



Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mayor's Report
September/October 2021

With two full council meetings already chaired, and being on a steep learning curve, especially protocols for debate, I do feel the information in starting to sink in.

I cannot believe that we are almost halfway through our term of office. The time has gone so quickly and both Graham and I have felt humbled to have met so many interested and talented people within our Borough makes us both incredibly proud.

KITE SURFING FESTIVAL 10/09/2021.

The first time with a driver, "Tom", made the occasion an even more special day for me. Sadly, Graham was at work and unable to accompany me. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces, especially in the children's tent, where they were given a talk by world champion Lewis Crathern about the environment and water safety. This was followed by a demonstration on the water, such an incredibly talented young man, who will hopefully inspire the youngsters to have a go at Kitesurfing.

The thing that impressed me the most was the care for the environment that was clear for all to see with Final Straw foundation, clearly visible with "Nelly the fish for recycling cans and plastic water bottles.

SEAFARERS SERVICE, PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL. 12/09/2021.

A prestigious service remembering past seafarers who have lost their lives at sea.

A time for wearing the Robes and having Neill Paine the facilities manager to help with the robing process. The Lord Mayor Frank Jonas led the ceremony followed by Naval dignitaries, the Mayor of Gosport, and his Mace bearer, then Neill my Mace bearer followed by myself. The MPs of Portsmouth followed behind, whilst we walked to the Cathedral and were then shown to our seats where our partners were waiting. We all had masks on during the ceremony, following Covid guidelines.

It was a thought-provoking service, both for Graham and me, there were readings from the Dean of Portsmouth, then the Lord Mayor's Police cadets. The choir sang in between. After the service we were all handed our wreath to take with us before we all paraded to the Nelson Memorial in Old Portsmouth. The first to lay a wreath was the Lord Mayor followed by the Mayor of Gosport then myself, an honour indeed, to play a small part on such an important occasion. After the MPs had laid their wreaths, we then walked up the slope to the "Hot walls to watch the Lord Mayor cast a wreath of flowers to commemorate the sad occasion of those who had lost their lives at sea.

We had a chat to most of the dignitaries and the Mayor and Mayoress of Gosport. I also went to thank the chaps from the council, much to their amusement, it turns out that one of them has a Nephew who lives on Hayling who we both knew!

After the ceremony we walked back to the car and took the robes off and put them in the back of the car. We had 2 hours to kill before our next appointment so went and found a pub for lunch. After we had finished, we walked back to the car and Simon our driver took us to our next engagement in Lovedean.

70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 12/09/2021

We all arrived a few minutes early so got out of the car and chatted in the carpark whilst we waited. The daughter of the couple celebrating their anniversary arrived and Simon went to speak to her. As it was a surprise visit, the daughter had not told her mum and dad about us both coming to see them. We both then went back into the car to wait for their arrival so as not to spoil the surprise. They both arrived a few minutes later and we followed them both in. They were both so surprised, it was an amazing feeling to feel so appreciated by everyone for such a simple act. We had brought them some flowers and a Mayoral card which she really appreciated. We both sat and had tea and cake with them and talked about their family. Everyone was so kind and made us feel welcome. Although it was a special day for them. It was special for us too. One that we will always remember.

U3A OPEN DAY HAYLING ISLAND. 16/09/2021

Tom arrived and put the chain of office on before we left for the U3A Open Day. Sadly, Graham was at work, so was unable to accompany me. As we arrived in the carpark, a gentleman on "carpark duty did not realise it was the Mayoral car and said to Tom, "sorry mate you can't park here, the car park is full, Tom thanked him politely and said, "that's ok, I'll just drop Madam Mayor off at the front door, it was so funny, the chap apologised profusely, it did make me smile.

I was met by Ann who showed me round at a rapid pace in between photos. Again, it was so lovely to see so many residents whom I recognised, who all wanted to ask me lots of questions. We then walked to the Radford Guide Hall to see the rest of the exhibition, it was interesting, to see the different activities that were on offer and the enthusiasm of all the members was inspiring.

The speaker for the afternoon was Malcolm Wells, who is a professional speaker. He travels around the country, talking about his past life and experiences of which there were many. It was funny but also conveyed the message about helping people, something I hold close to my heart. After he had finished the chairperson thanked him, then asked if I would like to come up and say a few words. I gave my usual thanks, and indicated that I will join the local U3A, when I have finished my year as Mayor. I was invited to go unofficially to the AGM on the 21st of October, but forgot that I had done so many engagements, my report took longer than anticipated to finish so sadly I missed it!

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING. 16/09/2021

Graham and I both had an early dinner and left for Southsea at 5:15 not knowing how bad the traffic would be leaving the Island or going into Portsmouth. We arrived early and parked the car in the school carpark. We both spoke to one of the staff to check that it was ok to leave the car there and walked into the town centre to pass some time. We then walked back to the High School and were shown to the Sports Hall. We sat next to the Mayor and Mayoress of Gosport, so it was nice to see someone we both recognised. The Award ceremony started with a Cello piece, played by one of the students. This was followed by a few short speeches from the students before being given their certificates. At the end there was a brilliant concluding speech by the chair of Governor's who is well known throughout the Country and has achieved great things during her life partly due to past experiences, she was an inspiration to both us and the students. A speech from the head teacher thanking everyone for coming and especially the students for doing so well in their exams. The Ceremony concluded with a piano piece by one of the tutors who ironically used to be married to one of the Lifeboat crew on Hayling.

When the ceremony had finished, we went to another theatre across the courtyard for some photos and canapés. We both met Stephen Morgan an MP for Portsmouth and chatted to him for a short while. We also spoke to some of the tutors who seemed nice. The one thing that struck us both was the confidence that most of the girls displayed, together with kindness and empathy, also at least half of them were wearing "Doc Martin shoes. It is a real shame that mine are now beginning to show their age! It was also a pleasure for us to meet some family's from Hayling too, and have a quick chat with them, before we thanked the staff and left, another great evening.

MAYORS COFFEE MORNING. 17/09/2021

The facilities team staff put a lot of effort into making this day a success, Tom Kennar the vicar of St Faiths, the RNLI, and Sue James from Havant climate Alliance, all worked together and without all their efforts the coffee morning would not have been able to take place.

I managed to ask the Co-op on Hayling if they would be able to donate some Fair-Trade tea and coffee which they kindly helped with, knowing the manager does have its benefits sometimes!

We all arrived early to set up the tables and chairs under the expert guidance of Neill Payne the Facilities Manager and Tom Kenner who kindly offered the Church as a venue, for which I was very grateful. It is a beautiful church and worked perfectly for what we were trying to achieve. Our coffee morning was held at the beginning of Green week for the Borough but was also a fundraiser for the RNLI which is my Mayoral charity. The children of St Thomas More school came and sang a new "Green song they had all been learning in their dinner hour at school. They sang it so beautifully that I asked if they would sing it again, and they were loudly applauded with everyone enjoying it. We had a raffle and Angie very kindly ran the Tea's and coffees for me. Nigel Roper gave a short speech about the RNLI, followed by an auction for some great cakes that Cllr Pam Crellin had brought in. I gave a short speech thanking Tom, Neil and his team, Anne for running the Raffle table, all the Alliance group, the RNLI & the school children and teachers who were great. I couldn't have done it without them, together we raised £184:64.

OPENING OF HSBC BANK WATERLOOVILLE 21/09/2021

I drove to the Plaza and met Dan in the carpark to go to Waterlooville high street to open the New Digital bank. It was a beautiful day, and the sun was shining as we put the chains on and walked up to the high street. We were met by Matt Boardman who was the manager and cut the ribbon to the connecting door within the bank. Being very frugal I cut the ribbon near the beginning so that it could be used again, (I hate waste)!

There was a queue of customers waiting to come in, so I opened the door and welcomed them in, they were quite surprised when I opened the door. There were plenty of staff to show them how to use the machines.

The manager asked me to cut the cake to celebrate the occasion and we all had a small piece. I wished him luck and left, one of the quickest Mayoral visits I think so far.

WARBLINGTON SCHOOL GREEN WEEK 21/09/2021

I arrived with Daniel the driver and was met at the front door by some Pupils. After speaking to all the pupils, I then presented Rebecca with her book token. Rebecca had won the competition to design an eye-catching poster to advertise Green Week within the Borough. Sadly, I had missed the conclusion of Green week at the Meridian centre on the Saturday where I should have presented Rebecca with her Token then as I had been unwell.

We all went to have a look at the school's newly created garden and to see how much work they had done, being a gardener too, I could empathise with them how hard it can be sometimes but did offer to come back and help them and explain the importance of looking after nature and the environment, something I hold dear to my heart. Their followed a short question and answer session, but they all seemed far more interested in the chain and how heavy it was! I thanked them for inviting me and the visit concluded with a photo by the main entrance, and I gave them all a Mayoral pen, fortunately Dan had some more in the car as the teachers wanted one each too. A pleasant afternoon!

SAMARITANS AGM 21/09/21

This was an interesting evening, but very humbling listening to their efforts to continue to raise money and awareness of the important work they all do especially during the Pandemic.

At the end of the AGM, I stayed and talked to some of the staff and the lady who works in the Charity shop in Southsea recognised me and thanked me for spending money in her store, I did say to her that I will be going back soon. Bev, the lady that had looked after me during the evening was very kind and made me a cup of

tea, while everyone was tucking into a buffet and wine, I even declined the cake as it was getting late in the evening so left about 9pm to go home after a busy day.

WATERLOOVILLE BOWLING CLUB EXTENSION OPENING 23/09/2021

Daniel picked me up and we drove to Waterlooville, it was so lovely to be driven and not to have to worry about parking. We were met by Paul Buckley who used to be a Councillor with HBC until 2 years ago, he is the President of the club and had established a working committee to be able to start work on the recent extension to the bowls club. We walked round to the front entrance where Paul gave a detailed speech about the history of the club and the extension, the Architect was there as well as lots of members and their families, this preceded a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a small posy of flowers presentation to me from a club member. Paul showed me around the building together with the architect to explain the improvements and the difference it would make to the club including the Gents toilets and locker rooms that were twice the size of the female's facilities, the answer being, there are twice as many male members than female!

We all went to the members lounge area where I was asked to propose a toast to the new extension and its success which I did. I managed 2 mouthfuls of Prosecco and managed to hide it behind the blinds by the windowsill. Drinking during the day is not good for me.

It was lovely to see a former work colleague who I had not seen for 17 years whose husband was a member of the bowling club. It was great to catch up and she is now thinking about joining the club too.

I met the HBC planning officer and spoke to him briefly before I left. I went to find Paul and thanked him for the invitation and wished him and his fellow colleagues' success. Before leaving both Daniel and I walked past the Park and had a quick peek, I would say that it is even bigger than the Hayling Park where my dad was Park keeper years ago, with the best Bowling green in Hampshire at that time.

PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL 23/09/2021

Both Graham and I drove to the Portsmouth Grammar School and parked within the school grounds. We were met by one of the staff and taken to the library building, a beautiful room, lined with wood and some books. The room had been cleared to accommodate everyone in a Covid compliant manner. I did have a small glass of Prosecco, as did Graham. We spoke firstly to the Mayor and Mayoress of Gosport, who we have both met on previous occasions. We then spoke to the head girl and her mum and Nan who had come from Arundel to see her daughter giving a speech at the Cathedral.

After a short time, we were asked to walk across the road to the Cathedral where we had both been recently for the Seafarers service. We were shown to our seats and sat down. The students were given awards by various guests concluding with a speech of thanks from the headmistress. This was followed by a speech from an eminent speaker, but I think it was the most boring speech I had ever heard. No passion in her voice and half the children and families were finding it difficult not to nod off. When this finished, we then walked back to the School for a hot buffet. We spoke to a few more parents for a short while, then thanked the staff and came home, an interesting evening.

WINCHESTER GREEN WEEK 03/10/2021

Graham and I drove to Winchester early and had lunch in Owslebury where our son was working and spoke with Sam briefly, before driving on to Winchester. We walked through the City to the Cathedral, as we walked in and waited to be shown to our seat Phillip Sykes and his wife, the High Sheriff of Hampshire were stood in front of us. Having met them before recently, we had a quick chat before being shown to our seats.

The theme for the week was recycling and being green, very similar to our week too.

We stood for the procession and then all sat as they took their seats in front of us.

This was followed by a speech and some hymns, an amazing service in a great building, steeped in history. A procession of local groups and churches with placards pledging to recycle made their way up to the front of the cathedral. A concluding speech closed the service.

As we left, we thanked the staff at the door and popped into the Cathedral cafe for a cup of tea before we made our way home. Another lovely service.

THE SPRING ARTS CENTRE IN HAVANT 8/10/2021

Both Graham and I took our own cars and met Tom in the carpark to put the chains on. We also took Sue Moss, my Chaplain and Johnathan Bradbury, Lifeboat operations manager on Hayling Island. We were met by Sophie and taken into the main area between the reception and coffee lounge, and I dropped off the flowers that I had taken with me. We greeted other Councillors and colleagues of Sophie Fullerlove before being shown to the theatre area for a short presentation by Sophie explaining what the Spring Arts centre has to offer.

Afterwards, we mingled at a distance in the Museum area with drinks and canapés. We met a musician called Jinx who in his small studio explained to us the work they do with troubled children in the area and the difference that music has made to them, increasing their confidence and self-esteem. He even let me have a go on his drums, Graham declined his offer.

Gill Kneller gathered all the guests together and I gave a small speech thanking all those who had made time to attend the evening. I explained that Sophie had kindly allowed me to judge the pictures for the Green Week Competition at the Spring, and that the floral display that I had made were a thank you to Sophie for all her support and help. It was a nice evening, but a shame that so few Council colleagues were able to attend. It had been a tough week for Graham and me, so a huge thank you to those that did come!

BRITISH LEGION 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 9/10/2021

Tom arrived and helped both Graham and I with our chains before we made our way to the Royal British Legion on Hayling Island to help celebrate 100 years as an organisation.

We were met by Andy and Leah who introduced us to other members who were coming to the parade, it was nice to see Ken Smith there as well as Alex Rennie, and Alan Mak MP along with one of his staff.

I met a lovely little girl called Lola who was waiting patiently for her dad to get ready to be flag bearer. I gave her a Mayoral pen and asked the barmaid if she had any paper which she gave me a few sheets of clean paper. I folded into half and made a little book for her and put her name on the front, she seemed really pleased.

After the introductions we made our way to the Cenotaph after picking up our wreaths to take with us. Jenny Gaffin took the service, and after the service we laid our wreaths, I was followed by Ken Smith, another gentleman whose name I have forgotten, Andy Cousins and lastly Alan Mak MP. The National Anthem was played before we left.

We all walked back the short distance to the Legion and had a drink, coffee for me, I am not good with alcohol during the day and drink very little now.

OFFICIAL MAYORAL PHOTO 11/10/2021

I arrived at 11:30 for official photos to be taken.

I was helped to Robe by Andy from the facilities team. It seemed odd putting them on only to have my photo taken. Something I have never had done before. Richard the photographer was very patient and took his time trying to find the right angle etc. It didn't take long, and I was soon back in normal clothes. It was nice to catch up with Anne briefly and quickly run through the diary.

AGE UK COWPLAIN LIZ WOOD VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION 14/10/2021

Daniel came to collect me, and we went to Cowplain to surprise Liz Wood who is a volunteer with Age UK in Cowplain. She had been cooking and delivering meals every week to the residents during lockdown that would normally have come to the hall for lunch. She was nominated for the award for her selfless compassion and care for her community. Liz was unaware that I would be there and was very surprised when she saw me. Her colleague introduced me, and I also thanked her for her selfless dedication to her residents. I gave her a flower arrangement that I had made, a certificate from HBC and a cut glass paperweight.

I was only there for a few minutes as the residents were waiting for their dinner. We had our photos taken and then a reporter asked me a few questions, then I left.

GORSEWAYS RETIREMENT HOME 14/10/2021

I was asked to attend the Gorseway nursing home on Hayling Island, to open 2 wings that had been renamed, the Queen Elizabeth unit and Prince Phillip unit.

I had worked there over 30 years ago when my first husband was alive, so it seemed strange being back there in an official capacity, although I had visited previously as a Community First Responder.

It was nice to see what improvements had been made after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

I was shown round by the manager and we talked about the care that patients required.

After the ribbon cutting, we were taken to the lounge for tea and scones, made by the chef. It was nice to sit and talk to some of the staff and a member of staff asked if I would be happy to go and see 2 patients, one was 101 last week and the other lady loved Royalty and I was the next best thing!

The lady of a hundred and one was the mother of a lady that I had met recently who is a volunteer fundraiser for the RNLI. IT was lovely to meet her, and we talked about what she did in the war, she was an engineer and worked for the Royal air force, she had worked hard all her life and liked it at Gorseway. I told her I worked there a long time ago and she asked me if I had liked it there, yes, I did. I then went downstairs to see the other lady who liked Royalty and I apologised that I was not the Queen, she was a lovely lady, but was riddled with arthritis and was in bed, she seemed happy to see me and asked me lots of questions about being the Mayor and where was my consort, I explained that he was still at work, so sadly was unable to come with me that day. Another good day, it was nice to feel that I may have brightened someone's day.

PALLANT AESTHETIC'S OPENING 15/10/2021

Graham and I were both met by Tom at home and put the chains on before getting into the car. We drove to Havant to the new Pallant Aesthetics business, as we pulled up outside the main front door, we were greeted with people lining the street and clapping, that has never happened before, I felt quite embarrassed. We both smiled and thanked everyone. We were met by Jo and Kerrie and had a few photos taken before we cut the ribbon. We then went inside. After a short speech from Jo, we were given a glass of Prosecco and I proposed a toast, but also thanked Mr Fudge, the Manager of Waitrose next door who had supplied the fizz and wished the team well in their new business.

We were shown into one of the treatment rooms where Kerrie gave a demonstration of some of their work on a willing volunteer. The lady looked amazing when she had finished. I spoke to Kerrie afterwards for a short while before we moved into the reception area for a few more photos. We thanked everyone and wished them well and left to go home.

ST SWITHUNS SCHOOL SERFCA AWARDS. WINCHESTER 19/10/2021

We were invited by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq, to be part of the Awards ceremony for meritorious service and Best Reservist Award and Appointment of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadets 2021-2022.

It was an honour to be invited to attend the event. When we first arrived, we went to talk to a young lad, whose name was Ben and his mum who were standing on their own and everyone else were in little groups chatting. We introduced ourselves and they had come from Fareham, so it was nice to talk to someone local. His mum was so proud of him, and it was lovely to witness. As we were chatting Brigadier Maurice Sheen came over to speak to us and introduced himself, he seemed pleasant and gave the first speech after which we were escorted to the theatre. There were lots of speeches followed by a presentation of what they do and where they go, including training and mixing with the local community.

The first awards were to SERFCA volunteers for meritorious service, then the best Reservist Award, followed by the appointment of her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadets.

It was an amazing experience to think that all these people were volunteers, all doing a fantastic job. After the ceremony we went back up to the Harvey hall where we all met when we came in. A hot buffet had been laid out. It was all nicely laid out and we chatted to Vivien Ascherl the Mayor of Winchester and her husband. It was nice to meet so many interesting people from all walks of life and hear about their stories. We also met Onalee who is the Mayor of Basingstoke, I met her a little while ago at Hillier Gardens near Romsey recently. Finally, the Lord Lieutenant came over to introduce himself and thanked us both for coming to support the event, he was a lovely man, and it was easy to speak to him. He was very interested

in Graham's medals, especially his MBE. I cheekily asked him if he would mind having a photo taken with us and he agreed, I know he is used to it, but it was a real honour for us. Just after we finished most of the other Mayors came over too and asked for a photo, for which he obliged. Before we left, we went and found Ben and his mum and introduced them to Pam, the Mayor of Fareham and left them chatting. We thanked all the staff on the way out and made our way home.

Having met the High Sheriff and the Lord Lieutenant recently has been a huge honour for both of us, that just leaves the Queen or Royal family. We are both so lucky to have met some wonderful residents and dignitaries whilst in our role as Mayor and Consort for which we are both truly humbled and honoured.

A huge debt of thanks goes to Neill and his team for his continued support. Anne also for her support, she manages to keep me in check, most of the time, also my Council colleagues and Officers too. Without you all, we would not be able to function for which we both thank you most sincerely.