



# THE CHAIRMAN'S BLOG



Council Chairman Cllr Anthony Bird Opening Cwmbran Big Event

## Its Been A Busy Few Weeks...

...since I took on the mantle of Chairman. Luckily the cool weather has made it feel less like a baptism of fire and more like dipping my toe in the pool. I hit the ground running, throwing myself into all the publicity for this year's Big Event, there were lots of photo ops and a couple of interviews all before the big day, so it was fantastic to be the face of it this year, especially as its the first year Cwmbran Community Council has organised the event.

But right in the middle of all that build up I also had the honour of hosting fellow councillor's, visiting dignitaries and members of the British Legion in a short flag raising ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of D Day. I've always thought that our nation owes a great debt to the brave service personnel who've fought, sacrificed and given their lives for the freedoms we take for granted in this country. It is of vital importance that we continue to pay tribute to the valour and courage of our veterans, to the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces and those who where left behind on foreign fields, all for the sake of our futures.



Council D Day Celebration

After the busy few days surrounding D-Day and the Big Event, aside from the usual committee meetings and what not, I was lucky to have a few quiet days before heading out to a few more events. One to show support to this countries veterans held in Pontypool, Then I got to see the entrants into Torfaen Museum's new exhibit, all of which were painted in the open air of one of Torfaen's most prominent beauty spots. And that weekend wouldn't have been complete without an invitation to celebrate National Beer Day in the Brew Monster Brewery's Tap Room (which was coincidentally celebrating its one year anniversary).

# I Didn't Get To Rest...

...on my laurels after that, however, as I had a few more meetings to attend, and was invited to a wonderful celebration of the contributions made to this country by the Windrush Generation, which was hosted by the South Wales Jamaican Society and by Race Council Cymru, it really was amazing to see so many civic leaders, from all across Torfaen, coming together to help celebrate the various cultural heritages that make Britain the melting pot that it is. It was so inspiring to meet some of the people who came to this county and through their struggles have helped make Britain great. It was one of those events that highlights why being a Cwmbran of cohesive communities is such an important objective of the council and we must continue to do all we can to accomplish that aim.

A couple of days later, I was back at the council house this time for the celebration of Armed Forces Day, every year the council hosts a short service of remembrance for Armed Forces Day, I got to make a short address, and I think I might have become the first council Chair to quote an Iron Maiden song in a speech, which was followed by a bible reading ably translated into Welsh by pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, then a short sermon by our local Vicar, Rev Nick Perry. It was a moving service and it was lovely to see so many children from Our Lady of The Angels school and members of the various veterans associations in Cwmbran, it was also my pleasure to host dignitaries from both Pontypool and Blaenavon Council's too.



Cllr Bird At Various Events

Armed Forces Day was then followed up by me putting my new training (courtesy of One Voice Wales' Role of the Chair Module) to the test later that day, I think members were certainly kind, I hope they aren't lulling me into false sense of security before I chair my second meeting?

It certainly has been a busy few weeks, and looking in my diary I know I have an even busier time ahead of me, but it really is an honour to serve in this role, especially in the towns 70th year, I look forward to seeing you all out and about.



## Upcoming Events

- **03/09- Merchant Navy Day**
- **10/10-Senior Schools Festival**
- **10/11-Remembrance Sunday**
- **21/11-Community Awards Evening**
- **29/11- Christmas Tree Lighting- Council House**
- **04/12- Christmas Tree Lighting- Pontnewydd**