



chairman's chat

east cambridgeshire district council

8th March 2019

Dear Colleague,

First and foremost, my thanks to the Vice Chairman, Councillor Lis Every, for standing in for me at what I gather proved to be a lengthy Council Meeting last month. I was sorry to miss such an important meeting, but it coincided with my wife Roslyn's landmark birthday, and we celebrated the occasion in Gran Canaria.

Last Friday, Members who joined us on a tour of the Dojima Sake Brewery in Fordham were treated to a most interesting morning. The process whereby sake is brewed is fascinating. It is rooted in the culture of Japan and is produced from rice, koji and water. My personal thanks to the brewery's founder Mr Yoshihide Hashimoto, for establishing the first ever Japanese owned brewery in the UK, here in East Cambridgeshire.



Last Friday evening we attended the Civic Reception in Newmarket, which proved to be an excellent networking opportunity. Representing as I do, a ward in the south of the district, establishing a close working relationship with our neighbouring authority has been high on my list of priorities. Such is the shape of East Cambridgeshire, it should not be overlooked that residents in the south of the district look to Newmarket for their essential services.

One event which has really impressed me during my civic term has been the Ely Hero Awards. Roslyn and I were pleased to support this year's launch event on Monday at Poets House. Nominations in 10 categories are now open for unsung heroes, who either live or work in the city, or surrounding area within a 10-mile radius. Nominations can be made on the website www.elyheroawards.org.uk or by completing the coupon in the Ely Standard.

Such has been the success of Ely Hero Awards, 26 local businesses have pledged their support. This year the event's charity will be Fen House Rehabilitation Centre.

I recently uncovered the astonishing fact that there are 166,000 registered charities in the UK, with a total annual turnover of just under £48billion.

One charity we have been pleased to support is Home-Start Cambridgeshire. They recruit, train and supervise volunteers who offer non-judgemental, emotional and practical support to families, with at least one child under 5, who are going through difficult times. The work they undertake is invaluable and has my full admiration. Roslyn and I were recently invited to their fund raising concert in Cambridge, which was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

During my term of office I have raised funds for the Alzheimer's Society and the Viva Theatre Company's exciting Mill Project in Soham. However, in a personal capacity, my favoured charity has been CLIC Sargent, which I have continued to support in memory of Liam Fairhurst, the amazingly brave Soham schoolboy, who sadly died of cancer in 2010, and who raised an amazing amount for the charity at a time when he was terminally ill. Despite my busy lifestyle as Council Chairman, I have remained on the 'speakers circuit' in Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk. I devote all fees I receive to CLIC Sargent. If you know of an organisation seeking a speaker, by all means give them my contact details. My talk is entitled "Working To Entertain You"; I trace my career in entertainment management. I promise I won't send anybody to sleep.

Forthcoming Meetings

Week commencing 11th March 2019

Wednesday, 13th March at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber – Community Services Committee;

There are no meetings scheduled for week commencing 18th March 2019.

With Kind Regards

Yours sincerely



Councillor Peter Cresswell
Chairman of Council

cc ECDC Staff
Parish Councils
County Councillors
Mayor - Combined Authority
Prominent PR
Website