

Mayor's Report to Full Council - 25 September 2019

July started off with the Waterlooville Arts Trail, and Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society's production of The Hound of the Baskerville. I have to say that the first ten minutes of Act Two saw me laughing until I cried! It was a great evening.

The following evening, I attended the St John Ambulance Awards Evening in the Great Hall at Winchester. At the Pallant Centre the following morning I met Mums, Dads, and children who use the Centre to meet and exchange advice and help. More drama was seen at the Spring with the Havant Light Opera production of The Mikado.

On the evening of Friday 5th July it was back to the Great Hall in Winchester to attend the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards.

The first Saturday of the month began with the opening of the first ever Bygone Festival on Hayling Island, followed by the opening of the Bedhampton Show. The afternoon was rounded off in the evening with a concert at Warblington School by the superb Emsworth Concert Band. The music was fabulous with a great programme.

On the Sunday we shared the disappointment of all those at the Springwood Centre when their fair was a complete washout with appalling weather. However, not to be daunted, everyone moved their stalls and displays indoors and we still enjoyed a good afternoon.

The following week we attended the Help in Bereavement 40th Anniversary Coffee Morning. The remaining weeks of July were busy interwoven with school events. The Deputy Mayor attended the Cowplain School production held at The Kings Theatre, whilst I chaired the Council meeting. The next evening, we attended the Purbrook Park School prize evening and a few days later the Park Community School Rewards Evening. On the 20 July I enjoyed the Classic Vehicle event held at Waterlooville and then in the evening the Hayling Island Choir Summer Concert. One of the final events of July was the Royal Marines Annual Yomp where we had the honour of meeting the team of Yompers at the Ship Inn at the end of their weekend challenge.

The weeks are simply flying by and August, with the start of the school holidays brought about a bit of a breather from the hectic pace of my first two months. There were no engagements until August 14th, when I opened the Three Churches Summer Fair on Hayling Island, but I am sorry to say there was nothing summery about it. It poured with rain and the event was moved into the Community Centre. However, that did not detract from the enjoyment as we visited all the stalls and watched the young dancers perform. A great deal of effort had been put into the event, but it certainly wasn't wasted.

On the 16th I had a second opportunity to attend the pre-opening evening of Making Space in Leigh Park. This is a wonderful Centre where talented people can hone their skills in a workshop environment and promote their various crafts.

On the 18th August I opened the Waterlooville Summer Fete in Jubilee Park. Once again, the rain had been pouring down since very early morning, but thank goodness it brightened enough to give the stall holders a much improved day. At 3pm I went to my first ever Passion Play held in Havant Park. A huge number of people took part and I was so impressed with the standard. This was without a doubt helped by the participation (he played Jesus) and direction of a professional actor and director who spends his life assisting local groups to put on their Passion Plays. The crucifixion at the end, where they managed to raise the three crosses with the actors tied to them had a profound effect on me. It was deeply moving, and I would recommend anyone to go and see one of these plays.

On Wednesday 21st I opened the Waterlooville U3A Open Day which was held at the Springwood Centre in my own Ward. Many classes were on view there that adults could join and the level of talent with artists, in particular was fantastic.

On the evening of the 22nd I was in my element with a service engagement to attend 2327 Squadron cadets on parade at their Headquarters in Havant. I was greeted by the Commanding Officer and my own Mayors Cadet Molly Benn, inspected the guard of Honour and spent several very happy hours with them.

The next morning was the funeral of the late Mayor Audrey Atterbury who was such an amazing lady and such a staunch supporter of the Conservative Party in Havant and who indeed attended both my deputy Mayor Making in 2018 and my Mayor Making in May this year, despite being in her 90's. She will be sadly missed!

The Emsworth Horticultural Society Show was held on the 26th August at its new venue at Thorney Road. It was a huge site and was packed for the day's event. There were some truly amazing exhibitors there, including snakes and reptiles, birds of prey, dog agility performances floral exhibitions and some of the biggest vegetables I've ever seen! I was also privileged to hear a young local man singing to entertain the crowd with the most glorious voice, who should undoubtedly be on the London stage. I listened in awe.

My final engagement which takes me up to the 7th September and the end of my fourth month was to visit the Portsmouth City Council Residents Participation Centre in Leigh Park to celebrate its 5th Birthday. This is a wonderful facility where residents can drop in and enjoy companionship and conversation plus a little cooking and gardening. I would thoroughly recommend that anyone feeling a little lonely or suffering from some form of disability, go to the Centre and see how much pleasure you could find there.

Regarding charity events, I was planning on holding my Charity Ball in October, but as there are several other events planned for around the same time. We are therefore postponing the Charity Ball until the Spring of 2020.

Edinburgh Woollen Mill are hosting a Fashion Show for my charity appeal at their Waterlooville shop on Wednesday 16th October. The evening will commence at 6.30 pm Tickets are priced at £6 and include light refreshment. All proceeds will go to SSAFA and Dementia Friendly Hampshire. Please do consider coming along to support. Those attending will be able to enjoy a discount on the night! We

are also on the look-out for models – male and female to show off the EWM autumn range of clothing.