



Mayor's Report
Wednesday 22nd September 2021

13th May. Beauty Clinic cheque presentation.

I met Tom in the car park and we walked round to the Beauty Clinic in Leigh Park to accept a cheque for the Mayors Charity. Lee and Li, we're such generous people. We had a lovely conversation, and I stayed a lot longer than anticipated. For those of you that know me, know I love Orchids and the word Li is Chinese for orchids, also I have invited them both to the Mayors coffee morning in September and it is Li's birthday, so I will make her a cake.

10th June. Litter picking in Cowplain.

I arrived at 10:30 and met Daniel in the carpark and Ryan too who was the undertaker for the Co-op Funeral parlour In Cowplain. The Co-op were sponsoring the Cowplain "Trash busters", to help raise money for longer litter pickers, to help get stuff out of hedges and long grass. We had our photo taken by the Evening News first, I then spoke to some of the litter pickers. I deliberately wore flat shoes and raincoat and trousers, so that I could help litter pick too. We had great fun, they were such a lovely group of people from all different backgrounds, I had a long conversation with a pathologist from Queen Alexandra hospital who is a litter picker, also a long conversation with a young lad with mental health problems. The cakes were lovely, and we finally drew the raffle. I have never seen so many cigarette ends as that before, there must be some heavy smokers, that and finding a knife blade, was a bit shocking.

17th June.

Armed forces Briefing via Zoom. The briefing was introduced by CEO Patrick Crowley on behalf of the "SERFCA "Reserve Forces and Cadets association for the South East. It was a general overview of what had been happening during Covid and most meetings had been held remotely.

Their Motto is, 'To build and nurture enduring relationships with the wider community'.

The meeting explained the importance of working together as a team, also the importance of looking after your mental health.

21st June. Armed Forces Day flag raising.

Sue and I left Hayling at 10:00 and arrived at the Plaza to get changed for the short service and flag raising. Two of the Cadets came too, Lisa and Freddy, both very smart in their uniforms. Lisa did a reading after Sue Moss. The Mayor's chaplain did an excellent speech that encompassed the true reality of War. My speech was very short and the ceremony sadly had very few guests due to Covid constraints.

The facilities team did a great job as always, preparing the flag for Freddy to hoist and he did a good job too, I think the parents were very proud. We are very lucky to have them.

22nd June. Zoom meeting with Portsmouth Water boss, Bob Taylor.

I had researched first which had helped a little, I think he was impressed when I gave him the date that they started in 1857. He gave an interesting overview of the company and the work ethics, especially as most of the staff have worked there a long time, often other family members too. He did talk about the amount of water they produce, 170 million litres of water per day. He also went on to explain the mechanics of the Company and spoke about the "Thicket and plans for the future. They are hoping to become carbon neutral by 2030 and have won 2 Gold design awards.

27th June. The opening of the Hampshire Beauty clinic in Leigh Park.

Despite being a little disorganised in the beginning the day went well, and we were there for 4 hours in total.

First, we cut the huge ribbon to declare the shop open. There were lots of family and friends milling around outside. Lee and Li made us both feel so welcome. The Lion dance was amazing and to see it up close was a real honour. A young lady sang and played the guitar, she was the daughter of a friend. We were both very well looked after, there was tons of food and we cut the cake, all very impressive. We both sat outside at a distance with a former Mayor, Faith Ponsonby, and her husband (Faith was Mayor in 2016/2017). We had some beautiful Chinese food, after the cake, it was all delicious. I was asked to call the raffle tickets, they had some amazing prizes and so many of them, they had also raised money on-line too for the Mayors Charity. They raised a staggering £1082, an amazing amount, but a very humbling experience for the both of us.

29th June. Zoom meeting Havant climate alliance

A great meeting with Sue James, 2 of her colleagues and Anne Thurlow joined us too. We discussed the Green week for September which will also be during the same week as the Mayors first Coffee morning at the Plaza on Friday the 24th of September between 10:30 and 12.

An idea was discussed to ask local school children if they would like to design a poster and banner to advertise the event, Sue and Anne contacted the Schools and Sophie Fullerlove, Sue James and myself will be judging them at the Spring in Havant on the 19th of July. The children who have designed the winning poster and banner, will both receive a book token.

2nd July. Langstone Harbour board annual tour.

Sadly, we were unable to attend this last year due to Covid. Colin from the Hayling Ferry very kindly ferried us about as the Delilah is in for a refit. We saw some seals at the top of the harbour by Langstone and there were a lot of children in canoes having fun and some getting very wet.

4th July. Romsey Abbey.

We left early to allow plenty of time to find somewhere to park, there was a farmer's market on in town, so we had to drive round twice as most of the streets were closed off to find somewhere to park. Eventually after parking we found a coffee shop as we were really early. We both walked to the Abbey, an impressive building with an interesting history. When we arrived, we were shown to our seats and sat behind the Mayor of Eastleigh which is where we sat at Winchester cathedral too, so it was nice to see some familiar faces. The choir sang beautifully and there were several readings. We all had to queue for ages to leave the building, a bit like a wedding as everyone was talking to the chaplain and the Mayor of Romsey. This was followed by dinky canapés and something to drink. We managed to talk to the Mayor of Winchester, we were on one of the same committees together and to Cynthia and Derek from Eastleigh, we had our photos taken and thanked the staff at the Abbey and walked back to the car. I am so not used to walking in heels, by the time I got back to the car I was hobbling, but it was a great day and lovely to play a small part in the ceremony.

5th July. NHS Flag raising.

This was a very small ceremony. I met Sue, my chaplain outside and Neill who was sorting the flag out for me, not being used to flag raising, unlike Graham. I raised the flag just before we had 2 minutes silence. Again, Sue did an amazing speech about the NHS and the care and love that they all showed for the population during these difficult times. I thanked Neill and Sue after a few photos, it lasted all of 5 minutes.

8th July. Charity Golf Day at Waterlooville.

This was a huge success, with very grateful thanks to Waterlooville Golf Club, Tony Briggs, Anne Thurlow, Neill Payne, and Andy Vassallo. Without their help it just wouldn't have taken place for which I am eternally grateful. We set up the table and registered all the players, teeing off at 12, we had a few photos first, then prepared myself for my first shot, fortunately I hit it and it went for miles in a straight line, I was so chuffed, I was worried that I would miss, having never played golf before. I left just after 1 o'clock and popped into Asda

on the way home to buy some flowers for the auction for later in the evening. I had great fun sorting the flowers out. Graham came home from work and we got changed and went back for 6pm, don't worry they said, it will be casual, so poor Graham wore an open short sleeve shirt, much to Neill's amusement. We had a lovely meal and great company too. The evening was a great success and Tony did well with the auction, even though he forgot about my speech, but that gave me a bit more time to prepare myself. I did thank everyone for working so hard and the players, the staff and everyone for coming. I did mention Graham too as it put the lifeboat and their work into context as Graham had been called out twice last week in the same day. He had a standing ovation; I was so proud of him.

17th of July.

Hayling Voluntary Services and Rowan's combined jumble sale. 10:00 until 12:00

I was greeted by Matt Rugman and Lin Green of HVS, they even had a "throne for me at the front entrance, to sit and welcome the guests. It was actually a refurbished Mahogany commode, which I felt was very fitting in my previous role as a Nurse.

I bought a radio for my dad, some wellies for my Granddaughter and they gave me a huge cake before I left, I gave it to the facilities team to have with their teas and coffee.

In the afternoon both Graham and I attended the "Skate park Jam. An open afternoon to promote Skateboarding and BMX cycling also to raise awareness of the importance of exercise for youngsters and older people too. It was also a fundraiser to enable new concrete ramps to be installed at a later date. Sadly, a young lad fell off and had a nasty laceration to his hand, he was formerly a pupil at the Hayling college last year and he recognised Graham. I cleaned his wound and patched him up, much to the delight of his Mum.

20th July

Spring Arts Centre.

I had been to the Spring Arts centre the day before to judge some pictures done by youngsters of local schools within the Borough to help celebrate Green week in September.

We were welcomed by Sophie Fullerlove the director of the Spring centre with a soft drink before we wandered round looking at all the artwork. We are very lucky to have so many talented people living in the Borough.

A chap called Tom had the most votes from everyone with his depiction of a "Rower" and his huge hands, it was a very clever painting, we did suggest to him that it would make a great card, he said he would think about it.

It was nice to catch up with Councillor Crellin, Councillor Weeks and Councillor Branson.

I was asked to give a short speech after Sophie and thanked everyone for attending and congratulated Tom on his artwork.

23rd of July

Sea Angling Spectacular at Northney.

Both Graham and I attended a new event at Northney Marina which they hope to make an annual event. It was a sea angling event with all fish being returned to the sea, unlike most fishing events.

Sadly, neither the Lord Mayor nor deputy from Portsmouth could attend due to Covid.

Our host Ross Honey led the speeches with great emphasis on recycling and care for the environment, something that I hold very dear to my heart. Richard Craven the Chichester Harbour board was also there, and I gave a short speech, but sadly he had to dash off as his wife had broken her leg that day.

I concluded the speeches and thanked everyone for coming, but more importantly caring for our environment. The event was concluded with a chicken salad supper.

24th July. 2021.
Hayling Hi Fest music festival.

Both Graham and I met Tom from the facility team at the West Town pub, we were also met by Pam and Alan from the Hayling Lions club, for which the event had been organised to help fundraise for local charities. Maxine the landlady made us all a coffee and we spoke to some of the "artists, before having our photos taken by the Evening News.

After about 2 hours we went to Ralph's wine bar in Mengham and bought lunch and listened to more music from a very talented young man.

We then moved on to the Hayling Billy pub and listened to some great sea shanty type music. Again, the talent and enthusiasm were infectious, it was great to see many people genuinely enjoying themselves, something that we had not experienced for a long time.

26th of July
Rowan's Charity shop opening in Havant

I was met by Daniel the driver, we both decided to park at the big Tesco carpark and walk into the town as it was a lovely day. We were met by the fundraising manager and performed a ribbon cutting ceremony to formally open the shop, followed by official photos from the Evening News. It was nice to wander round the shop where I bought some clothes for the grandchildren but also a top for me for Mayoral duties.

I stayed and talked to the volunteers and also a trustee, that used to work at Queen Alexandra hospital years ago when I worked there, he has since retired and spends his time helping raise money for the charity.

31st of July
Havant Rugby Club open day.

We were both met by Andy one of the facilities team who handed us our chains, then met by Alan, who is the CEO of Havant Rugby club.

We were given a tour of the building and facilities and also senior members of the team.

We both waited in the members lounge for another Rugby colleague who introduced us to the children playing on the field adjacent to the club, again the enthusiasm of the club officials and the players was most impressive, had I have been 10years younger I would have joined them. They all seemed to be having so much fun.

We were treated to lunch a little later before presenting the awards to some of the players. I had a job to reach some of the older players with their ribbons as they were all so much taller than me and thought it was really funny to have to bend down for me to reach them. We had a brilliant day, and everyone made us both feel so welcome.

2nd August
Langstone technology park Fitness Centre Opening.

Simon, the facilities officer and I had arrived really early to miss the traffic so went twice round the large carpark, which was really great as I love walking anyway, so gave me time to "loosen up before I was being let loose on the Gym equipment. Mitch Avis took us on a tour of the park first, I didn't realise that so many companies operated from there. We then went to meet the team at the Fitness centre, it was very quiet with only a few people in there using the equipment. I did ask if I could take some photos to keep the Mayoral social media account up to date, so we took a few photos and left.

As Simon and I were walking towards the car, I said to Simon that they had missed a perfect opportunity to promote their business, so we both went back to take some more photos, they must have been thinking the same as they all piled out of the door as we got there, so, needless to say, more photos.

6th August

Waterlooville u3a celebrations.

I met the Chairman of the U3A and we went inside to meet the rest of the group, we both trotted round at a pace to try and see everyone before having a cup of tea and a speech before going round again at a slower pace to talk to everyone about their involvement with the group, most of the group were passionate about the areas that they were interested in, making it a very enjoyable experience talking to them all.

Later on, I cut the cake and made the usual speech thanking everyone. I managed to speak to everyone but left as they started to clear up around me. It was a really interesting afternoon.

7th August

BS Care in the park, thank you picnic for carers.

It had been heavily raining all day and Graham and I both arrived in the rain with Daniel.

Graham and I both spoke to service users and staff about the importance of good care. We also spoke to the carers and managers and listened to their stories of recent events and the devastating effects of Covid, with both the carers and their families. After the rain stopped, I asked some of the younger children to help me with the raffle, which we all enjoyed. As the sun came out the "Piper played too, Graham loves piped music, I must admit, it did make me feel very humble to be there and share their time and play a very small part in the afternoon.

12th August

Mengham Rythe Sailing club volunteers' drink.

Having been a volunteer all week at the Hayling Island Sailing club race event, this was an event to formally thank all those involved. It was great to attend as it is just up the road from where we live. We met Simon in the carpark and put our chains on. It was great to see everyone on the balcony, I felt really proud to play a small part in such a big event, we all enjoyed a drink and ploughman's, followed by flowers presented to me and speeches too. I thanked everyone for the flowers and managed to talk to most of the volunteers, some of which, never realised that it was us as Mayor and Consort.

14th August.

Havant Rugby Club 70th Anniversary.

We were met by Alan, the CEO who showed us to our table and Diana and James came too. The tables were beautifully laid out too. Gwen Blackett's son was there who is one of the England Rugby club bosses. Graham had taken her out on the Lifeboat years ago for a trip out in the harbour when they got tasked to a call. On the service return he did the next day, RNLI head office wanted to know why the Mayor was on board. It wouldn't be allowed now!

19 August.

Sam's Sunflowers

Graham used to work for Stoke fruit farm years ago after he left school, so we have both known the family for years. It was a real delight to be invited to see the work they had done to make the sunflowers such a success. It was an amazing experience followed by tea and scones and lots of personal photos, also the grandchildren were there too so it was a great day.

21st August.

Co-op Mengham Fundraiser

I was invited at the last minute to attend a fund raising event at the local Co-op on Hayling Island. When there I met up with a friend's son - he had a lovely time; we both had a go at boxing and spoke to a few residents after having our photos taken for the local paper. I was unable to stay long as I had a hen party to go to at 1pm.

25th August.

Hayling Island Amateur dramatic society "A bunch of Amateurs.

This was the first play of the year following the outbreak of Covid, we all sat at a distance with our masks on, however, it was nice to get completely lost in the production about a group of amateur dramatics possible loss of venue for the group and trying to persuade a famous American player to join them. It was very well played and we both enjoyed it.

26th August.

Berewood, Grainger homes.

I was invited to visit the site to see for myself the amount of thought that had gone into the planning and organisation of a 250-acre site over 10 years for completion. I met up with Vivian Ascherl, the Mayor of Winchester too, we were both on the same committee, The Health and Overview Scrutiny Panel for the NHS so it was nice to see a familiar face, we were both shown round the vast site, followed by a presentation with tea and biscuits. The residents had been involved throughout the process, including a Primary School a health centre and local community centre too.

30th August

Emsworth show, Thorney Island.

Again, we both arrived early, to miss the queues and drove straight to the front of the carpark to our allotted space. We were met by Sarah after meeting with Daniel first, to put our chains on. We met Faith Ponsonby a former Mayor who was the organiser. After a brief history of the group and a 150-volunteer force to help with the organisation of the show that had sadly outgrown its venue in Emsworth due to its popularity had moved to the Christian life church in Thorney Island. We walked round and spoke briefly to some of the stall holders, but when we visited the Portsmouth Reptile centre, I could see Graham visibly withdrawing, he is terrified of snakes. We were introduced to "Syphon the Python, a 12-foot albino Burmese python, was draped round the neck of one of the handlers, when he asked if we would like a photo, I didn't think I would see Graham for dust, he reluctantly held the tail, while I held the head. We both made it into the local news. I was so proud of Graham, all in a day's work you might think, but not if you are terrified of snakes.

We then went to the announcements tent and did a short speech thanking everyone and also how brave my husband had been to which he received a round of applause. I also received a bunch of flowers too, which was unexpected as I had taken some for Faith from us as it had been a special birthday for her recently. We both had a light lunch and were then left to wander round and talk to the visitors. Everyone seemed so happy to be out in the open enjoying the show that everyone had worked so hard to arrange.

A great day was enjoyed by all including us, we were shattered when we got home and after a cup of tea, both had a snooze to recharge our batteries.

3rd of September

Raising of the Red Ensign

To commemorate the Merchant Navy, we raised the flag in a simple ceremony assisted by Simon from the facilities team, a photo was taken for social media.

7th of September

A visit to the High Sheriff of Hampshire in Basingstoke.

An amazing evening talking to the Coleman family from the "Coleman's mustard factory. One of the family had been High Sheriff last year but unable to celebrate the occasion had let this year's High Sheriff use her beautiful home and gardens, set in 4000 acres of perfectly manicured lawns and borders, complete with peacocks, canapés and sparkling rose' and iced Rhubarb soft drink.

Fortunately, we knew David from Portsmouth and Vivian from Winchester. We met Sir Michael Coleman briefly and Phillip Sykes, the High Sheriff of Hampshire, welcomed us to the evening and he explained a little about his background. The role is purely voluntary and there are only 12 in the country, the term being for one year only - similar to the Mayoral year but dating back to the 1100's. We both had an interesting evening despite the long drive there and back, a most memorable experience.

The theme for the Mayors coffee morning in September was to support green week, and was arranged at the start of the Big Green Week, launching a programme of events organised by Havant Climate Alliance. So we used China cups with fair trade tea and coffee. The morning was held at St Faith's Church and we were made really welcome. We were grateful to receive donations of cakes and raffle prizes and pupils from St Thomas More's School came and sang. The morning was a celebration of all things green within the Borough.

For me, it is such an honour to be able to represent the Borough in a positive way and to meet so many lovely residents too. Also, a big thankyou to all my colleagues who support me, especially my family, but also the facilities team and officers, I couldn't do this without your support, and I thank you all sincerely.

Thanks, Rosy

Rosy Raines

Cllr Rosy Raines
Mayor of Havant
Councillor, Hayling East ward