



## Mayoral report for Full Council 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Mayor's Facebook page currently has 691 likes and is followed by 843 people.

I must begin with two events that I managed somehow to overlook in September which were both on the same day, so I will put that right straight away.

The first was the New Forest Harley Davidson Group who took over Lakeside on Hayling Island for the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup>. The last time I was Mayor in 2019/20 I rode on the back of a Harley along Hayling seafront which was great fun. It was not to be this year, but it was nevertheless great fun to see all the amazing bikes.



The second event in the afternoon was the Havant Climate Change Fair which was held in Havant Park and was extremely interesting. I was very pleased to hear that they had had a very good turnout of visitors and there were wildlife stands that had some wonderful information for children regarding our seashore.

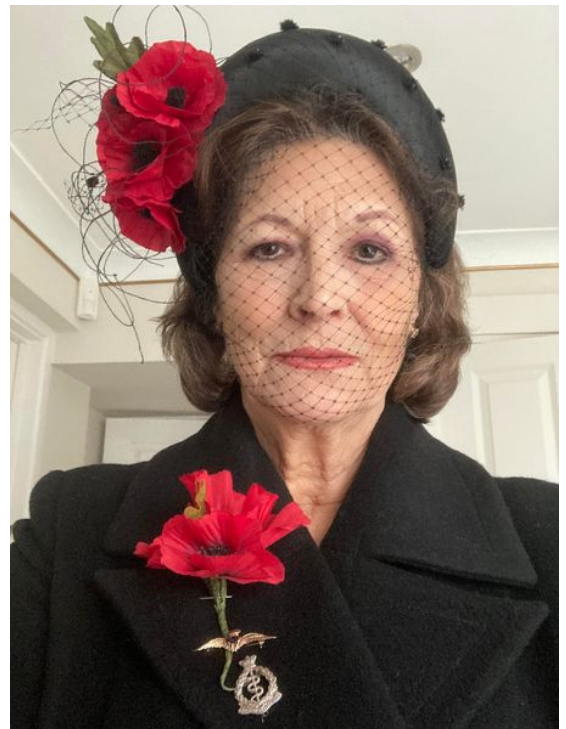
So, back to November. It has been very quiet as often happens before the run up to Christmas. On Nov 6th I attended Hart District Council's Civic Service.

### **9<sup>th</sup> November – New Forest Civic Day**

I attended the New Forest Civic Day. We were taken to see the most wonderful riding school for disabled or handicapped young adults tucked away in the woods. It is a residential school where they teach some normal lessons, but most of the education is centred around how you look after the animals and this is a language that young adults who have social or educational needs can understand more easily than they can accept being told what to do by adults. It was wonderful to see how they all connected with the horses.

### **11<sup>th</sup> November – Armistice day Service**

On Friday 11th November it was Armistice Day and my consort and I attended the Emsworth Memorial Gardens for a service of remembrance. It is always a very special time of the year for me, when I remember service personnel whom I have known and lost and in particular my beloved father who was an army doctor who served in Burma in the second World War, and whose brother was murdered by the Japanese when he was a prisoner of war. We must never forget the tremendous sacrifices they made for our freedom. I was extremely lucky to have a milliner who has a studio at Making Space in Leigh Park, Julian Jeffrey, make a hairpiece for me for the occasion and I was delighted with it. My thanks go to Julian for his artistry.





### **13<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday**

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Sunday, I once again, very proudly, marched through Havant with pipers, band, Members of the Royal Artillery from Thorney Island, and in the company of Major General James Balfour, one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenants of Hampshire. There were also a great number of the youth organisations and my Mayors Cadets were in attendance. The streets were lined with people and there was a very good turnout. Following a service at the war memorial and the laying of wreaths, we proceeded into the church for a further service where I read one of the lessons along with MP Alan Mak and General Balfour. Following the service, we all walked back to the Royal British Legion Club where I had the opportunity of talking to many members of the army and the British Legion. It was a wonderful gathering.

### **25<sup>th</sup> November – White Ribbon Day**

On November 25<sup>th</sup> I raised a flag at the Plaza to celebrate White Ribbon day. This is to highlight abuse and violence against women and girls and asks men to pledge to put an end to all such behaviour.

### **29<sup>th</sup> November – Visit to the Mayor's Parlour by pupils from Glenwood School**

Today, my final engagement for November was a very special one. I met 11 young people from Glenwood Secondary School in Emsworth, who came to find out all about the role of a Mayor and the Mayoralty's history. It was a great pleasure to meet them all and I look forward to visiting their school in the near future.

Here we are, nearly Christmas, and it seems to have happened so quickly!

### **1<sup>st</sup> December – Havant Light Opera Performance**

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, I went to a performance of the Havant Light Opera and a Christmas version of Trial by Jury. It was a really fun evening with lots of Christmas jollity and humour.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> December – Emsworth Christmas Lights Switch-on**

On a very cold evening we went to Emsworth to turn on the Christmas lights, see Santa Claus and listen to some of the schools singing their lovely Christmas songs.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Mengham Road Christmas Street Party

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> we went and turned on the lights at Mengham and enjoy their street party. Both events were very well attended and it was lovely to meet and speak to so many people.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Emsworth Concert Band

On Saturday evening I attended a concert by the Emsworth Concert Band at Emsworth Baptist Church. They are one of my favourite bands and I came away feeling thoroughly uplifted. I would like to thank the band and their conductor Sgt. Andy Hall for the wonderful music, and the pleasure they give to so many people.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> December – Havant Veterans Support Hub Breakfast Club**

On Sunday, James and I attended the Havant Veterans Support Hub Breakfast Club and met some of the volunteers and veterans. This is such a great service for our veterans who often feel lonely and isolated.



#### **6<sup>th</sup> December – At Home Christmas Drinks Reception**

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> we attended Christmas Drinks with the Mayor of Chichester at the Assembly Rooms in North Street. The rooms really are lovely and it was a great place to meet up with other Mayors and dignitaries.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> December – Prospect School Christmas Fayre**

James and I very much enjoyed a visit to Prospect School in Havant for their first ever Christmas Fair. We had a wonderful time and the school is doing such an amazing job. Thank you to the staff, parents and children for all the hard work they clearly put in to make the occasion such a success.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> December – Honey Day Care Service Christmas Coffee Morning and Cowplain School Performance of “We Will Rock You”**

James and I attended the Honey Day Care Bereavement Group at their coffee morning at St Georges Church in Waterlooville, and in the evening, I was invited to the Cowplain School performance of We Will Rock You. It was a great evening in spite of the problems with main characters being off with a

virus and players having to read from scripts because so many of the cast were ill and unable to take part. The audience were obviously suffering as well with coughing being the main problem.

### 13<sup>th</sup> December – Basingstoke and Dean Civic Afternoon

The following afternoon James and I were guests of the Mayor of Basingstoke and Dean at their Civic afternoon at Whitchurch Silk Mill. What a fabulous experience and I would encourage anyone who wants a really interesting afternoon out to go to this beautiful museum.



In the pictures that follow, the little white egg shape that James is holding is a silk cocoon which in spite of its size, holds a mile of silk thread! The red silk being woven on the loom is for the scarf for King Charles' Coronation.



#### 14<sup>th</sup> December – Home Instead Havant Christmas Lunch

The following day I joined the volunteers and clients for a Christmas lunch at the Wheelwrights in Havant. It was a joyous event and lovely to see so many elderly residents enjoying themselves.



Mayor of Havant Cllr Diana Patrick