

Shanklin Town Council news

By Jon Gilbey

Some great events despite the weather

August is always a busy month with numerous events scheduled. It's such a shame the good old British weather threw a spanner in the works, although I know a few gardeners that would argue the rain was desperately needed.

I had the honour of opening Gatten and Lakes Summer Fete, which was well-attended, thanks to all the staff and parents that put so much time and effort into fundraising for the school. They raised £1,962.

I attended the Friends of Shanklin Theatre (FOST) garden party held in Tom and Linda Mclinden's wonderful gardens at Shanklin Manor, so many thanks to them for allowing us to take over their grounds. I would also like to personally thank all the Theatre volunteers, who without their time and commitment, we wouldn't have the wonderful and thriving venue we now have. They also raised over £300 on the day. I attended the summer show 'Best of The



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West End' with my family. This was again a fantastic evening of entertainment by Jayne and her exceptional troop of performers. We are so lucky to have such talent on our own doorstep.

Thanks to Shanklin Town Brass Band for putting on a superb events timetable at Rylstone Gardens this summer. I'm sure many people have enjoyed these concerts over the last few months, again run by many volunteers.



I also opened the St Blasius summer fayre at Shanklin Cricket Club. Thankfully we missed the showers that seemed to be far too frequent during the month, to end up with a very well supported event that raised just over £1,246 on the day.

Shanklin's Wednesday Carnival unfortunately was cancelled due to what only can be described as a monsoon. This was such a shame as so many people put so much time into organising these events, but

thankfully Saturday's Illuminated Carnival went ahead and was really well supported.

National Judges from South East England in Bloom visited the town and praised the efforts of the Green Towns Volunteers and residents for providing a floral welcome to visitors and residents. They highlighted the Town Council's support of green projects, help towards community events such as the Carnival and Regatta, and the investment in the new Public Toilets - hopefully up for a national award - recognising these are some of the best in the country.

Together with many local parishioners, I was privileged to participate in the Installation of the new Priest-in-Charge at St Saviours on the Cliff - with the Good Shepherd, Lake - by the Bishop of Portsmouth, and we welcomed Father David Lawrence-March to Shanklin, we look forward to working with him in the future.

I would also like to welcome Rev Mark Williams at his installation as Priest-in-Charge at St Paul's (with Christ Church, Sandown), and his arrival coincides with the renovation of the church and surrounding grounds, and buildings.

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