

Mayor's report to April 2016 Council

As I start to write this report, I am looking back on the previous 46 weeks of my Mayoral year. The highlights personally and I believe for our Borough, have been several things:-

Parading out of Mayor Making to the strains of Land of Hope and Glory. I have a wonderful photo capturing the moment. Some of the guests were singing along too.

The Armed Forces Week in June, which we amalgamated with the Waterlooville 200 celebrations. Watching the soldiers and red clad band members march onto our Plaza was a wonderful sight.

Walter our Holocaust survivor, who attended HMD 2016, what a wonderful gentleman, 92 years of age and as bright as a button. A very moving experience for us all listening to his life story.

The updating of the St Faith's War Memorial on 13/3/16. Thank you so much to the at least 13 members who gave up their Sunday morning to support Our Fallen and their families. What a wonderful day. The relatives were so pleased that Our Borough although so busy and aware of economic restraints, pulled out all the stops to make this happen. I'll let you into a little secret, there were I believe, several members of "The Regiment" there that day. They didn't announce themselves, anonymous young men in suits, but they were there. There were also standing all along the back of the church, young men in uniforms of the Royal Navy Boxing Team honouring their colleagues. Lots of uniforms, medals and pride in their comrades.

Thank you Members, Cabinet and Officers for the unstinting support for this initiative, a long hard road but worth every moment. I think we can all be proud of what we have achieved.

Our last fundraiser of this Mayoral year is The Classic Vehicle Run on Sunday 10/4/16. Hoping for good weather and turnout as is usual for this annual event. We will also have a Bottle Tombola at Fort Purbrook. Run by our friends of The Lions Clubs of Hayling and Havant, who have been so supportive of The Community Chest, both financially and by given us their time. A truly selfless organisation.

The Blog continues to prove popular, with hits from many dozens of countries. It is fascinating the interest that is being shown in our engagements. It really is the age of social media, Twitter, Facebook etc.

We are honoured to sending on behalf of the Councillors ,Officers and residents of the Havant Borough, loyal greetings to HM The Queen on the occasion of her forthcoming 90th birthday.

I must thank the members of The Facilities Team and Anne Thurlow for their care and advice this year. They do all they can to make the year special for the current Mayor and for The Borough. I am sure I haven't been the easiest Mayor they have ever had, with my definite ideas of what I wanted the year to consist. But they have been alongside me all the way.