



Saffron Walden Annual Town Meeting 14th March 2023

Mayor's Report

Cllr James de Vries

It has been my honour to serve as Mayor, an honour which I have also enjoyed tremendously.

This is without doubt due to the magnificent efforts of our Saffron Walden Town Council Officers, Staff and Members who continuously commit their time, passion, and expertise, for the benefit of our town.

The events and marked occasions held by the council this year have seen fantastic support from our wonderful town residents as well as visitors to Saffron Walden from near and afar.

I have chosen 3 charities to support this year –

Uttlesford Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is an independent service that provides free, confidential, impartial advice to everybody regardless of race, gender, sexuality or disability.

www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Support for Sight

Assists people living with sight loss. We are here to help blind and partially sighted people, their carers and families. Expert staff and trained volunteers provide our services to assist people coming to terms with losing their sight and to cope long term with the social, emotional and practical issues that they face living with sight loss.

www.support4sight.org.uk

Accuro – supporting people with a disability in West Essex

To eliminate the social isolation of people with disabilities within their local communities, by enhancing their confidence to cross bridges into a wider world.

www.accuro.org.uk

During this year I have been very pleased to see the adoption of our Saffron Walden Neighbourhood plan, following a substantial amount of diligent work and research by the working group including Town Council Officers.

I have been honoured to have been a part of several extremely significant events this year, firstly the Queens Platinum Jubilee, followed just a few short months later with the sad passing of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth.

Both occasions were formally marked by the Town Council and there was overwhelming support from residents. I believe it is fair to say that her late Majesty would have been proud of our towns efforts.

The tragedy of the late Queens passing goes hand in hand with another once in a lifetime moment, the ascension of the new King Charles the Third, for which the Town Council hosted a Royal Proclamation in the Market Square.

I am very much looking forward to celebrating the Royal Coronation on May 6th this year, details of the town councils events will be published shortly.

We were also so very fortunate this year that we were able to enjoy our wonderful Carnival again, which had been delayed for several years due to Covid restrictions.

The Mayoress and I, accompanied by a delegation of local town and business representatives visited our Twin Town in Germany, Bad Wildungen, where we were hosted by their Town Mayor, who will be visiting Saffron Walden later this year we hope.

Christmas is always a magical time in Saffron Walden, but this was even more so for me this year as I was invited to lead the Lantern Parade and Christmas lights switch on, then we attended the Christmas Services on Christmas Eve and visited several of the towns care homes on Christmas Day.

I would like to thank all of our Saffron Walden Town Council Officers and Staff for all of their efforts to make all of the above happen. We truly are fortunate to have such a wonderful team taking care of our town.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our residents, for making our wonderful town so wonderful.