

## **Mayors Report to council 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

I have been very busy since my inauguration on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018, after our ceremony we went to the Brookfield Hotel for the banquet and it all went well, even my speech.

The next day Janet and I went to Fernham Hall for the inauguration of Fareham's Mayor, very different ceremony from ours - but very enjoyable.

My first Mayoral, I cut the ribbon at McCarthy and Stone Hayling Island, and was shown around the building. The scissors they gave me were extremely large, made from wood they fell apart when I opened them. Luckily, we has a pair to hand!

Visited the arts trail at Hayling Island, we called in to 8 different venues and spoke with many artists, ended up at Northey Café for a cuppa.

At Portsmouth's Mayor Making, the Royal Marines band played some great music. We are getting to know the chain gang now, making lots of friends, and gaining experience for the coming year. The following day we attended the Mayor Making Ceremony at Gosport.

Attended the Ribbon cutting at Lidl Waterlooville, first customer received bottle of wine, had a tour round the store before it opened, the warehouse was empty to my surprise they only get in what they need to replace, no storage of food.

The day after, we attended the Open Space event at Leigh Park, all sorts of activity going on, they all had their own rooms doing their own thing working hard, with training rooms for beginners.

Paddleboarding at Emsworth, I read my first poem today it went down so well I have had to send it to various people as a printed hard copy. Some of the boards are blown up for the event then let down and put into backpack to stow away, strong arms are required for this they really travel along the water.

The Next day we attended the Winchester Civic Service at the Cathedral - we got there early as parking can be a problem.

Test Valley Civic Day met at the Orangery Houghton Lodge, we got there early to walk around the gardens, the service was in the green house unusual but was very well done. The choir from the girl's schoolmade it a special occasion.

We opened the Cinema in Leigh Park Community Centre. Very successful, there were lots of people and the tea and cakes were all made by the youngsters with learning disabilities. I have invited them to come and make some cakes for the cake making competition which will be one of my events.

Our next engagement was the funeral service held for Vic Pierce Jones at the Oaks Havant. Good to see so many councillors there paying their respects.

We attended Hayling Musical Society's performance of the modern version of Oliver staged at the Hayling Island Community Centre. I am not sure how they all learn the words and perform so well. Afterwards we went around the back to meet them - I am sure I stayed too long talking, but it was so interesting. We were shown all the equipment for making the props, so little amount of stuff for so many different items - people have lots of imagination.

The next day we went to the Stride Centre Daffodil Way Havant. A real Community event with Scottish Pipers, Dancers and the Emsworth Concert Band as well as side shows.

On the 5 June we attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, the weather was great so was the event.

An evening at Odiham, no aeroplanes allowed there just helicopters, a very good talk from the forces with lots of information. Looked round the buildings saw lots of photos from past and present heroes both men and women all doing their bit.

Visited Testwood sports centre at Totton to listen to the military band, the room was full, lots of people wanted to talk to us, met the man with the bugle who was coming to our flag raising ceremony shortly, the instruments were mainly played by young adults.

On the 10 June we held my Civic Service at St Wilfred's Church Padnell Avenue Cowplain. I made a couple of cakes to be enjoyed after the service. My chaplain, the Rev Ian Snares was brilliant the music from the Beatles went down well, Ian was dancing, all the audience were singing. I could not have chosen a better chaplain.

I received £400.00 from the Freemasons today to go alongside the money raised from the collection at the Civic Service - the fund is building for my charities.

Next we were off to the music festival at St Georges, the Military Wife's Choir were singing. Not what I was expecting, they were singing Sister Act songs with some songs from the war the audience was joining in, the whole night went well.

Attended an evening at Bishopsgrave Fareham, spent the night with the Chief Executive from Isle of Wight. Along with others including the Bishop we did not stop laughing all night.

The following day we attended Riverside School's summer fair, we had a go on the hand guns to try and shoot the pellet through some hole of different value. Next the bow and arrow with a sticker on I was a complete disaster, the Mayoress did get a duck with a hook on, we had a tour around the school, then back to the raffle.

Next day at the Ship Hayling Island we met up with Royal Marine on their Challenge Yomp. Some has walked 50 miles and has the blisters to prove it, all to raise some money for their charities, I am sure they did well.

Scriven's opticians invited us to cut the ribbon at their new premises at the Boulevard Waterlooville. They have rlocated from Wellington Way, their business has been going for 80 years throughout England.

On the 19 June I hosted my Charity Golf Day at Waterlooville Golf Club. We had nearly 70 players, and we all enjoyed the company and the banter. I am not saying who came in last, but apart from me, the rest of the team did not perform very well. The Auction was very well run as was the whole day. We had all 18 holes sponsored – many thanks to all that contributed.

We attended the Elm Leigh Hospital occupational therapy open day at New Lane Havant. Then we were off to Hayling College's prize giving , where I helped present some of the prizes to the youngsters.

The next day we were at the Kite surfing Armada at Hayling Island. I did not realise this is a worldwide event, people from all parts of the globe were there not only selling their products but taking part. One of the organisers showed us how it was done very successfully too. it was all so interesting we stayed hours.

Then off to the Rowan's Hospice Silver Jubilee Appeal launch at Portchester Castle. All the local Chain Gang attended and there were two girl singers who sang some rather rude songs which made the audience laugh all in good taste!

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June we attended the dedication of new gates at the Dissenters' Cemetery in Havant, after the ribbon cutting I gave a speech and then we were off to Fairfield School's Strawberry Fayre. A well attended event, with lots of stalls and an ecxcellente band at the start!

Next day we attended the Patronal Festival at St John's Church, Purbrook where I gave a reading. The lovely parishioners were very welcoming and looked after us.

Our Armed Forces Day Flag raising was on Monday 25 June, a very hot day to be wearing the robes and hat. The Mayor's Cadets all had roles and the bugler and musicians were from the Hampshire and isle of Wight Army Cadet Force Band. The flag was raised and flown in honour of our armed forces.

In the evening we were off to Portsmouth's High School in Kent Road for their Art & DT exhibition. We viewed lots of paintings and abstract Art, these were for their GCSE exam's. I am sure they all passed!

We attended the Samaritans' Annual General Meeting in Drayton again. It was good to see all the local Chain Gang there giving their support. We are getting to be known by a nickname not sure what mine is yet, but I am sure to find out as time goes by!

We invited the HI-5 committee members to come for tea in the Parlour so that we could congratulate them.

Next we were off to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hayling Scouts AGM meeting - so much happens on Hayling for such a small place. A small group of scouts and group leaders are off to America for their Jamboree – they have to give full reports on their return.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> June we attended the Schools in Bloom at Havant. Three school attended with 6 pupils all getting awards for their presentation's. They all look after the front of their school garden and the garden at the Resident Participation Centre. They grow vegetables and flowers, the oldest pupil there was 10 years old.

The next day we attended the annual Leigh Park Carnival. We walked around Park Parade then on to St Francis Church for the rest of the event. I gave out the prizes to the children, and of course, purchased some tombola tickets.

Eastleigh's civic service was held at Kings Community Church Hedge End, the church seated 120 – 150 people. It is the biggest church I have been to, with lots of room. The service was different and was attended by many dignitaries and it presented a good chance to catch up.

Stagecoach invited me to be a judge at their production of Beauty and the Beast, a Guinness book of record attempt. It had to start at 18.00 precisely with contestants for all over the world participating. All the door and windows were closed making it extremely hot in the auditorium, the ice cream was melting the drinks were warm, but the performance was good with the youngest performer 7-year-old was really good.