

Mayor's Report July 2019

It is now two and a half months since I took over the office of Mayor

Commencing with our own Mayor Making Ceremony on the 8th May and then the banquet which was held at the Brookfield Hotel. It was a memorable evening and the Brookfield gave us an exceptional dinner and superb service.

The following day we attended a wonderful Mayor Making Ceremony at Fareham whilst the Deputy Mayor represented me at the Havant Borough Talking News AGM.

Our next visit was to the Making Space preview of its open studios and I enjoyed the opportunity of meeting the tenants and all those who contributed to the studios. I was in my element here, enjoying the different crafts on show and appreciating the talent involved.

At the weekend, I visited the May Day Arts Trail held on Hayling Island and viewed many exhibits. Once again, I was struck by the amazing talent we have within the borough.

The ceremony electing the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth took place on the 14th May, and then on the 15th May it was the ceremony at Gosport. The Deputy Mayor was able to represent me at the Southampton Mayor Making Ceremony where I understand he caught up with Sandy Hopkins and was given a tour of the civic facilities.

The round of summer fairs began with the opening of St Albans Fair on the 18th May and was followed on the 19th May by my Civic Sunday Service at St Faith's Church when Canon Tom Kennar officiated. The service was a joy, and we all sung our hearts out with some wonderfully uplifting hymns.

As you all know, one of my chosen charities is Dementia Friendly Hampshire, and it was brilliant that I was able to attend the Dementia Action week session held at the Plaza, and meet many service providers. I am looking forward to attending its conference in September.

My next duty was to chair the reconvened council meeting, and the following week I joined neighbouring Mayors for the Samaritans AGM.

On Wednesday 29th May, I had the honour of attending the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, and although the weather was not kind to us as it was chilly and damp it could not dampen the pleasure of being able to attend such a unique occasion.

On the 31st May I hosted a Long Service Award tea for a member of our Pest Control team who told me lots of interesting stories about his service including some earlier years when he was part of the Facilities Team.

From a single achievement to the achievements of many, the 4th June provided the opportunity to be part of the Havant Volunteer Awards where we were able to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that volunteers make to our borough. Quite amazing!

The next day I was invited to attend the Lord Lieutenant's reception for new Mayor's and Chairs at the lovely Serle's House in Winchester.

The 75th Anniversary of D Day, brought some commemorative events, and I was privileged to be able to attend both. The Portsmouth event was very emotional and saw all the Heads of State from many countries pay tribute to the men who gave their lives for this country. Meeting some of the veterans was a great privilege and their stories were humbling. It was therefore fitting to lay a wreath at the COPP memorial on Hayling Island.

On Sunday 8th June, I was joined by several Councillors, past Mayors and others to celebrate the fife of our fellow Councillor Rivka Cresswell. A eulogy was read by Honorary Alderman Brendan Gibb-Gray and a tribute to Rivka was given by Councillor Lulu Bowerman.

In the evening I attended a Memorial Dinner for former Commanding Officer of T S Active the late Tony Crisp. Tony will be remembered for his bugling and his role within the cadet unit. Many of our Mayor's Cadets belong to T S Active.

On the 11th June a very different engagement when I was asked to launch the Emsworth Tree Warden's booklet. The booklet written with children in mind, gives information about the various trees highlighted in the trail. Early indication is that the booklet is well received by residents and plaudits have been received about its production and content.

The end of the week came to a rousing finale with the Waterlooville Music Festival, Last Night of the Proms with the Meridian Wind Band. It was a tremendous night well enjoyed by the audience and rounded off a very successful festival!

My first charity event was the annual Golf Day at Waterlooville Golf Club organised by Cllr Tony Briggs. I was able to tee off the first ball, and then in the evening, present prizes to the winning teams. At the time of writing we are still collecting funds.

The United Reformed Church had requested that I attend their special 10th Anniversary Celebration on the 20th June and it was a pleasure to join them.

This was the same date as the funeral service held for Brian Weeks at The Oaks. It was important to me to be able to attend Brian's service and I was able to leave a little early to go straight from the United Reformed Church to his service.

Brian was Cllr Yvonne Weeks' Consort in 2012 and he will be remembered for all the work that he did selflessly within our local community, especially his work around the Leigh Park Grotto at Christmas! He was a truly generous person always putting others first – he will be sorely missed!

As is customary I attended the Hampshire Scouts Annual Review where Joe Doherty from Hampshire Scouts Expeditions spoke about his Antarctic expedition when he became the first Scout to ski to the South Pole and kite-ski back!

The following day I attended the Hayling Island Kitesurfing Armada during 'Schools Day' this colourful event is in its 7th year!

Saturday 22nd June was an extremely busy day starting with St Thomas More's School followed by Springfield Care Home's Garden Party and ending with an International Yoga Day at Warblington School organised by the Hampshire and West Sussex Hindu Cultural Society. Three very different events but equally enjoyable!

The following day we visited the Peter Ashley Activity Centre Family Fun Day before attending the launch reception for the Bygone Festival being held on Hayling Island.

I was extremely proud to be able to honour our armed forces by raising the Armed Forces Day Flag at the flagpole outside the Public Service Plaza on the 24 June, in the company of many fellow Councillors, service personnel, cadets, colleagues and residents.

I joined other civic guests at the Mayor of Winchester's Civic Day commencing at Abbey House, followed by an interesting and educational tour of Winchester College and then a visit to Hursley Park the home of IBM for a tour of their facilities.

The last weekend of June I attended the Strawberry Fayre at Fairfield School, this was probably the hottest day of the year so far! Following this I attended the official launch of Havant and East Hants Mind 'Safe Haven'. This provides a safe and confidential space for young people who are in crisis and experiencing difficulty with their mental health and wellbeing.