



Mayoral report for Full Council 16th November 2022

The Mayor's Facebook page currently has 686 likes and is followed by 837 people.

I cannot believe how quickly the days are passing, and it is already nearly six months into my Mayoral year.

As you know from my video, in September I was away for two weeks in Cyprus for a family wedding. We arrived on the Wednesday only to be informed on the evening of the 8th by a phone call from an officer at the council that Her Majesty the Queen had died that afternoon. To say I was devastated would be an understatement, but I hope that many of you saw my Accension statement and words to you all on the video I recorded. She will be so very much missed, and in fact I still find it hard to believe that she is no longer here.

On the first Saturday back, I had three engagements one of which was the opening of the Hayling Repair Café.



27th September 2022 – Kitbags Live on – Havant

The last time I was Mayor in 2019/20 I managed to raise enough money for Dementia Friendly Hampshire to pay for the rent of the Bedhampton Social Hall for a wonderful group called Kitbags, and on September 27th I was invited to their first birthday party. This group is for veterans suffering from Dementia to get together, chat, and be involved in some entertainment to help keep their minds stimulated and enjoy some companionship. The afternoon was full of joy with a puppet show and some pretty enthusiastic involvement by the veterans, and a very good time was had by all.



30th September 2022 – Home Instead Havant

On September 30th we attended the Well-being Festival at the Pallant Centre. I must confess I took note of all those people who provide reflexology, massage, and muscle stimulation for people with mobility difficulties and will be booking a few sessions myself! This wonderful gentleman provides security advice and locks for the elderly free of charge to ensure that people feel safe in their homes.



2nd October 2022 – Annual Seafarers Service

In October we began with the Seafarers Service at Portsmouth Cathedral. It was a lovely service and along with Mayors from other authorities we laid wreaths on Nelsons Statue. The Cathedral is so beautiful inside and is one of my favourite churches in Portsmouth.

5th October 2022 – Havant and Waterlooville Child Contact Centres AGM

On 5th October I attended the Havant and Waterlooville Child Contact Centres AGM and listened to some excellent speakers regarding domestic abuse. It is hard to believe in this day and age, that this kind of treatment to those we are supposed to love still goes on.

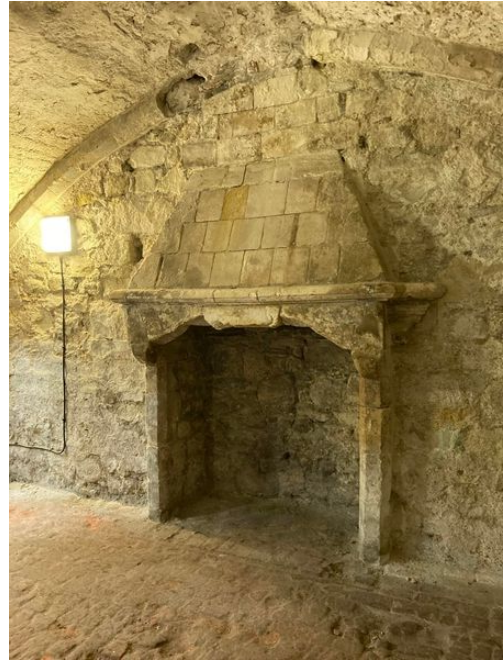
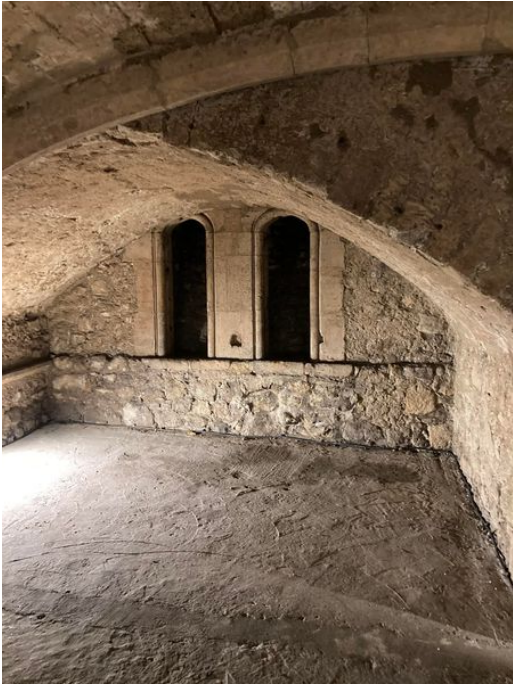
6th October 2022 – Lord Mayor of Portsmouth’s Civic Heads Dinner

On October 6th, James and I were honoured to be invited to a civic dinner at the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth. Many Mayors invite the other members of their “chain gang” as we are known, to civic dinners so that we get to know and support each other in the roll we play each year. It also gives us the opportunity to discuss matters regarding our own authorities and the different ways in which we all perform. This is invaluable information for all of us and it was a lovely evening.

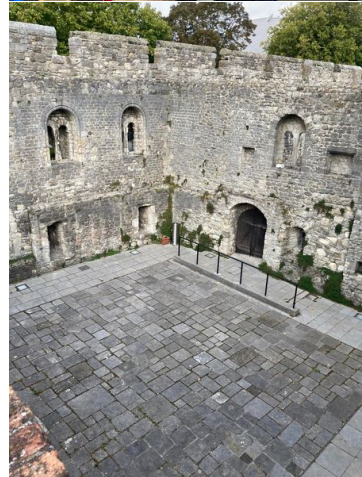


12th October 2022 -Lord Mayor of Southampton Civic Day

On 12th October, and for the first time, James and I attended the Civic Day for the first ever Lord Mayor of Southampton, Cllr Jacque Rayment. She became the 800th Mayor of Southampton and the first to hold the title of Lord Mayor since her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth bestowed that honour on the city. We were taken to see the rooms that the Queen would have met dignitaries in, when she visited Southampton and I have to say they were truly beautiful. We toured the old city visiting some of the ancient buildings and vaults which I found fascinating as it is not something you know about or might have knowledge of in the normal day to day. It is also wonderful to add to your knowledge of your own county.



The next photos show the astonishing Tudor house which is open to the public and the battlements of King John's Palace. Truly worth a visit.



I am sharing these pictures and events with you, not to give you the impression that a Mayor does nothing but have a good time, but to show you how important it is that those of us who represent our boroughs as Mayor are aware of the historical links that we have with our neighbouring authorities, learn more about that history, and benefit from the very important link we all share in serving our communities.

At the end of these tours, we went on board a ship called Steamship Shieldhall. This boat was built on the Clyde after the war, and she has been in service ever since. I asked the Captain if it would be possible to use the ship to take parties of school children on board, bringing their packed lunch and having a really exciting few hours learning about the ship, with visits to the engine room etc. He was delighted with this thought and if any schools would be interested in this wonderful opportunity, then please do get in touch with me.

The tanker that you can see in the photo is massive and has been loaded with containers next to Shieldhall. Unbelievably, this monster only has 7 crew and carries 65,000 containers!



15th October 2022 – Opening of the new baby Unit Purbrook Day Nursery

On October 15th, I had the pleasure of opening the new Baby Unit at the Purbrook Day Nursery. Put me in a room with a lot of babies and i am in my element! Sadly, there weren't many babies on this day as it was just inviting families to come and view the facilities. Since one of my granddaughters used to go there some 7 years ago there have been huge improvements made with a lovely new garden and this amazing new nursery room. I wish them every success.



18th October 2022 - Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire Awards

On October 18th, James and I attended the Lord Lt of Hampshires Awards at St. Swithins School, Winchester. This year it was all about cadets from the three services and the amazing achievements that some of them had attained in order to qualify for this great honour. It was an inspiring evening. On the evening of the 22nd we had a meeting with the organisers of the Havant Passion Play to get things up and running for a performance for next year. It was good to see everyone again.

27th October 2022 – Havant Men’s Shed AGM

On the 27th I attended the AGM of the Havant Mens Shed... a great group of guys offering not just a place to carry on a hobby with every tool available to you that you could imagine, but companionship, friendship and tea to anyone who needs someone to talk to. You all do a wonderful job, and it was my pleasure to see you all.

28th October 2022 – Yew Gardens Jubilee Tree Planting and Hayling Musical Society Youngstars

The next day was a tree planting engagement at Yew gardens in Waterlooville to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee and in the evening another visit to the wonderful Hayling Musical Society for a performance of The Little Mermaid. Once again, the entire cast outdid itself. Well Done.

29th October 2022 – Presidents Conference for St John’s

On Saturday I attended a Presidents Conference for St. John in Winchester, as the President of the Havant branch. This is such an ancient and wonderful organisation and I hope to be getting more adults interested in joining up or offering to help. If any adults would like to offer their services so that we can get the adult section up and running again, please do get in touch with me. Sadly, the adult section was moved to join Portsmouth during the Pandemic and has not really got off the ground again since. Please help if you can.

30th October 2022 – Eastleigh Festival of Remembrance

Finally for October, on Sunday 30th James and I attended the Eastleigh Festival of Remembrance, which was held at the Point, and will very nicely lead us into our Remembrance events next week.

I feel a great relief that I have now brought you all up to date! It has been weighing heavily on my shoulders, but life is certainly busy and I’m sure there are many of us who wonder where a week has gone. I shall endeavour to do better!

Mayor of Havant Cllr Diana Patrick