

Mayor's Report to Council 28.3.2018

Since my last report to Council I have attended almost 30 events. The first was a visit to Portsmouth Guildhall for the annual celebration of Chinese New Year on the 18th of February. The following Tuesday I joined a group of children from Tops Day Nursery for a clean up on the foreshore near the Ship at Langstone. Unfortunately someone had done the same a couple of days before, so there was very little to clean up! The same evening we went to the AGM of Help in Bereavement.

The next event took place on the 24th. when we went to the re-opening of The Deck at Emsworth Yacht Harbour. On the 25th we were at St. James Church in Emsworth for the Institution and Induction of Revd. Andrew Sheard as the new Rector of Warblington with Emsworth. On the 27th there was a visit to the Meridian Shopping Centre to help to promote Fairtrade Fortnight and in the evening we went to the Guildhall for the second heat of the UK Rock Challenge, where four local schools were competing, these being Warblington, Purbrook Park and Rachel Madocks working with the Cowplain School.

The 28th saw my last Coffee Morning. This was held at the Sacred Heart Church in Waterlooville, where children from St. Peter's RC primary School entertained us with some lovely singing.

And so to March. The 3rd saw us, once again, on Hayling Island, this time to open a new hairdressers. The 6th was another Coffee Morning, this time for Fairtrade Fortnight at the United Reformed Church in Havant.

The 8th saw me at St. Francis Church for an International Women's Day meeting, while the 9th was the Havant Civic Day, with many of the Hampshire Mayors and Chairmen, plus those from Chichester and West Sussex, being shown some of Havant's successful businesses and hearing presentations from Norse and also from the SCOPAC team. This was a very successful day, with several appreciative comments following. The evening of the same day I was presenting Certificates to around 50 or so young people who had undertaken the Bronze Award for the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

On the 10th we started the day at Southdown's College for a local round of the Rotary Young Chef competition. Competitors came from as far as the Channel Islands for this, with the winners going on to the regional finals the following weekend. From Southdowns we went to St. Francis Church in Leigh Park, where I presented certificates to Beaver and Cub Scouts.

The 14th saw the launch of the Havant Lottery in the morning, with the re-launch of a hairdressers in Hambledon Parade in the evening.

There were two engagements on the 16th, the first being the opening of a new veterinary practice in Solent Road, followed by a second, very successful, Mayor's Dinner and Dance at Waterloooville Golf Club in the evening.

On the 17th we attended a concert given by the Havant Symphony Orchestra at Oaklands RC School as part of the Havant Music Festival, while the following day we were at the Pallant Hall for a concert, again for the Music Festival, given by the choir of the East Hants Townswomen's Guild, and led by Councillor Beryl Francis. The 19th was the AGM of the Havant Youth Sail Training Scheme, which has been helping young people from the area since 1974.

The 21st saw us back on Hayling, this time to see a performance by the Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society of Alan Bennett's The Madness of George III at the Station Theatre. Back to Havant's United Reformed Church on the 22nd for the 10th Anniversary Tea Party of the local branch of the Macular Society, followed, in the evening, by a performance in the Meridian Centre by the Urban Vocal Group, again as part of the Havant Music Festival.

During the day on the 23rd the annual Youth Conference took place. As usual this was a very successful event, and thanks are due to our Communities team for this. There were some highly motivational speakers and the usual Voted by You awards, where three worthwhile causes gave presentations in support of their charities. That evening we went to the Bedhampton Social Hall for another concert, given by the Langstone Big Band, as part of the Havant Music Festival.

Finally, on the 24th, we first went to the Hayling Island Community Centre for the spring show of the Hayling Island Horticultural Society, where there were some wonderful displays.

The same evening, as our final visit to the Havant Music Festival, we went to Park Community School to hear ex-pupil Jay Jupe performing. Jay has a wonderful operatic voice but, unfortunately, had been unwell for some time and was forced to curtail his performance, with the second half of the concert featuring, at extremely short notice, members of the Dynamo Youth Theatre.