



## Supporting Young Talent: A Day at Barrow AFC

In March I had the privilege of attending a truly inspiring event at Barrow AFC in recognition of National Supported Internship Day. It was an afternoon filled with hope, determination, and the promise of brighter futures for young people with additional needs.

The event was organized by Right2Work, a fantastic organization dedicated to helping young adults with disabilities overcome barriers to employment. Supported Internships provide these individuals with real-life work experience, equipping them with valuable skills and confidence to step into the working world. Right2Work has a proven track record of helping interns transition into sustained employment, offering ongoing support whenever needed.

During the event, I had the opportunity to meet some of the remarkable young people who have benefitted from the program, as well as employers who have opened their doors to offer life-changing placements. Local businesses such as MKM, Little Tony's Tyres, Abbey House, Booths, and Shed One have played an essential role in fostering an inclusive work environment. Their commitment to providing opportunities showcases the true spirit of our community.

I recently received a heartfelt thank-you message from Michelle at Right2Work, expressing appreciation for my attendance and highlighting the importance of raising awareness about Supported Internships. As a town, we have a collective responsibility to ensure that every young person has access to meaningful employment opportunities, regardless of any challenges they may face. I urge more local businesses to get involved by offering workplace visits or placements for these talented individuals. By doing so, we can help shape a future where everyone has the chance to succeed.

If you're an employer and want to learn more about how you can support this initiative, I encourage you to reach out to Right2Work. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of so many young people in our community.

**Cllr Neil McDougall**

Town Mayor 2024 - 2025

I had the distinct honor of attending the installation ceremony of Dr. Geoffrey Charles Jolliffe as the new High Sheriff of Cumbria at Barrow-in-Furness Town Hall in March. Accompanying me was Councillor Ann Thurlow, Deputy Mayor, as we witnessed this significant event that upholds a tradition spanning over a millennium.

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular office under the Crown, dating back over 1,000 years. Historically, High Sheriffs were the principal law enforcement officers in their counties, responsible for maintaining law and order and overseeing the administration of justice. Today, while the role is largely ceremonial, High Sheriffs continue to support the Crown and judiciary, participate in civic and community activities, and promote voluntary and statutory organizations. High Sheriff of Cumbria+1The Lord Lieutenant+1The Lord Lieutenant+1High Sheriff of Cumbria+1

Dr. Jolliffe's appointment as High Sheriff is a testament to his dedication and service to the community. The installation ceremony, held in the historic Barrow-in-Furness Town Hall, was a fitting venue for such an auspicious occasion. Constructed between 1882 and 1886, the Town Hall is a Victorian-era, neo-gothic building made almost entirely from local Hawcoat sandstone, featuring a clock tower that stands as one of the tallest structures in Barrow.

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During the ceremony, Dr. Jolliffe affirmed his commitment to upholding the duties of the High Sheriff, including supporting the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and various community organizations throughout Cumbria. His dedication to these responsibilities is commendable and reflects the enduring importance of this ancient office in our modern society. High Sheriff of Cumbria

Attending this ceremony reinforced the significance of community and tradition in our town. It was heartening to see so many individuals come together to honor and support Dr. Jolliffe as he embarks on his year of service. I am confident that his tenure will have a positive impact on our community, and I look forward to witnessing the contributions he will make in the coming year. As we celebrate this new chapter, let us also acknowledge the rich history and cultural heritage that events like these represent. They serve as reminders of the values that bind us together and the collective efforts that drive our community forward.

**Cllr Neil McDougall 2024 - 2025**



**Did you Know .....**

Our office  
opening hours  
have changed?  
We are now  
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# Mayors Report 2024 - 2025

It's been an honour to serve as Mayor for the last 12 months.

I have attended many functions locally and throughout the County and enjoyed every one and got to meet many other Mayors and dignitaries and friends along the way.

I came into the role with little experience and was told I had a big pair of shoes to fill from taking over Cllr Nick Perie's excellent efforts and work as our previous Mayor.

So, I had to think out of the box and challenged myself to make three changes. First, I invited individual councillors as guests to come along with me to some of my functions.

Secondly I helped with Barrow Bid and BID Manager Paul Hodgson to create a Mayors Charity Christmas Lights event which was an absolutely fantastic event and really put Dalton on the map and is now an annual event for future Mayors Charities.

Finally, early in my year I decided not to have a Civic Sunday and work on my charities and run a Charity Presentation event which took place in April. I collected a total of £7668.23.

I invited my chosen charities, fellow councillors and friends along to Dalton Cricket Club where I organised entertainment and food.

The event was really successful and the feedback I received was brilliant. I would like to thank Dalton Cricket Club, Claire the entertainer and Fiesta Catering.

## **My Charity donations were:**

North West Air Ambulance £3,500

North West Blood Bikes £1,000

1st Duddon Scouts £1,000

Rotary £1,000

Macmillan £848.23.

This concludes my report and I would like to wish Ann and Bruce my best wishes and support in their respected roles as Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

*Cllr Neil McDougall*



# Dalton Celebrates Unsung Heroes at Annual Town Meeting

Dalton's Annual Town Meeting once again shone a spotlight on the incredible community spirit that defines the town. The meeting, held this week, gave the Town Council the opportunity to honour local residents who give their time freely to support charities, clubs, and community groups.

Each year, residents are invited to nominate individuals who go above and beyond in service to others. This year, three outstanding individuals were recognised: two as Community Champions, and one as Citizen of the Year.

## **Community Champion: Keir Hopkins**

Keir was nominated for his exceptional commitment both as a teacher at George Romney School and for his voluntary work with grassroots junior football. Currently serving as Chair of Dalton United Junior Football Club, Keir's dedication to youth sport and the local community is well known and well deserved.

## **Community Champion: Paul Honeyman**

Paul's involvement with local junior football began when he stepped in to 'help out'—seven years later, he's still going strong. From refereeing and lines manning to managing an adult team, marking pitches, washing kits and attending committee meetings, Paul's hands-on approach and continued commitment embody true community spirit.

## **Citizen of the Year: Irene Cannon**

This year's Citizen of the Year, Irene Cannon, is a familiar and much-loved figure in Dalton. A long-time resident of Becks Road, Irene runs Furness Hedgehog Rescue from her home. With no outside funding, she has dedicated herself to rescuing and nursing sick and injured hedgehogs, offering a lifeline to these often-overlooked creatures. Her tireless work is a true tribute to compassion and care.

Dalton Town Council extends its heartfelt thanks to all nominees, and to every volunteer in the town whose efforts continue to make a real difference.



# Dalton Town Council Appoints New Mayor and Deputy for 2025 - 2026

Dalton Town Councillors have appointed Cllr Ann Thurlow as the Towns Mayor and Cllr Bruce Solari as Deputy Mayor following a vote among councillors at this year's Annual Town Council Meeting. The decision marks the beginning of a new civic year, with both figures bringing experience, commitment, and a shared passion for the local community.

Ann is no stranger to the role—this is her third time serving as Mayor, having previously led the town with distinction in earlier terms. Her return brings both continuity and renewed enthusiasm, especially as she sets her sights on highlighting the work of voluntary groups across the town.

“We are fortunate to have so many incredible volunteers and community organisations in Dalton,” said Mayor Thurlow. “This year, I want to shine a light on the tireless work they do behind the scenes and ensure they receive the recognition they truly deserve.”

Bruce, who was selected as Deputy Mayor by his fellow councillors, brings valuable experience from his own involvement in local initiatives and public service. Together, the new leadership team aims to strengthen community ties and support the people and groups that make Dalton thrive.

Outgoing Mayor Neil McDougall, who raised over £7,600 for charity and championed a number of successful events during his year in office, offered warm congratulations: “Ann and Bruce are both deeply committed to Dalton. I know they’ll carry the baton forward with great care and energy.”

With a clear focus on community recognition and strong collaboration, Dalton’s new Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ready to lead with purpose and positivity in the year ahead.



## The Pinfold

The Town Council has recently taken on responsibility for The Pinfold, a small historic enclosure once used to house stray animals. As part of its restoration, a lock was fitted to the gate to restrict access ahead of planned improvements, including the installation of public artwork and the planting of wildflowers. Unfortunately, we are disappointed to report that the lock has been forcibly removed. This setback will not deter our efforts, and we remain committed to enhancing this unique heritage site for the enjoyment of all.

# VE Day



## A Mayor's Reflection: VE Day in Dalton

By Mayor Cllr Thurlow

As Mayor of Dalton, I have had the honour of attending many of our recent commemorative events, and I'd like to share some personal reflections on how our community marked VE Day with the dignity and spirit they so rightly deserve.

VE Day – A Measured and Respectful Tribute  
Our response to VE Day was one of quiet respect, much as it was in 1945. I've been told that even then, Dalton marked the occasion with restraint, knowing that many of our townsmen were still serving in the Far East.



In that same spirit, the town came together in thoughtful and heartfelt ways. Bunting brightened our streets, and shop windows displayed tributes to those who served.

For me personally, VE Day began with a short service at the War Memorial. I also had the pleasure of taking part in an interview with Radio Cumbria, where I shared thoughts on the importance of remembrance.

One of the highlights was the opening of the Pop-Up Museum courtesy of Dalton Community Action Group – a truly impressive display that had been very well researched and was warmly supported by the community. There are now exciting plans in motion to create something more permanent.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Stuart Klosinski for his hard work and dedication to carrying out the research for this display and the time it must have taken.

Well done Stuart, I am sure it is much appreciated by everyone who visited.



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The Town Council funded an afternoon tea at the Community Church which brought many people together in conversation and reflection. Thank you to the members of the church who volunteered their time to serve the attendees the refreshments.

There was the lighting of a beacon at High Haume Farm. This was one of over a thousand to be lit throughout the UK, the flames representing the light of peace.

It is a very humbling time of year and i thank everyone for taking time to remember those that were lost.

Mayor Cllr Thurlow



## **Dalton Town Council Commemorates VE Day with Fish and Chip Supper for Local Residents**

Dalton Town Council marked this year's VE Day by funding a traditional fish and chip supper for residents of three local sheltered housing schemes: Staveley House, Coronation House, and Anchor Court.

The event was a thoughtful gesture of remembrance and community spirit, bringing residents together to share a meal that holds deep historical significance. Fish and chips, a beloved British staple, became a symbol of comfort and resilience during the Second World War. While many foods were rationed, fish and potatoes largely escaped these restrictions, making fish and chips one of the few meals that remained readily available. It was a dish that provided a sense of normality and lifted morale at a time when the country faced enormous hardship.

By offering this meal on VE Day – the anniversary of Victory in Europe and the end of the war in Europe in 1945 – Dalton Town Council not only honoured the past but also helped rekindle the spirit of unity and care that defined the wartime years.

Residents of Staveley House, Coronation House, and Anchor Court enjoyed the opportunity to come together, share memories, and reflect on the importance of community, both then and now. The council hopes this act of recognition continues to remind everyone of the value of remembrance and the strength found in solidarity.



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# VE Day Window Winner

The Town Council is delighted to announce the winner of this year's VE Day Shop Front Window Dressing Competition – Stephisticated Nails!

In honour of VE Day, local businesses were invited to decorate their shop fronts with displays reflecting the spirit, history, and remembrance of Victory in Europe Day. The response from our wonderful community was overwhelming, with a fantastic range of creative, thoughtful, and eye-catching displays brightening up our town centre.

This year's winning display, created by Stephisticated Nails, stood out for its imaginative use of authentic and historically significant artifacts, creating a poignant and visually striking tribute to those who served during the Second World War. Their window captured the attention and admiration of many, blending vintage memorabilia with creative flair.

The winner was decided by public vote, with members of the community casting their ballots for their favourite display. Stephisticated Nails received the highest number of votes, and we congratulate them on their well-deserved win.

As part of the celebrations, Stephisticated Nails were presented with a certificate by the Mayor, Councillor Ann Thurlow, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the VE Day commemorations.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the businesses who took part and helped commemorate this important day with such dedication and creativity. Your efforts helped foster community spirit and ensured VE Day was marked with the respect and celebration it deserves. We look forward to seeing even more wonderful displays in future events!



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