

Mayor's Report to Full Council - 13 November 2019

September's arrival ended the small breather I had in August, and as the children went back to school the engagements increased. On the evening of the 7th, we had our second visit to the Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society and re-lived the wonderful comedy that was Dads Army. Great casting and acting took us back to that great series.

Our first engagement with a neighbouring authority came with the Basingstoke Civic Day, when we visited Laverstock Farm which is owned by the ex-Formula One racing driver Jody Scheckter and his wife and where they raise a herd of water buffalo and make the most amazing Mozzarella. We were able to visit some day-old calves and I could have stayed with them all day! In the afternoon we visited a local distillery which was fascinating.

The following day it was Fareham's Civic Day, and that began with a visit to Solent Airport and an enthralling time at a flight simulator and a tour of the airport. We had a heart stopping visit by two WW2 Spitfires which brought tears to my eyes. We then visited the Navy at HMS Collingwood and enjoyed some naval history in the wonderful surroundings of the Officers Mess. In the afternoon we visited Bursledon Brick Works, which is now a Museum and open to the public. This was a fascinating picture of life in our area, not so many years ago, and well worth a visit.

On the 12th September we went to the 10th Birthday celebration of the Spring in Havant, which was a very good evening. A very different engagement occurred the following day when Koko the only dog to ever be invited to the Mayor's Parlour, came to receive a certificate for collecting almost 1500 plastic bottles which her owner then recycles. We could all learn from her, stop throwing our litter all over our environment and take it home with us to dispose of properly. Well done Koko!

Malta celebration day was an opportunity to meet the many Maltese who live in our Borough. We were blessed with really good weather and this engagement was followed by lunch at the Havant Rugby Club to celebrate the official opening of the amazing extension to their facilities which will be of huge benefit to them. We watched a superb match between the Havant team and Chichester which Havant won with ease!

Sunday 15th saw us attend the Induction of a new vicar at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Crookhorn, and we hope that the Rev. Janette Smith enjoys her ministry there. Following a meeting for Dementia Friendly Hampshire at the Acorn Centre in Wecock Farm, we attended the Mayor of Test Valley Civic afternoon at the beautiful house and gardens of the Hilliard estate which was a wonderful event.

September 20th brought a visit to Hedge End for the AGM of Stop Domestic Abuse. This is such an important life line to many sufferers of domestic abuse,

and I was very happy to be there to support it. This was followed the next morning by joining in the Memory Walk for Dementia on Hayling Island, and then learning how to make pizzas and opening the new Papa John's Pizza Restaurant in Waterlooville.

Sunday was the Fareham Civic Service, which was very uplifting and in the afternoon, I took flowers and had tea with a delightful lady Mrs Joan Hillier, celebrating her 100th Birthday. It was a real pleasure and privilege to attend. On the 25th, after a Civic Dinner in Fareham the previous evening, I had four engagements, starting with a Cake Judging Competition at 9:30 in the morning, a visit to Havant Men's Shed, a Full Council Briefing, followed by Full Council and then hosting farewell in the Parlour for an Officer leaving after 23 years' service.

Saturday 28th saw me reliving my youth by riding down the seafront on Hayling Island on the back of a Harley Davidson to open the Bike Show at Eastoke Corner. What fabulous fun! I was then asked to judge the winning bikes, and chose two, one for the amazing artwork featuring The Pirates of the Caribbean, and the other for the devotion the owner had put into every inch of it. I had no idea these amazing bikes could cost soooo much!

Harvest Festival was celebration the following morning at the beautiful St. John's Church Purbrook, and I was presented very kindly with a beautiful bouquet of Autumn coloured flowers, which was a great surprise and made my day.

Friday 4th October saw me opening the newly refurbished Wickes store in Havant, and that was my last appointment for the end of my fifth month.