

Mayor's Report for Council 14th October 2015

I have decided that rather than give my fellow councillors a verbal report at Council, I would give a written one. Hoping that by giving members time to read the diary of events covered there may be some questions I can answer.

By the end of October, Andy and I will have attended not far short of 150 events. All have been interesting and rewarding in their own way, but of course some particularly so.

In Leigh Park and Emsworth, we have loved visiting the Right to Work CIC, seeing the young people of varying abilities either working on the land at Staunton Park, or serving lunch at Hewitts in Emsworth has been such a pleasure. Big World Impact in Leigh Park are a favourite too, so much so, we invited the High Sheriff of Hampshire, Lady Louisa Portal to visit them with us. She left Havant so impressed at the work being done with our young people, and has asked to be invited again. This we hope to do after Christmas. We invited all of the Leigh Park Councillors to meet with the High Sheriff and some were able to do so.

I must admit to such a sense of pride when I was able, as Mayor, to open the newly refurbished Play Park at Mengham Park. I must also add that the support of Councillors Lenaghan and Satchwell, along with PC Debbie Surrige made the whole Play Park for Hayling (PP4H) project possible. In addition, HBC officers from the Communities, Depot, Legal and Financial Teams all worked with PP4H team to see the project through. Hayling Park next we hope!

In Waterlooville, we thoroughly enjoyed all of the Waterloo 200 Commemorations. The Summer Fete was amazing, the organisation superb. And of course, my Andy so enjoyed the opening of the new Costa Coffee in the retail park!

We are very impressed with the Emsworth Business Association and the range of vents they put on for their residents. Visiting them is always a pleasure. The Emsworth Show was as always brilliant, even with the damp weather.

We very much enjoyed the Passion Play in Havant Park and our visits to St Faith's Church, Havant. The new vicar, Cannon Tom Kennar, is a delightful man who worked with us on the VJ Commemoration Service which was attended by Civic Heads across Hampshire. It was a very moving service with many veterans present. We have also had several enjoyable visits to The Spring. Councillor Buckley, I will never forget your part 'Princess Ida'.

Please don't be offended at the many events I have had to leave out; it is simply due to limited space and time.

All of our invitations are covered on The Mayor of Havant's Blog, as well as many on Facebook and Twitter. This is in the hope that our residents will be able to see what the role of the Mayor entails.

We have concentrated on Civic Events in the first five months of this year, although we had a successful Murder Mystery event recently which raised funds for our Community Chest. Coming up, we have the Halloween Quiz on the 30th October and our big fundraiser will be the Charity Christmas Ball on the 22nd of December at Warner's Lakeside Holiday Centre. We do hope that members will be able to support this event; it will be a great way of starting the Christmas festivities. We have not held any coffee mornings so far, but will be holding our first on the 16th of December.

As this is the first year in ten that Andy and I will be in the country, you can expect a white Christmas this year!

Thank you to those councillors who are returning their Smarties tubes, much appreciated. As for the Councillor who sent a cheque to the Community Chest as a Thank You for what I am doing, you very nearly reduced me to tears, thank you. It proves as we have always said, the Mayoralty is entirely non-political.