

## **Mayoral report for Full Council 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

The Mayor's Facebook page currently has 716 likes and is followed by 873 people.

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Hayling Island Ukulele Festival**

Three days after Mayor Making, we were heading to the Royal British Legion on Hayling Island to the first Ukulele Festival to raise much needed funds for the British Guide dogs for the blind association.

We were both met by Beryl Standen who was one of the volunteers and a very enthusiastic puppy that adored Graham and wouldn't leave him alone.

We visited the stand and spoke to more of the volunteers and met more gorgeous puppies and a few older dogs, they were all so well behaved.



The Ukuleles were playing on the stage and it was great to see so many people young and old, joining together and having so much fun.

### **Dinner to commemorate the Coronation of The King and the Queen Consort**

In the evening we had a dinner to celebrate the King's Coronation at the RBL Ex-serviceman's club in Havant.

We were met by Commander Geoff Luker MBE and welcomed to the serviceman's club. We also saw a few familiar faces and spoke to Reverend David Williams and his wife, also Bruce Vaile who is friends with Graham.



We were all called for dinner and shown to our tables, as guest of honour, an honour indeed, it was so lovely to get dressed up in dinner jackets and posh frocks. The meal was lovely and there were numerous speeches, all read with humour and passion. The £5:00 fine were also interesting, so for a change, I sat quietly and listened hoping to get fined too.

I finished off with a short speech and thanked them for their hospitality, wishing them good health and happiness. We finished late, it had been a long day but was such fun, we both agreed that it had been a marvellous day!

### **Sunday 21st May - Italy Star Association 1943-1945 – Act of Remembrance and Recommitment Service**

We were invited to the Italy Star Association 1943-1945 Reunion act of Remembrance.

It was a lovely sunny day for the group to be able to visit Hayling Island at Lakeside Holiday village.

We were met by Maureen Hanlan who is the National Treasurer, who showed us to an open area bordered by beautiful trees, where people were beginning to gather and the bagpiper was practicing for the event. We were introduced to the President Mr John Dennett BEM who is 99, although frail and with a walking frame to assist him, he performed his speech impeccably. He also has an amazing sense of humour too!



After the moving service we were both invited back for coffee at the café at Lakeside and had a chance to speak to many members of the group who had come from all over the country.

### **30<sup>th</sup> May – Havant Borough Talking News AGM**

Today, we attended the Havant Borough Talking News AGM. Peter Loveridge, the Chairman of Havant Talking News, greeted us in the reception area of The Spring Arts Centre in Havant and took us upstairs to the Harrison Room. It was a very short meeting; they did express their concerns at a lack of volunteers and have never had so few in their 28 years as a charity.

After I was asked to give them an insight into what we had both been up to since Mayor Making, we did empathise with the lack of volunteers countrywide, which has become worse since Covid. Graham then explained the RNLI and its work on both Hayling and nationally. We finished off with a cup of tea and cake and spoke to several members before we left.

Apologies for the brief report, I have only had a few engagements since becoming Mayor!

Mayor of Havant Cllr Rosy Raines