

**Report for Parish Assembly**  
**by Graham Smith High Bailiff of Henley in Arden**  
**Dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

I took on the role of High Bailiff of Henley in Arden on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, so four months later and I am still trying to find my feet. Admittedly it has been a baptism by fire. A lot more hard work than I had planned for but also very rewarding. Representing Henley at various functions can only be classed as an honour and not at all a chore.

I have had an insight into various intuitions in Henley in Arden all run by groups of volunteers and have never failed to be impressed by how much hard work is carried out by these unpaid, dedicated people.

During my short time in office the Court Leet has organised the Christmas Market in the Guild Hall Gardens and Father Christmas in the Guild Hall.

The Boxing Day visit by Silhill Morris Men and the Henley Christmas Shop Window Competition.

Henley held the Inter Court Sports Night in March. Henley were narrowly beaten for 1<sup>st</sup> place out of the four Courts who took part Henley, Bromsgrove, Warwick and Alcester.

The Court and I have also represented Henley in various events at Warwick, Bromsgrove and Alcester.

Our Town Crier Les Long has recently represented Henley at Town Crier competitions in Alcester and Warwick.

The Court is at present changing its structure whereby in the past all Court Members have also been Trustees of the Guild Hall. We are now converting the Guild Hall Trust to a Charity Incorporated Trust. This will reduce the liability of the Trustees and also reduce the number of Trustees to twelve.

We have also had a change of Lord of the Manor of Henley. This title was previously held by Joe Hardy, an American benefactor to Henley and the Court. Joe also purchased and funded the Heritage Centre, which he passed to the people of Henley.

Joe passed the title of Lord of the Manor to his daughter Robin Hardy Freed some 15 years ago. Robin has now very generously passed the title to the Steward of the Court, David Lodder.

David has been steward of the Court for nearly thirty years, his father and grandfather were also the stewards of the Court. David is a good choice and will be an excellent Lord of the Manor.

The transfer of the title will be formerly announced at the Court Dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April the Court will be representing Henley at the Shakespeare Birthday Parade in Stratford.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April the Court will welcome the 1066 Car & Motorcycle Club for their annual St Georges Day Ride Out to Henley.

April the 23<sup>rd</sup> will see the start of "Arts for All Week" in the Guild Hall and St Johns Church.

This is an excellent event with various acts on from Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April all through the week and finishing on Sunday evening the 29<sup>th</sup> April. If you have not already purchased your tickets, please apply now.

A full programme of the various events are available from most shops, restaurants and pubs in Henley.

On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the Court will be holding the Annual Court Leet Day in the Guild Hall Gardens, comprising of re-enactments, live music and a disco. There will be various market stalls, a barbeque and a beer tent. Entrance is free of charge, please come along and make it a big family day out. Proceeds will be distributed to various charities including the Myton Hospice.

The Court Leet will continue wherever possible to represent and promote Henley in Arden for the benefit of the town and the people of Henley. For more information please visit our website.

I am sorry I could not be with you this evening as I am away on holiday with our grandchildren.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present this report on behalf of the Court Leet of Henley.

Graham Smith  
High Bailiff of Henley in Arden