and Cadet, Sgt. Walledge, joined the veterans and bought items in their charity shop. Unfortunately, they couldn't stay for the bangers and mash but thanks the ladies who were cooking for them, headed up by Sue.

Join them for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings commemoration on Saturday 8th June with games and quizzes and a buffet. For more details call Sue Eddie on 07794 543147, all welcome.

Chelmsford City Football have finished the season their highest ever position of 2nd in the National League South with a score of 84 points. The Mayor and her Consort (a huge Clarets fan and season-ticket holder) attended the semi-final of the play-offs for promotion at Melbourne Stadium against Braintree Town. Despite coming back in the second half from a 2 goal deficit to equalize in the 90th & 92nd minutes to rapturous cheers, City lost to Braintree 3:2 in extra time. It wasn't to be this season but well done to all at CCFC for a great and historic season.



Chairman of Rochford District Council, Cllr Jack Lawmon, held his End of Year Civic Celebration at The Old House, Rochford which was built in 1270. The Mayor and her Consort enjoyed a tour of this historic building and garden whilst hearing about the history, ghost stories and priest hole hidden in the chimney.



Offspringers put on a musical extravaganza in The Dracula Spectacular which had the Mayor and Deputy Mayor enthralled and entertained with so much humour on Saturday evening. Co-Directors Lula Hemmings and Matt Scott did a brilliant job with all the children giving inspiring and creative performances. Well, done to all involved in the production.

Huge congratulations to The Boswells School for winning the Grand final of the Jack Petchey Foundation Glee Club Challenge at the O2. The Mayor and her Consort were delighted and very proud to be in the audience for their brilliant performances amongst really strong competition from the other 11 groups, including Chelmer Valley High School. Well done to all the performers, Mr Butler, Head of Dance, Performing & Creative Arts, and the wonderful team, including parents & Carers who have supported these talented young people to achieve such a prestigious win and put Chelmsford on the map for Performing Arts.



The Mayor, along with the Town Mayor of South Woodham Ferrers, Cllr Donna Eley, were delighted to congratulate the winning community teams who participated in the 'Beat the Street' game which encouraged over 13,000 people and more than 100 teams to get active in Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers. The participants gained points by walking, cycling, wheeling and running while they explored Chelmsford and SWF. Dr Greg Deacon, Head of the Community Health Team at ARU Writtle and Lindsey Abbott, Community Coordinator for Intelligent Health reflected on the success of the game in supporting health and activity in the local area. Congratulations to all the winners, which included the Good Gym and Heart & Sole walking group.

The Mayor was honoured to be asked to officially open The National Red Plaque Fire Service Memorial at Whitehouse Farm in Rettendon on Firefighters Memorial Day. She thanked the Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club, The Fire Brigades Union, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Fran and Peter Theobald, owners of the site and numerous businesses and individuals who contributed to the creation of the memorial to honour all fire service personnel.





Thriftwood College invited the Mayor to join staff and students for a tour of the college, assembly and quiz to celebrate 10th Years of the college being open and being such as asset to the community. The Mayor was happy to speak about her role as mayor, and was asked some very interesting questions from the students.



Let's Get Loud was the title of the Chelmsford Scouts 65th Gang Show at Chelmsford Theatre which the Mayor and her Consort really enjoyed. The 'gang' is made up of over 100 members of the Scout and Guide movements from across Chelmsford aged 8 upwards and they put on a show featuring dance, music and comedy sketches. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who support the young people to perform such a great show.



The Mayor was invited to Chelmsford & District Model Railway Club to meet the members, see the working models and hear how inclusive they are - all are welcome and she enjoyed seeing younger members joining the club and how much they enjoy the sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. They will be holding an exhibition at St. John Payne School on 19th October from 10-4pm for more information see : <https://www.cdmrc.co.uk>

The Deputy Mayor was invited to attend Anglia Ruskin University's Staff Inclusivity Network Conference. The conference began with Vice Chancellor Prof Roderick Watkins, who spoke about the ARU Mission Statement. Prof Yvonne Barnett, Deputy Vice Chancellor invited all to #Raisethebar and spoke about the recognition of the work ARU has carried out so far. They have received several awards including the Athena Swan Silver Award as well as £11.3 million from Research England to fund further work with uniformed public services.



There were interesting and inspirational speakers from staff networks including Disabled, LGBTQ+, Men, Women, Part Time & Flexi and Race & Ethnic Equality as well as guest Michelle Moore speaking about the 'Changemaker in You'. It was a very informative and enjoyable day.



The Salvation Army Citadel hosted a concert by the Stockholm South Band who are touring the UK for four days. The Mayor & Deputy enjoyed the concert, which included the Chelmsford Choir and extended a warm welcome to the Swedish Band.

The Mayor was delighted to collect a cheque for £1159 for her charity, YMCA Essex, from the recent New City Voices concert at St. John's Church. Thanks to Choirmaster, John Dent-Wallace and all involved in such a successful fundraiser.



The Chelmsford City Council CCTV team have received an Essex Police Chief Superintendent's Commendation, the Essex Police North LPA (Local Policing Area) command team commended the CCTV team for their ongoing dedication.

The Mayor visited the CCTV Team with Public Protection Manager, Spencer and a box of chocolates to congratulate the team on their commendation and for their great work helping to keep the people of Chelmsford, South Woodham Ferrers and Maldon safe.

Half Moon Square, in Chelmsford City Centre came alive with music, dancing, colour and joy as Sikhs of Chelmsford invited the Mayor, her Consort and everyone in the vicinity to celebrate the Sikh Formation Day of Vaisakhi. The sun was shining as they shared delicious food as part of the festivities and the Mayor joined in the dancing.



Chelmsford's leading street art event, Concrete Canvas has returned to the City for the third year with world class street artists alongside local artists transforming blank canvasses across the City Centre into beautiful pieces of art that enhance the area with marvellous creativity.

The Mayor was delighted to meet artist Good Night Vienna as he working on a creation depicting 'many minds one heart' the Chelmsford Crest which she was proud to be wearing on her mayoral badge. This year artworks are inspired by Chelmsford and will culminate in a Street Party

and Concrete Canvas walk on Saturday 18th May around the City centre.

The Crix in Hatfield was the set off and return point for more than 700 cyclists of all ages at the annual sponsored Bike ride for Helen Rollason Cancer Charity. The Mayor and her Consort joined volunteers to congratulate the returning cyclists, hand out medals and thank them for supporting such an essential charity. Chelmsford Community Radio provided the music and the sun shone as the cyclists celebrated their achievement.



The Mayor of Chelmsford presented awards and commendations to Chelmsford's brilliant volunteers at the Chelmsford Awards for Outstanding Voluntary Service. The awards were formed ten years ago by the independent charity, Chelmsford CVS, to recognise the exceptional generosity of Chelmsford's volunteers and the impact of their work on the local community.

Awards were presented in three categories this year:

Adult category: Chris Chapman for his outstanding over 30 years of voluntary service as Leader of 2nd Chelmsford Scouts.

Dr Karen Lehner was also Highly Commended for her work with Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled for over 20 years.

Young Person category: Henrietta Tyler for her work volunteering with City of Chelmsford Mencap's lifelong learning service.

Team category: Sanctus Team of volunteers, who give an astonishing combined 1,000 hours per month to benefit over 750 service users!



The Mayor was delighted to join CEO, Andy Drake from YMCA Essex in hosting a charity ball at Chelmsford City Football Club raising more than £4,000 for her charity in addition to the £10,000 raised during the year with other fundraising activities.

Deputy Lieutenant Simon Brice and his wife Emma joined Mayors and Chairs from all over Essex for this sold-out event. Funds raised at this gala evening will help YMCA Essex deliver a new landmark building, a high-quality supported housing facility for homeless young people aged 16-26 developed on the site of the existing YMCA premises in central Chelmsford. This ambitious project is being supported by Chelmsford City Council and will be the building blocks for young people's futures. Thanks to Steve Shore, Chairman of CCFC for providing the venue, singer Kieran Spivey Joe Mascot for DJ'ing plus everyone who generously donated raffle and auction prizes as well as the attendees. A special mention to Richard Barker for the photographs and the upcoming feature in Essex Life Magazine to raise awareness of this great charity initiative.



The chosen Charity for 2023/2024 is YMCA Essex www.ymcaessex.org.uk



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Here for Communities
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