

Mayoral report for Full Council 26 July 2023

The Mayor's Facebook page currently has 725 likes and is followed by 886 people.

Saturday 10 June – St Alban's Primary School's Nature Roadshow

It was a beautiful day for this Nature Roadshow! We were met by one of the teachers and 2 pupils to cut the recycled ribbon to open the Roadshow. This was made from crisp packets and pieces of twine.

The first point of call was the "Hedgehog Project", where the children explained that they had made a "safe" area for the hedgehogs, their enthusiasm was infectious!

We proceeded to visit all the stalls and talk to them about their projects and why they thought it was important to save the planet.

I was really impressed with the hard work all the staff and students had put in to make the Roadshow a huge success. Very well done to all of you, it was a brilliant day.

Sunday 11 June – Opening of Hayling Voluntary Services Café

We arrived early, as I hate being late for events! Unfortunately, the Organiser was still sweeping the front step!

After a short speech thanking all the local tradespeople who helped convert the building into a café, I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon and declaring the café officially open.

The local ukulele group then proceeded to play while photos were taken, followed by lots of hugs and chatter and an absolutely wonderful buffet!

Monday 12 June – Opening of the Horizon Wellbeing Hub in the Meridian Centre

Graham and I were met by Emma George, a Manager from Horizon Leisure Centre. We cut the ribbon and a few speeches were given, followed by a tour of the facilities and a quick health check! One of the Portsmouth News photographers caught me lifting a 20kg weight and insisted on taking my photo for the paper!

It was also a pleasure to see the Chief Executive and the Deputy Leader of the Council at the event.

Wednesday 14th June – Falkland's Memorial Bench in the Meridian Centre

As it was such a lovely day we walked from the Plaza to the Meridian Centre, once there we were greeted by the Centre Manager, and we were delighted to see that so many people had come along, especially veterans and two standard bearers.

The Leader of the Council gave a short speech and thanked Havant Men's Shed for constructing the bench. I then made a short speech thanking all those that had taken the time to come and also to thank all those that served and lost their lives during the Falklands Conflict.

We then made our way to the War Memorial at St Faith's Church to lay a wreath and listen to a short speech by Rev David Williams, from the Royal British Legion.

After the speech we made our way to the Ex-Serviceman's Club for refreshments.

Introduction to HM Naval Base, Portsmouth

Once our VIP passes had been issued, we were driven to Spitbank House, the home of Commodore John Voyce, when he is at the Naval Base. After the introductions and safety brief, we all boarded a coach and were taken on a tour of the site, which totals 350 acres in size!

We were then lucky enough to get clearance to board the HMS Queen Elizabeth, much to Graham's delight! We were given a tour of the ship, which is huge, almost a town in size, complete with street names on each deck, with a dentist, operating theatre, hospital ward, intensive care unit and even a large Gym.

We even managed to go on the flight deck, where the staff were extremely knowledgeable and obviously proud to serve aboard.

After the tour, we were taken back to Spitbank House for a game of Croquet on the front lawn and refreshments, which were gratefully received due to the very hot weather!

In the evening, we had a beautiful dinner in the dining room, which contained many artefacts from HMS Victory, I think even the cutlery we used, came from the Victory!

It was also lovely getting to know the new Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, who very much enjoyed our Mayor Making Ceremony in May, which was lovely to hear.

It was truly an amazing day!



Thursday 15 June – The Cosby Group Open Day Event

This was our last event with Daniel as our driver, so a bit sad for us. The Cosby Group are a global engineering company that are opening a new production unit in Waterlooville, on the new Bere Wood Estate.

We were met by the CEO, who had flown over from Texas and one of the Directors who had flown from Belgium to be at the opening. Following speeches from them both, I thanked them for inviting us to the opening and wished them a successful future before I cut the ribbon declaring the new site open.

We had a tour of the new site, followed by a delicious buffet lunch.

Friday 16 June – Havant Dementia Festival

The planning that went into this was largely organised by Laura Bevis from HBC with the help of other agencies that went into making this a brilliant event.

It was a great festival and all the visitors said they really enjoyed it, we even signed up to a water meter, which will be a great help to see how much water we do use!

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff that made this event so wonderful, hopefully there will be another event next year.

Waterlooville Music Festival – Rocket Max – Elton John Tribute

This was a tribute act held at St George's Church Waterlooville. The energy of the singer and supporting band was excellent. Everyone was singing and dancing in the aisles!

Dr Colin Lawlor who had organised the event was on hand to greet us and asked if I would be happy to call out the raffle during the interval, which I was delighted to do, until I suffered the embarrassment of pulling out my own ticket on the first go!

Monday 19 June – Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony

It was wonderful to see so many people attending this Ceremony. I had help on the day from two of my Mayoral Cadets who helped by doing a reading and helping me to raise the flag.

After the Ceremony we had refreshments in the Plaza and it was lovely to talk to all the soldiers and veterans that had attended.

Saturday 24 June – Opening of a Beautiful Sign

We were met by Honorary Alderman Brendan Gibb-Gray and his partner who walked with us to the area designated for the unveiling, the weather was gorgeous, if a little hot for walking far! It was so lovely to see so many people we recognised or had met previously.

A photographer was on hand to take pictures for the local paper and we talked to many people who had contributed either financially or by giving up their time to make

this a really tranquil place to just sit and watch the trees and listen to the birds. It truly is a beautiful place.

Sunday 25 June – Hampshire Scouts Annual Review and AGM

Graham and I were both delighted to be invited to this event again. We were met by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson who explained the schedule for the day. There was a buffet lunch for those that were hungry and I noticed the queue for ice cream was very long!

It was really interesting to see how the Scout's had moved with time, embracing diversity and increasing in popularity with young people, giving them skills for life.

Monday 26 June – Reception for New Mayors and Chairmen

This was held in the Hampshire Regiment Museum and hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson. Before the reception, we were given a tour and a brief history of the museum and its artefacts, which was really interesting.

A beautiful building with really good company and a great chance to speak to other Mayors and Chairmen from around the County.

Wednesday 28 June – Havant Light Opera's performance of "Iolanthe"

I attended this event with a friend as Graham is not a great opera lover! There was even a past Mayor in the performance who was excellent.

It was a wonderful evening and I even won two prizes in the raffle!

Saturday 1 July – Bedhampton Summer Show

It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining brightly when we arrived to open the start of the show. This was a special moment as it was the first show in two years due to the pandemic.

We walked around the show talking to all the exhibitors and learning a lot about Bedhampton in the process. It was lovely to see so many happy children and their parents enjoying a traditional English Summer Fete.

I thoroughly enjoyed watch the "belly dancers", fortunately I was not asked to join in! We finished the afternoon in the tea tent, with a delicious slice of cake.

Friday 7 July – Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Awards Holders Reception

It was great to see so many familiar faces, scouts, Leaders, Mayors and their Consorts at this event.

It was really interesting to see so many youngsters collecting their awards and listen to their stories, all very well deserved!

Saturday 8 July – Havant Symphony Orchestra's "Last Night of the Proms" Concert

The music was amazing and even our piano tuner, Gerry was playing, which was a pleasant surprise! It was a complete joy to listen to so many talented musicians.

During the interval we were given a flag raising lesson to enable us to join in the final part of the proms.

It was an amazing night and we both thoroughly enjoyed it. There are so many talented residents within the Borough.

Sunday 8 July – 80th Anniversary of the COPPS Sicily Landings Dedication Service

It was the 80th anniversary of Operation Husky from Hayling Island to the Mediterranean. It was a lovely day, although it became overcast and threatened to rain.

The service was very moving and it was lovely to see so many people paying their respects.

After the service we were invited to Hayling Sailing Club to see the exhibition about the COPPS and to enjoy a lovely lunch.



Mayor of Havant Cllr Rosy Raines