



Mayoral report for November/December 2021

23/10/2021 - Presidents lunch at Havant Rugby club

We were picked up by Andy our driver and taken to the Rugby club, a venue we both love to visit as they make us so welcome. Graham spoke to the secretary and I went off to speak to the waitresses who were stood poised and ready for action. I explained that I too used to be a waitress and knew how hard they worked and that we both really appreciated all their hard work. We sat with the Managers and officials from Dorking RFC. They were all very friendly and invited us to visit them too! After dinner we all went and sat in the terrace to watch the match with a very close score 19 to 21 to Dorking, an excellent game!

26/10/2021 - The Final Curtain, Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society

The Play was based on a family during the First World War. The cast were brilliant, and we thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

31/10/2021- St George's Church Waterlooville

We were welcomed by Chris Gadd and shown to our seats. The service was to celebrate the departed, especially those that had died from Covid. It was quite a sad time for us as Graham's mum had recently passed away, so a few tears were shed.

3/11/2021 - Full Council

Our last Full Council meeting before Christmas and the last one of the year. There were a lot of deputations for me to do, but I managed most of them without too many mistakes.

The last item was a notice from me to remind all the Councillors about the Mayor's coffee morning in December, but they did all seem a little surprised when I erroneously announced the start time was 07:00 in the morning, this was met with some dismay and hilarity when I apologised and announced the start time was actually 10:30 am Covid permitting.

4/11/2021 - Havant Men's Shed AGM

It was a very cold afternoon, so I put another layer on, as I get miserable if I get cold.

I was met by Peter Wade who is a member of the Havant Men's Shed and was our Mayor when I first became elected as a Councillor. I sat in the front row next to Peter and listened to the accounts and good work that the group had achieved during the difficult times with Covid. At the end of the meeting, I was presented with a small handmade pot with a few peppercorns to represent the "Peppercorn rent for the Men's shed. This now proudly sits in the Mayors Parlour.

9/11/2021 - Purbrook Co-Op Funeral Directors

I was lucky enough to be able to take Sue Moss, my Chaplain to accompany me as my husband works during the day. We were asked to help judge the pictures produced by the children of local schools on the theme of Remembrance. I was so pleased that Sue was able to help judge the pictures as they were all so good, it was a tough decision to make.

11/11/2021 - Emsworth Memorial Gardens. Armistice day

I walked to the gardens with Andy the Driver who was looking after me. After speaking to the Police, one of which had just moved from Hayling, I then went and spoke to an elderly couple, the gentleman was sat on his walking frame. He tried to stand up, which made me feel very humble. I did ask him to stay seated as he clearly struggled to get up. It made me feel very humbled indeed.

It was lovely to see the school children arrive and join the rest of us. A lovely service was held and then the wreaths were laid, followed by the children planting wooden crosses in the borders to the gardens.

12/11/2021 - Lifeboat Regatta Play, by Sue Bannister

Having been scheduled to attend the Rehearsal play on the 24th October for The Lifeboat Regatta only to find it had been brought forward for an earlier start, which meant we missed it, we were pleased to attend the actual production. Graham and I were greeted by Sue Bannister and shown to our table in the Community Centre in West Town on Hayling. The play was an interactive play which was great fun and enjoyed by everyone who attended. The funniest thing to happen at the end, Nigel Roper, Chairman of the RNLI had got up to make a short speech, but unbeknown to him, I had got up too and snuck round behind him. When he had finished, he did say that he thought the Mayor was doing a speech but couldn't see her, to which the audience replied, "she's behind you" and they all laughed including me. It was a great night and lots of fun.

13/11/2021 - Crafted Galore, shop opening in Leigh Park

A Council Colleague had been working with her crafting colleagues when they had decided to all work together and open a shop where they could all showcase their work. It was interesting to see what they had achieved by working together. Graham came with me as it was a weekend, we bought some handmade soap ready for Christmas.

14/11/2021 - Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service at St Faith's church, Havant

Graham and I both attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service at St Faith's Church, Havant. When we arrived, we spoke to the Cubs and Brownies. Neill, our facilities manager, and Mace Bearer introduced us to the Deputy Lord Lieutenant from Hampshire who had been chosen to attend our service, Major James Balfour.

One of our Cadets "Poppy" was also in attendance, and she assured me that she would fetch my hat if it flew off in the wind. We were all assembled by Neill. The drums and bagpipes were first, then Neill a Macebearer, then Graham and I with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant to my right, followed by other dignitaries, Thorney Island Royal artillery, officers, and other ranks.

The parade was huge, it was such an honour and humbling experience to lead the Parade. As we all walked through the main road and turned right to walk past the traffic lights the Deputy Lord Lieutenant gently leaned over to my right to say, "Rosy carefully look behind you, all I could see was a sea of faces, young and old, it was such an amazing experience. We reached the church just before 11:00 where names were read out of residents that had lost their life during the war. During this time, the church bells tolled for each one of them. A truly humbling experience. After the church service we walked back to Brockhampton lane, it was lovely to chat to some of the residents who were lining the route. It was an emotional day for both of us.

16/11/2021 - Off the Record AGM

Sadly, Graham was working on this day, so Sue Moss my chaplain accompanied me.

Following on from refreshments, we all took to our seats in the main hall. We were both assigned to the same table. We all had a hot lunch then got down to the presentations and listened to their "Vision for 2022. Kate Glasby was an inspiration and gave a very motivational speech.

Some service users also gave a short presentation from their perspective which made me feel very humbled. For a Charity, they had a very clear vision and seemed to all be working together for the benefit of the youngsters in the Borough.

17/11/2021- Lifeboat Regatta, cheque Presentation

Sue Bannister had written a book called Rope's off 'On the High on which the play was based, that we saw recently. She raised a staggering £708 to help towards the Mayoral charity for the RNLI.

18/11/2021- 2260 Squadron visit

It was great to see our Mayor's Cadet, Poppy in action at her unit. We were shown around the various activities whilst talking to some of the proud parents too. It was interesting to see young lads tackling some ironing. The evening was followed by a Gold D of E presentation by the 4 participants ending with a medal ceremony.

19/11/2021 - Opening of Christmas Grotto in Leigh Park

As Graham was working, I was pleased to be accompanied on this occasion by Cllr Pam Crellin. We waited for a short while before the Grotto was opened. We were joined by Bosmere Junior school for Christmas carols. The staff of the Grotto were all volunteers and did a great job. The shop inside was simply beautiful - I only wish I was still a child. After a short speech thanking the volunteers and children, we both left seeing lots of happy children. It really brightened my day and made me feel very festive.

21/11/2021- Havant Rugby Football Club Mini Festival

To see the happy faces of 850 children was a real delight. Graham was able to join me as it was a weekend. The sun was shining although there was a cold wind blowing. It was lovely also to see many parents helping in the food and beverage tents. At lunch, we went to the club and were joined by one of the managers for cheesy chips, they certainly know how to spoil us. The thing that impressed us most as always, is the friendliness of the staff and the delight on the children's faces. A great time was had by all.

22/11/2021 - Official opening of the Havant Citizen Advice Centre

We parked in the local carpark at the Meridian shopping centre and walked to the venue. We arrived early, so it was great to catch up with colleagues from the council. Dame Clare Moriarty, the CEO of the National Citizens Advice gave the first introductory speech with passion and enthusiasm, followed by Jon Stuart, the CEO of the Havant branch and then Irene who is a trustee of the Havant branch.

Simon our driver provided the ceremonial ribbon cutting scissors to cut the ribbon to a huge flash of photographers. For the first time, I felt a little like a celebrity, not something I am used too. As the doors opened, we were all shown around the newly refurbished offices, they were light and airy and had a welcoming feel. The main objective, being able to help residents certainly shone through.

23/11/2021 - Right at Home's new office's opening

It was great to meet up with Duncan and help him celebrate the success of his business. I first met Duncan almost 4 years ago after becoming a Local Councillor and being involved with the Hayling Dementia group. We had been asked to attend the initial opening of the Havant group, it was one of my first experiences as a councillor in Havant.

Duncan had worked hard and has the most amazing staff, most of which have been with him for a long time, so it was an honour to be able to officially open the new offices followed by a short speech. It was nice too, to see so many people that I have met at other events, it makes me happy chatting to friends and making new friends too.

27/11/2021 - Northney Christmas Fair

It was lovely to attend a local event and open the fair. We also bought some gifts for family and friends. We have so much talent within the Borough.

28/11/2021 - Mayor's Civic Sunday Service

This was a special day for both Graham and me. Daniel, our driver met us at home and helped me with the robes to be worn for a special occasion. Sue Moss our chaplain met us at the church, and we were both shown to our seats. Before the service we walked to the West door and waited with Sue, Neill our Mace Bearer, and Graham and me before processing up the aisle at the start of the service. It was the first day of Advent, so the service reflected that with a candle being lit after we walked up the aisle. It was a lovely service, but when asked to come up to the pulpit for a reading, I was very aware of the steps and had a job to reach the lectern, so adjusted myself calmly before commencing my speech.

It was lovely to have the support of so many neighbouring Mayors and Chairs from other Hampshire authorities and to be able to catch up with them and other guests and thank them for coming and supporting over coffee and cake afterwards.

29/11/2021 - Opening of Nightingale Court Nursing Home. Waterlooville

It was lovely to be shown around such a beautiful Nursing home with every detail for resident's comfort. I was asked to give a short speech thanking everyone, which was easy for me, having worked in the care sector all my life. I also discovered, afterwards, that I had worked at the Havant Health centre 20 years ago with the owner's mum. It was great to be able to catch up and hatch a plan for our own long-term care. Spending the end of our days, at the home, in rooms next door to each, other creating havoc in a fun way!

2/12/2021 - Purbrook Park School prize giving

It was great to meet the children that had created some amazing artwork for the Purbrook Co-op Funeral directors. The children were so excited it was a real pleasure to be there and talk to them about the inspiration for their creation. They all spoke with pride and empathy about their pictures and how important it is to remember the fallen from all the wars. It was a real joy to present them with their prizes.

2/12/2021 - Opening of Mill Rythe Infant School fair

It was a really cold day for the fair, but the sun was shining. One of the volunteers showed me round the stalls, Graham was still at work, but managed to join me just before they had finished. Watching all the children with their parents buying gifts from the stalls was a joy to see. Speaking to parents made me realise the importance of including the children in all the organising. It was a fun afternoon followed by hot chocolate made by one of the parents. I took the opportunity to purchase some prizes for my up-and-coming Mayoral coffee morning.

3/12/2021 - Light turn on Havant road Hayling Island

Bill Hatherley the owner of the property on Hayling, usually puts up an Incredible Christmas light show every year, and last year, he raised money for the Hayling RNLI. and decided to do the same again this year. We had to make sure that we were there and ready to "Push the button at exactly 4pm, it was more like flicking a button on the computer, this had been programmed for the light display so the timing was really important. I spoke to Bill for a few minutes, having seen him previously the week before, he told me he changes all the display and builds them himself with over 4,000 individual LED lights, with a little help from his son. We also spoke to some of the visitors who were happy to put money in the collection bucket. A young girl and her mum and Auntie had come from "up North, they said they come every year and stay with relatives.

It was an amazing display. Sadly, we were unable to stay long as we also had an engagement in Emsworth to attend.

3/12/2021 - Emsworth light switch on

We arrived a little early to allow for rush hour traffic and parking. After getting out of the car, it was across the road from a well know Charity shop that I frequent as often as I can. I was relieved from the chain by the driver and popped in to have a very quick look, I found a lovely dark pink jacket, I was so pleased. Graham had come with me and sat outside with the driver, one of the staff came out and thought Graham was the Mayor. I paid for my purchase and the driver kindly put it in the back of the car for me.

We were met by Cllr Lulu Bowerman who took us both to the Baptist church for a cup of tea as they were still not ready. Fortunately, we were sat near the patio doors to the church when the vicar arrived and seemed surprised, we were not there, we shot up out of our chairs thanked the ladies for our tea, carefully opened the doors behind the vicar, whilst he was saying "they must be late", the crowd could see us there and all shouted, "they're behind you" I've heard that somewhere before. We were introduced to everyone and thanked them for inviting us.

A lot of children came up on the stage and we all sang Christmas carols, it was a lovely atmosphere and to see so many youngsters and their relatives was a delight. After the singing, the children went back into the crowd to watch the Christmas light's being turned on, both Santa and I pressed the plunger and then waited a second or 2 for the lights to come on. It was a huge tree and the children and adults all cheered. We handed some sweets out to the children and spoke to a few parents before we left. an enjoyable evening, for everyone especially us.

4/12/2021 - Recycled tree decorations at Brook Meadow Emsworth

This was great fun, Graham was sadly still working, so I asked if my 17-year-old Granddaughter could come with me. She is really good with young children and used to muddy fields, (she has horses a bit further up the road). We both got out the car and put our boots on, sadly our driver was not as prepared as we were, Faith and I were striding through the mud at a fair pace, (I also used to have horses and lived on a farm years ago. The poor driver was lagging trying to avoid the mud and puddles. When we all got there, there were about 30 children waiting to sing Christmas carols, it was so lovely to hear, normally I cry when I hear young children sing, but fortunately, I did not recognise the last carol, so that helped stop the tears from flowing.

They all sang so beautifully and were excited to show me all the natural decorations that they had made. They were all so clever. One little girl asked if she could shake my hand, an odd request I thought from a young child, but it really made my day. I had taken a large tin of sweets with me and shared them out with the children. The children then left to walk back to school, and I stayed and chatted to the volunteers who had all helped that afternoon.

It was so lovely to hear the children sing and look at all their handmade natural decorations. It will be a visit I will always remember.

4/12/2021 - Leigh Park Lantern Parade and Christmas light switch on

I met with a council colleague as Graham was "on call", for lifeboat duty. We went to Greywell shopping centre and were met by Katie Pontin an officer from HBC, we were also met by the "Christmas Grotto team" who we had met previously, so it was nice to see some familiar faces. We were treated to some Christmas carols first, then all picked up a lantern to take a short walk to the Christmas tree. Santa appeared to a cheer from the excited children, we both switched on the lights followed by a very short speech, thanking everyone for their support and wishing all the parents and families a lovely Christmas.

7/12/2021 - Polar Bear Photo shoot, Meridian centre in Havant

The huge Polar bear in the Meridian centre had been purchased to brighten up the Centre and make it more inviting for children who were asked to name the bear. Over a hundred children took part and the Bear was Named "Artie" by one young local resident. A smaller Polar bear had been purchased from the World Wildlife Fund as a keepsake and prize for the winner. A few photos were taken to remember and celebrate the occasion.

Having watched the children perform the workout and subsequently start their training, it was difficult to decide which children worked the hardest and did their best. Sharon a lifeboat colleague had come too, fully dressed in Lifeboat kit, to show the children what they wore. The children asked lots of questions, but it was great to engage with them and raise their awareness of the dangers of the water, especially on Hayling. Graham came too, which was lovely for me too, but the funniest thing was, half of the children were students at the Hayling College where Graham works and they did not realise that Graham was my Consort, it led to loads of discussion with him and the children at the college the next day.

After we had watched them all working as hard as they can, we had to decide who had worked the hardest, that was tough, but seeing the huge smiles on their faces as we called their names out was a great delight. We had also brought a huge tin of sweets and asked if the children could have one, so they all took one home with them.

11/12/2021 - Emsworth Concert Band

It was great to be invited to the Emsworth Concert band at the Warblington School. Graham was able to accompany me, and we had been to The Chichester festival theatre the week previously, so he was as pleased as I was. We were met by one of the band members and shown to our seats, followed by Cllr Diana Patrick who sat next to us. Andy Hall the band master entered after the band and introduced himself. It was great to hear similar music as we had heard the week previously, I closed my eyes, and they could have even been the Marine band. In the interval we spoke to some of the avid band followers and got a drink. We spoke to Andy who asked if I would mind giving a speech, I was delighted to oblige.

I did start by saying that I was not a keen follower of band music until Graham took me to Eastney to the Marine band concert as his friend had dropped out, I was converted, then carried on briefly to say how much we had both enjoyed it and wished the band and audience a happy and healthy Christmas.

12/12/2021 - Eastoke Community Centre Christmas Fair

It was nice to see so many familiar faces and happy children.

We first "pretended to cut the ribbon for the photos, (I hate waste) then we went round and spoke to most of the stall holders, Graham came with me and talked to Steve, the centre Chairman as he used to work with him years ago. Steve's wife had made a beautiful daughter Christmas costume and the children loved it, again it was lovely to see lots of happy faces, both parents and children.

12/12/2021 - Mayor of Gosport Civic Carol service

Graham and I both left relatively early to get to Gosport to allow for traffic but there was very little, so we waited in the car park opposite for half an hour.

The Holy Trinity church was a beautiful church, we were met by Cllr Mark Hook and his wife and shown to our seats, we sat next to Cllr Pam Bryant and Cllr Louise Clubley from Fareham, again it was nice to recognise familiar faces.

We all wore masks during singing as Covid rates were rising again to keep us and our colleagues safe. Trying to sing Christmas carols on with face masks is a nightmare. Sadly, as the service finished, we were bid farewell by our colleagues as refreshments and mince pies had been cancelled, so we thanked everyone and made our way home.

13/12/2021 - St George's Bereavement group Waterlooille

I was invited by Lin Smith who was the Chair of the group.

Graham was working and Daniel my driver came in with me, we were met by Lin and both given a coffee and sat on a table with a couple from Hayling Island who had been coming for years as they had both had so much support in the past.

Daniel seemed happy to talk to them while I wandered round each table to speak to the participants. It was a Christmas special, so they were all looking very festive, there were some stalls too. It was lovely to talk to the people on each table and listen to their stories. I have been in their shoes, so could empathise with them. Everyone had a different story to tell.

The raffle was called later, it seemed to go on for ages, everyone had been so generous with the raffle prizes. After the raffle I was asked to give a short speech to wish everyone a Happy Christmas. I started with my usual thank yous and said that I had been where they are in the past and how Christmas may not be happy for lots of people for various reasons. I did finish on a lighter note and explained how my late husband had ended up in the Hoover which did make everyone laugh!

15/12/2021 - Hayling WI Christmas meeting

I was welcomed to the meeting by Sue Stacy the Chair for the Hayling WI. I had taken a flower table decoration for the raffle, which they were not having on this occasion. I suppose I should have asked beforehand, but as I was making flower arrangements anyway, one more didn't take much more time. We were all treated to an afternoon of entertainment by a young lady called Dawn Gracie. She is a "vintage style" entertainer. It was funny because Daniel was the only male in the room and she picked on him several times asking him if he was from "Health and Safety", he did make a quick exit, bless him.

In the break for tea and mince pies, I did visit the "bric a brac" table and purchased a few "New items for the family and friends for Christmas (surprise).

19/12/2021- St Faiths Community Carol Service

Graham was able to attend on this occasion as it was at the weekend which made it especially nice for me. We arrived early and spoke to Tom Kenner and thanked him for inviting us. We had a quick look round the church before the service. We both love church history. I did practice climbing up and down the step up to the lectern as I am terrified of making a fool of myself and falling over, also being so short, I often can't reach the microphone! We both took our seats before the church began to fill up, it was nice to look round and see so many familiar faces especially from Hayling and some of my Councillor colleagues too.

Canon Tom Kenner started with a welcoming speech, followed by music, readings, hymns, then his sermon, reflecting on the origins of Christmas. There were more carols and some instructions for the next hymn the 12 days of Christmas. Our line was 'a Partridge in a pear tree' together with Alan Mak and his guest and we had to stand up when it was our turn to sing, then sit down. I sang at the top of my voice; it was hilarious and such good fun.

After a few announcements by Tom, the service finished and we all went outside, we thanked Tom and said goodbye to Alan Mak and his colleague. We spoke to some of the Police outside as one of them used to work on Hayling. We both came home feeling very joyful and ready for Christmas.

Sadly, Christmas is not a good time for a lot of people for various reasons as I had mentioned earlier, but for us both it was a huge honour to be invited to attend openings of new shops, turn on Christmas tree lights, sing

carols and attend various social events. For us both it was a time to reflect and feel incredibly lucky to have family, friends, and colleagues.

Hopefully as the New Year unfolds, we can all live life a little easier as Covid hopefully diminishes. We can learn new skills and ways of helping others and all be the best we can, whatever our circumstances are.

I firmly believe, we should all help each other, both Graham and I have done it all our lives and certainly won't be stopping now.

We both extend best wishes for a good New Year wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

07/01/2022 - Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society Panto.

By the time you read this, we will have been to see the Hansel and Gretel pantomime, "oh no you haven't, oh yes we have".

Friday February 11th, 2022 - Valentine Charity Ball at The Brookfield Hotel, Emsworth

We are holding a Valentine's Charity Ball and would love to see you there.

We are limited to 80 people and tickets are selling fast. Also, there is a special rate if you fancy staying the night. Anne Thurlow has all the details.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all the Facilities team that look after me, my husband Graham, and my family for their support and of course my colleagues too, without you, none of this would be possible, I am indebted to all of you, very many thanks Rosy x.