



## Mayoral report for Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Mayor's Facebook page currently has 768 likes and is followed by 980 people.

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – “Vintage Wine” meeting at the Church of the Good Shepherd

It was lovely to chat to residents at the church of the Good Shepherd at Crookhorn over a nice cup of tea.



### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Dynamo Youth Theatre's performance of “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”

On Friday evening we were both really pleased to be invited to the Pallant in Havant to watch the Dynamo Youth Theatre's production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, it was absolutely fantastic, well done team, you put your heart and soul into the production!



#### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Meeting with School Councillors from Riders Junior School**

Today we were invited to the Federation of Riders schools in Leigh Park where we were introduced to Katie Dawkins, Head of the Junior School and Carolyn Owens, Chair of Governors.

We were both met by Lisa Ruffell and met 18 School Councillors who were simply amazing, some of the interesting questions they asked were, "How long do you get to be Mayor for?" "Is it fun being the Mayor?" "Do you have any children and pets? They were so genuinely interested and asked a lot more questions, it was an absolute delight spending the morning with them and they were all so well behaved and a credit to the school.

#### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Service to welcome the 98<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Winchester**

Today, we were invited to Winchester to help celebrate a service of welcome to the 98th Bishop Philip Mounstephen. The cathedral was bitterly cold with the West doors open for ages, that aside it was a humbling experience to play a very small part in Winchester's history. We did get to speak to him very briefly before he was whisked away, but it was also lovely to see Bishop Jonathan from Portsmouth. A really lovely day.



### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Funeral of Honorary Alderman Gwen Blackett**

Although a sad day to attend Cllr Gwen Blackett's funeral, it was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, and it was lovely to meet and speak to the family. Gwen was the longest serving Councillor in the Borough, serving for 45 years, she was even mentioned at Parliament. A minute's silence was also held at full council this week to honour her memory.





### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Mayor of Fareham’s Civic Service**

To visit the Church of St Peter’s in Titchfield this afternoon for the Mayor of Fareham’s Civic service was a complete joy, the service was excellent, and the church is one of the oldest in Hampshire, with a former Earl of Southampton laying in state, a lovely afternoon and great to catch up with Mayoral colleagues.



### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Chairman of Hampshire County Council’s Civic Dinner**

Tonight, we were both honoured to attend a dinner at Serle’s house in Winchester. Councillor Patricia Stallard was an amazing host, I sat next to Rob Humby, the leader of Hampshire County Council and opposite Tom and Nikki Coles Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, it was a really lovely evening.



## Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Holocaust Memorial Commemoration Service

Today we attended the Holocaust Memorial Service at Havant Cemetery. Numerous Mayors from all over the County, children from at least 4 local schools and other dignitaries and guests, also attended. The service was led by Councillor Leah Turner. This year we were privileged to have a very special guest, Mr Bryan Huberman, whose father survived the Holocaust.

After the service there was a presentation by Bryan at the Plaza, the room fell silent, and everyone listened intently at the drama that unfolded and how his father survived the appalling conditions of the labour camps.



## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Celebration and Thanksgiving Service for Honorary Alderman Mr Brendan Gibb Gray

It was an honour and a privilege to be able to represent Havant Borough Council today at Chichester Cathedral, to celebrate the life of former Cllr Brendan Gibb Gray, Honorary Alderman and resident of Emsworth. A truly gentle man, with passion, integrity, inspiration, courage and honesty, a tower of strength to all that he met. Both Graham and I have met him on several occasions, but the most memorable was the last one, in June, at the unveiling of one of his passion's, for the Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum grand metal sign. We were treated like royalty on that beautiful day. It is one memory that we will both treasure and felt honoured to play such a small

part. Goodnight Brendan, your legacy goes before you, and you will be missed by everyone that knew you.

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Chairman of East Hampshire District Council’s Civic Service**

Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February was the Civic service for Cllr Anthony Williams in Petersfield, it was a beautiful day. The service was lovely with traditional hymns that we both knew, followed by refreshments. We both arrived early and had lunch in Petersfield and went to the farmers market in the square before we went into the church. We both had a really lovely day; it was nice to catch up with our Mayoral colleagues too.

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Visit from Enterprise Students from Glenwood School, Emsworth**

I had the pleasure of entertaining and explaining the role of the Council and Mayoral role to some of the pupils from Glenwood school in Emsworth in the Mayor’s Parlour. They were all an absolute delight and enjoyed their hot chocolate before they went home. The staff must have felt very proud of their behaviour, such lovely youngsters with some really interesting questions too.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Havant Sports Awards 2023**

Today, I was invited to attend the Annual Havant Borough Sports Award Ceremony at the Horizon Leisure Centre. One of the recipients was Jackie, a mature lady who received an award for volunteering with a local Badminton group at the age of 82! She was a truly amazing lady, ironically, I met Jackie again the next day in a queue in a local well known store in Havant, it was really nice to see her again so soon!

Everyone had worked so hard to make the event a success, there were lots of amazing stories to be told, it was a real honour to be able to represent Havant Borough Council.





## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Mayor of Gosport’s Civic Service

Today, Graham and I attended the Mayor of Gosport, Cllr Martin Pepper’s, Civic Service. It was a very moving service conducted by the Reverend Sean Blackman, he also included the Ukrainian war and spoke about other atrocities around the world. We all finished with tea, coffee and cake. It was nice to meet new people but also catch up with other Mayors from around Hampshire. It was a lovely service, time for reflection and kindness.

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Chinese New Year Celebrations

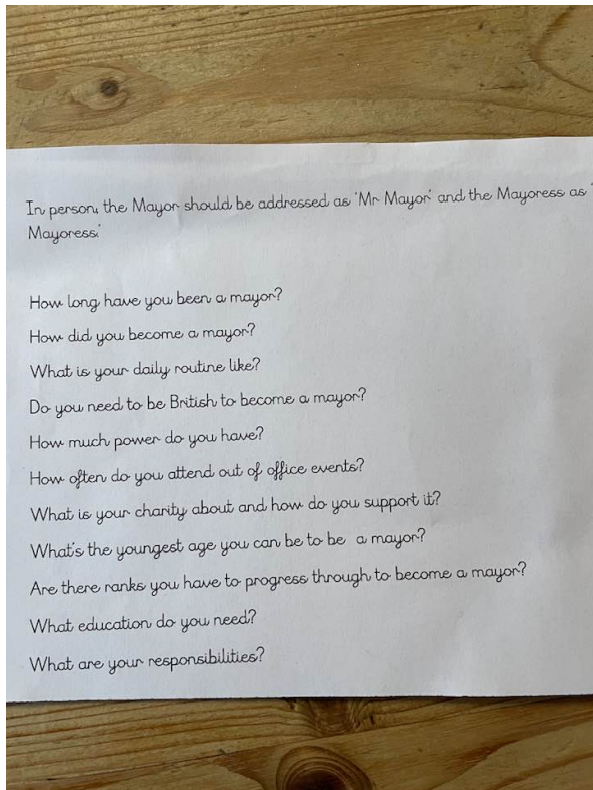
Today, Graham and I were invited together with other Mayors from Fareham Gosport and Portsmouth, to help celebrate the 2024 Chinese New Year celebrations, the year of the dragon. The children were amazing and the adults were all so talented. We all had an amazing time with huge thanks to Albert Choi, Chairman of the Portsmouth Chinese Association and his team, who all did a fantastic job, the whole event was absolutely brilliant, thank you!



## Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Visit from pupils from Mill Hill Primary School Waterlooville

Today, I was lucky enough to entertain the year 6 pupils of Mill Hill Primary School, it was the largest group we have ever had, but, after a quick visit to the Mayor’s parlour and a short history of how long there has been a Mayor in Havant, 50 years this year, we all moved to a bigger room in silence as there was a conference in one of the rooms opposite. The children were so well behaved

and polite, I think the hot chocolate and chocolate biscuits helped, they were all an absolute delight to be with. One of the young pupils said before he left, that he had really enjoyed his visit, you never know, we might have budding Councillors in the making!



### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February - An evening of reflection (2 year anniversary of Russian invasion/Ukraine War)**

I was invited today to St Faith's Church in Havant to help remember the 2 year anniversary of the war in Ukraine against Russia.

It was a time for reflection, prayer, contemplation and hymns, concluding with a wonderful short musical concert by the 2 colours choir. At the end it was lovely to join the queue for a cup of tea with Father Andrew who was visiting his Ukrainian family in Gosport. Also, to have a chance to make a Ukrainian doll at the workshop with lots of children. We then all walked to the Pallant Centre for a warming bowl of Borscht soup. It was delicious.

The one thing that struck me the most was the friendships between the Ukrainian families and their hosts, the love and passion in their singing and love for each other was truly inspiring. Despite the sadness of the war and their situation, I came home feeling content and happy.

It was an amazing experience, thank you for letting me play a very small part in your service.

Mayor of Havant Cllr Rosy Raines