

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

July saw Janet and I attending a variety of events. We were pleased to present prizes to students at Purbrook Park School and receive some very strong handshakes from the students.

We spent an enjoyable evening at Whale Island watching a performance of Shakespeare's The Tempest staged by a combined cast from Royal Navy Theatre Association. The performance was outdoors so we were glad it stayed fine – it also included quite a lot of innuendo!

We attended the Family Church fun Day in Havant Park – a very enjoyable day. This free event gets bigger each year and there were lots of activities for children!

On the 15 July we attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Great Hall Winchester, before coming back to attend 'Beside the Seaside' organised by The Spring. We went to the smallest cinema in the world, sat inside a Whale for a short educational film all about plastic waste. We enjoyed a lovely cream tea!

The next few days saw us opening the Co-op funeral care premises at Widley where we were given an insight to all things funeral and the storage of coffins until they are ready to go to the cemetery. We attended the Love your Bones exhibition at Tesco Havant which was equally interesting, and we received an invitation to visit the Rheumatology Department at QA hospital later in the year.

Havant has a very successful Men's shed and Janet and I enjoyed visiting the shed and seeing some of the items made by the group.

I was particularly pleased to be able to visit the Community payback service who were doing some work at St Clare's Church, Warren Park. I met up with some old friends and colleagues from my working days and we made a video recording before leaving.

Later in July we attended the St Faiths Church Flower Festival, the church looked amazing – the people putting the festival on displayed some very expert skills.

Towards the end of the school term we attended the Riverside Leaver's Assembly.

We were pleased to be able to attend the Waterlooville Classic Vehicle Show where lots of excellent vehicles were on display - it was difficult to choose a winner and I chose a trike that the owner had made from scratch in his shed.

Most Mayor's spend a lot of time visiting Hayling and it was a pleasure to attend the Lifeboat Station for their open day and see two of their lifeboats. A few days later we went on the Hayling Harbour inspection – I am glad it was a calm day as I am not keen on being on the open sea – good job for sea sickness pills!

A highlight for us was joining Syd for his 100-year birthday celebrations. Syd is a resident at Rivermead Court and a remarkable chap who did a parachute jump a few days after we met him!

Music Fusion gave me the opportunity to show off my skills (not) as a drummer - I did not realise that it was so difficult to play the drums!

The next day we attended Springfield Residential Care Home for their Garden Part. some of the residents enjoyed dancing to a couple who were singing sixties music.

Early August saw us attending the Manor Trust Barden Party at the Elms, Bedhampton and then the 3 Churches Summer Fete on Hayling Island. Both were excellent and well attended events.

Mid-August we attended the U3A open day at Springwood and we got to learn the difference between Acrylic and Water paint. We attended a Gin festival on Hayling – we did not know there were so many different types of Gin.

It was a pleasure to open the Waterlooville Summer Fete in Jubilee Park – each year this event gets bigger and this year they had around 100 stalls. A week or so later we attended Waterlooville in Bloom when the Phone Doctor received First Prize!

Late August saw us attending the Making Space Studio in Leigh Park and then a very funny production of the Vicar of Dibley at The Station Theatre.

On bank holiday Monday we opened the renowned Emsworth Show. This was probably the biggest fair we have been too and very well attended. Janet did some prizegiving whilst I looked around the stalls.

The following evening, we hosted a ceremony bestowing the Honour of Honorary Alderman on Gwen Blackett. A very happy and enjoyable occasion.

On the 30 August we visited Step by Step for their BBQ at Krystal House, Havant.

Moving into September on the 1<sup>st</sup> September I held a cake baking competition at Westbrook Hall, and the Reverend Ian Snares My Mayor's Chaplain auctioned off around 20 cakes made by residents from the Borough to raise funds for my chosen charities the Rowans Hospice and Riverside School.

I was invited to Angel Radio to give an interview and the following day we attended the Hampshire Civic Day - a well-structured and informative day.

The recent weeks have seen us attending Southern Domestic Abuse where we learnt that out of 100% of abuse victims 60% are woman and around 40% men. Consensus in that more men suffer domestic abuse than women, but men do not report as much.

September seems to be the month for Civic Days and Showcasing as we attended Test Valley's Showcasing day and then Fareham's Civic Day.

It was good to be invited to attend the opening ceremony for Taylor Wimpey and the new Stonewater development providing much needed new homes in the area.

On the 15 September we enjoyed attending the Hayling Railways celebrations where we enjoyed a ride on a very old bus then a ride on the railway.

Having close associations with Thorney Island, each Mayor gets invited to attend a Sounding Retreat and as I write this we are getting ready to join them tonight on the Officers' Mess.