



Mayoral report for Full Council 20 September 2023

The Mayor's Facebook page currently has 738 likes and is followed by 918 people.

Monday 10 July – Freemason's Cheque Presentation Evening

We were met by Mr Roger Maber who looked after us. He is one of the senior members of the Freemasons.

There were a lot of people there receiving cheques for their charities, and it was lovely to hear so many heart-warming stories as to how the charities started and were struggling to raise money for the charity. We were both very lucky to receive a cheque for the Mayor's charity. At the conclusion of the cheque presentations, I did a short speech emphasizing how grateful we all were for their compassion and generosity.

It was lovely afterwards to be able to talk to some of the charities with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth.

Tuesday 11 July – Citizens Advice Home and Well Celebration Event

To sit with fellow Mayors from other Boroughs and Districts was a joy, but also to listen to new initiatives for local residents called Home and Well. It is a new service run between the Citizens advice centres, hospital partner agencies, such as electric and gas and other utility providers to ensure the elderly, vulnerable adults and disabled residents are safe in their own home. It was also nice to meet and chat with the CEO of Citizens Advice, Ms Clare Moriarty, who I had met 2 years previously, when I opened the new Citizens hub in the Meridian Centre in Havant.

Wednesday 12 July – The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth's Civic Heads Dinner

We all gathered with the other dignitaries in the main entrance before being escorted to the Mayor's Parlour for pre-dinner drinks. I had taken some flowers for Nikki the Lady Mayor, who was really pleased.

We all enjoyed a lovely meal, however, sadly the time flew and before we knew it, we were being ushered back into the Mayor's Parlour for photos before we said our final goodbyes, a great night in a very grand setting.



Friday 14 July - Havant Rugby Club End of Season Girls Awards

It was with a huge amount of pride that Graham and I were invited to Havant Rugby Club to present the awards to the female players, who are all achieving so much, at such a young age, you are all an inspiration, well done girls, you are all stars!



Saturday 15 July – Grand Opening of Ben and Shelly’s Ice Cream Parlour

We both had a really tough engagement today! Opening an ice cream parlour, Ben and Shelley's on Hayling Island. The salted caramel was delicious!



Sunday 16 July - Springwood Community Centre Summer Fair

It was lovely to see so many familiar faces having popped in a few weeks ago as a guest.

The weather was kind to us and as usual, we walked around and spoke to many stall holders buying a few gifts for Christmas. We then popped into the main hall and were invited to stop for tea and cake, it was lovely to see Stephanie, who is the wife of a great friend of Graham's, who used to be on the Hayling Island Lifeboat crew.



Tuesday 18 July – Two Colours Choir Performance

We were both honoured to be invited to the Ukrainian 2 Colours choir tonight at the Spring in Havant, it was an amazing event, the energy and enthusiasm was infectious, we both REALLY loved it. Tomorrow they are playing at the Plaza in Havant at 3pm, it is a free event, and we are looking forward to seeing them again.

Wednesday 19 July - Havant Thicket Reservoir Site Visit

Fortunately, the weather was good! We were met by Mr Joel Hufford from Portsmouth Water and shown to a cabin that is used for presentations. We were shown a map of the site, I didn't realise how big it was! During the presentation Joel explained the rationale for the site, its history and where they are now. Both Graham and I were really impressed with the number of professional staff on site, geologists, ornithologists, archaeologists, biologists, engineers, technicians and many more. We both discovered the land belonged to a relative of a friend and was sold in 1964. Over half of the trees that have been cut down have been repurposed, the oak trees going to Portsmouth Dockyard for seasoning, then to be used to repair HMS Victory and the remaining trees to be seasoned and used to build the Visitors centre.



Celebration of Ukrainian Music

This was organised for the residents of the Borough and the ongoing commitment to the Families living with hosts within the Borough, again I was reduced to tears. Graham and I had walked to the shops in Havant after going to the thicket and had lunch and bought some sun flowers and roses on the way back to give them all after they had finished, again it was amazing. There were lots of photos taken by the host families and a buffet to follow the ceremony. Ukrainian honey cake is the most delicious ever.



Heart of Hayling Boxing Awards Evening

We were met by Jerry and his partner Sharon and when we arrived most of the children were in another room and we had enough time to grab a cuppa before we started!

Knox White the founder was there, and it was lovely to see him too.

The children were all so excited to receive their awards, they had done so well, with great coaches and training for all the group. It was real pleasure to be asked to present the awards.

Friday 21 July - Performers Theatre Company Awards Ceremony

We were both invited to Park Community School in Leigh Park on Friday evening to a prize giving ceremony for the Performers Theatre Company, a huge thank you to Sam and Angie, his mum for looking after us both so well, but the talent of all the children was incredible it was also a huge honour to meet all of the professional

singers that were friends of Sam. A brilliant night, thank you so much for inviting us both.



Monday 24 July - Front Lawn Play Area Opening

We arrived at the park where there were hundreds of children all having fun on the new play equipment. We spoke to Steve Jorden and other officers from HBC. It was lovely to see so many staff from HBC. I called to all the children that there would be ice cream after the ribbon cutting, which made them stop what they were doing, and all ran towards me. I felt a bit like the Pied Piper of Hamlyn!



Wednesday 26 July – Visit from The Hive Centre in the Mayor’s Parlour

It was nice to meet children and their foster carers in the Parlour. After a simple explanation of the Mayoral role, I took the group into the chambers where they sat at the top table and spoke to some of the staff who were setting up for a Full council meeting. We then walked quietly downstairs, and I introduced them to Neil Paine Facilities Manager who was just coming out of his office, he spoke to them briefly and welcomed them to the building, we then went outside for a few photos before we came back in.

When we got back to the Parlour a few of the older children carefully tried on the robes and sat in the original Mayoral chair that is in the parlour. All the children were so well behaved, it was lovely to be able to share with them what we do and why. It was a lovely morning.

Meeting with Rob Eggleton MBE.

It was lovely to meet Rob and his wife and congratulate him on receiving his MBE for all the charity work he does to promote the work of the Military Police Association, we were also joined by his friend and colleague Mr John Duncan who presented a plaque of the association to Havant Borough Council. There were a few photos taken, followed by tea and cake.

Friday 4 August – Northfest Charity Event

It was lovely to see so many happy children at the NORTHFEST on Hayling Island today and catch up with radiant Retro rides, also to chat with the Havant Mind group and listen to their plans and aspirations for Havant.



Tuesday 8 August – Hayling Light Railway Charity Fund Raising Day

Great fun for everyone on the Hayling light railway, a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's society, all fairs for the day were donated to the charity, well done guys.



Saturday 12 August – Community Team's Tennis Court Open Event

The newly refurbished Tennis Courts at Waterlooville were opened today, it was lovely to see so many children there, who all seemed to be enjoying themselves. Special thanks go to, Becky Kaufmann National Tennis Association, Josh Gook (Coach) National Tennis Association, Megan Horwood Lawn Tennis Association, Matthew Tyler Community Sport and Leisure Officer for HBC and finally Cllr Gwen Robinson HBC, who has played a key role in refurbishing a lot of our play parks and tennis courts within the Borough, thanks team, a really fantastic day!



Monday 28 August – The Emsworth Show

The healthy bars did not disappoint at the Emsworth show today, we both had a great time! Huge thanks to Faith Ponsonby and Sarah for looking after us.



Tuesday 29 August – Springwood Avenue Play Area Opening

Another revamped play park opened today in Springwood Avenue, Waterlooville, it was great to hear so many children shrieking with joy and also talking to the parents and little Dave aged 5, well done team!



Mayor of Havant Cllr Rosy Raines