

Mayor's report to December Council

The last few weeks have seen Gerry being quite unwell, with the result that I have attended some engagements on my own, while others I have had to pass to the Deputy Mayor, Peter Wade, at the last moment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter, and his wife, Janet, for stepping in at short notice.

Towards the end of October attended events included Havant Rotary Club, Hart District Council's Civic Day, Havant Men's Shed AGM and another visit to the Station Theatre on Hayling Island for a production of the "Home". The last few days of the month saw us at the sacred Heart Church in Waterlooville twice in three days, first for an International Food Evening and then for an International Mass. In between was a visit to Tesco in Havant for the start of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and a visit to Hayling for an appeal on behalf of animals affected, in one way or another, by war and conflicts.

November began on a solemn note, with the funeral of Honorary Alderman Stan Massey on the 2nd. with the Fireworks on Stockheath Common being next. The next few engagements I carried out on my own, these being a GCSE presentation evening at Cowplain School, the unveiling of a plaque to the late Colin Mackey, a visit to Waterlooville Police Station to help judge entries for a Drink-Drive awareness poster, the Certificate Evening at Hayling College and a Remembrance Assembly at Mengham Junior School. Gerry and I then met a group of young children from Tops Day Nursery, who had made their own wreath to lay on the War Memorial at St. Faith's Church. On the 11th we were at the Memorial in Wecock farm for a moving Remembrance day service, before the annual procession, wreath laying and service in Havant the following day. This appeared to be the largest turn-out for several years, with many youth organisations being represented.

On the 14th we had the pleasure of meeting the Duke of Kent when he visited Apollo Fire Detectors for their 40th Anniversary of production in Havant. The following day we visited Fort Purbrook for part of the annual Junior Citizen Event, where Junior School pupils were given valuable insight into some of the dangers to be found in everyday life. The same evening saw us visiting the 1st Hart Plain Scouts during their "Parliament Week" activities. A visit to Funland on Hayling was next, for the opening of this year's Winter Wonderland. The 17th saw the official opening of the new warehouse facility for Fat Face at Dunsbury Park, while the 20th saw two celebrations of the Queen and Prince Philip's 70th Wedding Anniversary, the first being a Coffee Morning hosted by the Inner wheel Club of Waterlooville, while the second was a special service at St. Mary's Church on Hayling. The next day was the Mayor of Winchester's Civic Day.

I finished November on my own in Leigh Park for the opening of the wonderful Grotto in Greywell, with the switching on of the tree lights in Greywell and Park Parade following later in the evening.

And so to December. This began as November ended, with a solo visit to Emsworth for the switching on of the Christmas lights. We both attended two events on the 2nd, with the opening of the Christmas fair at Sacred Heart Church being the first, and a concert by the Havant Symphony Orchestra, at Oakland School, being the second. Another two events took place the next day, with a service at Hart Plain Church to celebrate their 50th Anniversary in the morning, and a very enjoyable visit to Belmont Castle Retirement Home in the afternoon.

As I write this, we are about to get ready for a visit to Mill Rythe Junior School, with another dozen or so engagements booked for the remainder of this year.

Gerry and I would like to wish you all a Very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.