

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 2022

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Despite continued challenges presented by the pandemic, Driffield Town Council did manage to deliver some highly successful events in the latter part of 2021.

In August we welcomed the Umbrella Plaza in Market Place, which received regional and national press coverage, this coincided with the recruitment of the Town Centre Officer, whose remit in part, was to improve the ambience of the town centre. The Plaza provided an excellent venue and buskers and street entertainers made it their home throughout the summer, proving incredibly popular with residents who sat at the newly installed picnic benches enjoying a wide range of music and entertainment.

August also heralded the long awaited launch of the Wold Rangers Way, which postponed from 2020 due to COVID, had a fantastic start from Market Place, with nearly 100 walkers taking part in the guided walks. Receiving regional publicity the WRW has certainly put Driffield on the map, and continues to go from strength to strength. Various guided walks held since have grown in popularity, and the most recent Elmswell Old Hall Horsehair Jack Guided Walk in April being a great success.

The Remembrance Services in November were for the first time organised by the Town Council. John Forrester of the Royal British Legion worked closely with the Town Clerk but will in future take a step back after many years of dedicated service organisation. The Remembrance Service at the Memorial Gardens on November 11th went well and was most improved with the decision to work closely with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and suspend traffic for a few minutes in North Street, which meant that the service could be heard by all those involved but also that the two-minute silence was actually truly silent and not marred by cars and lorries driving by.

The Remembrance Service on the Sunday was a tremendous success, hosted for the first time by the newly built Driffield Methodist Church. We received a marvellous welcome from the Methodists, with Right Rev Dr Richard Teal, Richard and Lesley Mole organising a beautiful service, overhead presentation, and tea afterwards. We were delighted to welcome Mr John Dick, the Lord Lieutenant and our own Driffield resident, High Sherriff, Richard Shepherdson, accompanied by his wife, Issy. The march from Tesco car park was led by the Pocklington Pipe Band and local veterans and representatives of various armed forces and community groups paraded through the town centre to the church with the streets flanked by onlookers. It was a very suitable and fitting tribute to the fallen. Special mention must go to the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Driffield Town Council staff who attended voluntarily to ensure a safe and successful event.

After a Christmas shadowed by the pandemic in 2020, we were very much looking forward to the return of our Christmas Festival, whilst the high winds put paid the planned market, the fairground and other attractions more than made up for this and Cllr Matt Rogers switched on our lights including the new Plaza lights, with his Consort, Leigh and daughter, Charlotte. Thousands of people turned out for the event and we were delighted with its success, especially popular was the Santa's Grotto run by the Friends of St Margaret's Close and the snow machine, secured with funding from the ERYC.

As part of our continued efforts to bolster the town centre businesses after the onslaught of the pandemic we also planned two Christmas Sunday markets in December, although the weather could have been kinder, many people did attend and enjoy what was on offer and also gave the shops that did remain open two successful trading days. Unfortunately, Scrambling once again, succumbed to the pandemic and had to be cancelled.

The Events committee have been working hard since January 2022 planning the Platinum Jubilee events and the Yorkshire Weekend in the summer.

Cllr Simon Starrett

Chairman