

## Mayor's Report for Council 9/12/15

By the time this report is read by my fellow Councillors, Andy and I will have attended in excess of 200 engagements so far in our Mayoral year. Looking at cost and relevance, we have refused a few out of the area with no visible benefit to us as a Borough and some have been completed on our behalf by the Deputy Mayor, Faith Ponsonby. They have been a great pleasure and honour for us to attend, and we hope that our being at their event has added to its success.

As Andy Cousins, my Consort and Partner will be at Council this evening, (we are attending a function after our Christmas drinks with our colleagues), I must publicly thank him for his unfailing support and obvious enjoyment of this year. I will however save his many amusing stories for the end of the year!

We are constantly amazed at the range of invitations that the Mayor's Office receives. We have not however felt able to support other Borough's Charitable fundraising or asked them to support ours, feeling that this was beyond the scope of the modern Mayor's duties.

The three other Harbour Mayors will be attending the Christmas Charity Ball at Lakeside on Tuesday 22/12/15, but as my personal guests, to reciprocate for invitations we have already enjoyed.

Thank you to all those Councillor's who have already booked seats/tables at Lakeside. Still room left! We are expecting a great night.

The Mayor of Havant's Community Chest is proving successful, we have held two charity meetings so far with our friends from the Havant and Hayling Island Lions Clubs. In a change from previous years, as funds are raised, they are then distributed to good causes. We saw no point in holding onto money that is needed now in our Community.

If any member feels a good cause in their ward could benefit in a small way from our help, please ask Anne Thurlow for a form to apply. Our smallest grant has been £100 and the largest, probably a one off, £1,500. The average is more likely to be between £100 and £500.

Any Charity, Community Group or good cause with our Borough can apply.

The Mayor of Havant's Blog continues to be looked at by both new and existing visitors, supplemented by Facebook and Twitter. We hope that our residents enjoy seeing what their Mayor does during the year. Some of the comments that come through as spam, are very interesting though! Good job I'm broad minded.

Next year we already have two important Civic events in the diary.

The annual Holocaust Memorial Service on 27/1/16 will be attended by Walter Kammerling. Walter, born in Austria in 1923 is a Holocaust Survivor. He will be speaking to us of his and his families experiences. This will be a very moving occasion I am sure.

In the Spring , we expect there will be a service at St Faith's War Memorial, where we hope the names of those service people lost in war or conflict since the end of WW2 will be added by way of a new plaque and blessed by Rev Tom Kennar. These names will be of people from throughout the Havant Borough.