

Mayor's Report to Council, 27th February 2019

November and December were busy months and December brought many Christmas themed engagements. I was invited to attend many musical productions concerts and enjoyed a lovely Christingle Service at Hayling College, also the Havant Rotary Community Carol Service. I also helped to judge Christmas competitions, and took part in a Nativity.

I hosted a Christmas Coffee Morning at the Plaza where a local group Artscape Space rats came and entertained us with some songs. This put us in a festive spirit!

The Residents and Relatives Party at Springfield Care Home in December was brilliant, I enjoyed taking some of the resident's up for a spin on the dance floor; and singing a duet with the Lady musician.

The week leading up to Christmas I joined residents at the Acorn Centre Christmas Lunch and helped start their Christmas celebrations. The next day I was invited to the Beacon Church, Havant to assist them with packing Christmas hampers - these hampers are delivered free to those in genuine need at Christmas.

Following a very quick Extraordinary Council meeting in December, I joined Cowplain School to watch their brilliant production of Legally Blonde.

Our Christmas Charity Dinner Dance was held at Waterlooville Golf club where we were joined by fellow Councillors, family, friends, supporters and other neighbouring Mayor and Chairs. Dancing the night away to MG James Music. The evening was successful in raising considerable funds for my chosen charities.

Our first engagement in 2019 was sadly to the funeral of a stalwart supporter and actress from HIADS Station Theatre. Mayors of the Borough of Havant have been invited as guests to attend pretty much every production since the birth of the new theatre in 1994 – which was when Havant Borough Council offered the site of the Station Theatre for a 'peppercorn rent'.

On Sunday 13 January I attended the opening of the refurbished Barton's Green Pavilion. This is a vastly improved facility that complies to all modern standards and provides a safe and inviting place for new and existing players to come and play football. I feel sure that Widbrook United's club will grow and develop further and that many youngsters will enjoy playing football in their new home.

16 January saw me back at HIADS for their production of Goldilocks. The following week was full of meetings planning events for the next few months. In late January we held our Holocaust Memorial Service. Our commemorations including readings from schools within the Borough and artwork with the theme 'Torn from Home' was displayed back at the Plaza afterwards. The occasion was well attended. In the afternoon I represented the Council at a service celebrating the life of Tony Crisp RN Ret'd. Tony will be sorely missed by many, he bugled for the Council at many Civic occasions and was the Commanding Officer of the Naval Cadets at T S Active MTC.

The end of January I chaired a further Extraordinary Council meeting.

My first engagement in February gave me the opportunity to join the Chinese Association for the Chinese New Year celebrations a very colourful event. I was also proud to be able to attend and celebrate sporting achievements within our Borough at the Annual Sports Awards. Community Coffee Cup at Westbrook Hall celebrated their 5th birthday and it was an opportunity for me to make yet another celebration cake!

The next week saw me attending the Launch of Dementia Friends at The Spring, Havant and a performance of Legally Blonde by The Young Stars, Hayling Music Society. At the end of February, I was able to support Fairtrade, and at the same time raise some funds for my charity appeal. Havant has been a Fairtrade Borough for 10 years. The local Fairtrade group meet regularly and arrange a programme of events during Fairtrade Fortnight. This year the emphasis is on cocoa, empowering women and a living wage.