

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

17 MAY 2019

May I welcome on your behalf those Honorary Aldermen who have graced us with their presence today.

Thank you for your support, not just today but throughout the past year.

Before I proceed with my "**thank-you's**", I am sure you would all like to join me in congratulating the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on the arrival of their son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten Windsor.

I would like to thank the Vice-Dean, Canon Roly Reim for saying prayers at our AGM today. I would also like to place on record my thanks to The Reverend Linda Scard and The Revd Karen Kousseff for saying prayers at previous County Council meetings.

Thank you to our Vice Chairman, Cllr Charles Choudhary, who has deputised for me on occasions and has been a great assistance throughout my year.

A big thank you to Natalie Jones, the Chairman's PA. And to Penny Mills, Sue Butler and everyone else in Democratic and Members Services for their help and support.

As you will be aware my Chairman's theme this year was 'All things Healthy and Green, all Creatures Great and Small'. I would like to say a huge thank you to John Tickle, Jo Heath and Amanda Hull in Countryside Service for helping me to achieve my goal. We are so fortunate to have Officers at HCC who go the extra mile.

I must also express my public thanks to my consort, James Still, my son, and all of my family and friends who stepped in to be there for me on other occasions. I could not have done this without your support, thank you.

I have met many amazing people from all walks of life whilst carrying out my duties and this has been a huge eye-opener for me in seeing, at first hand, the great work carried out by volunteers from every sector.

You have all been sent my list of engagements throughout my term of office.

There are some key highlights that I wish to mention:

- Laying a wreath in Queen Eleanor's Garden to commemorate the 100-year anniversary when women finally won the right to vote and Emmeline Pankhurst's 160 year birthday.
- My Wear It Pink Tea Party for Breast Cancer Awareness month where we raised £400 for the charity
- Last year's Staff Act of Remembrance was a particularly special event commemorating the Centenary of the end of the First World War. It was a memorable and moving service with the Winchester Military Wives Choir, the Peter Symonds College Chamber Choir and the Hampshire Music Service Brass Quartet, all of whom performed brilliantly and helped make this such a special occasion.

- It was a pleasure to host a reception at The Great Hall to honour staff that completed their 25 years of dedicated service to the people of Hampshire.
- Volunteers Celebration Event at The Great Hall – a fantastic evening to recognize the amazing work that our army of willing and dedicated Countryside volunteers undertake to ensure our special places are accessible for everyone to enjoy.
- I thoroughly enjoyed a day volunteering at Lepe Country Park, cutting back undergrowth and large thorn bushes. It was hard work but so rewarding. Needless to say I slept well that night!

I have attended many concerts throughout my term of office, some of which include

- The Anvil's 25th Birthday Gala Concert given by the Philharmonia Orchestra with soloist Sheku Kanneh-Mason
- HMS concert at the refurbished chapel at the Netley Military Hospital with music through the ages of WW1 and WW2. This was the vision of Cllr Peter Edgar.
- The Hampshire Music Service Staff concert at The Anvil. A fabulous concert. At my request the staff performed the theme tune from the Game of Thrones - this was such an honour for me.
- The ultimate evening was my Chairman's Concert at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 27 April. It was truly spectacular and one that I will never forget. Hampshire County Youth Orchestra and Basingstoke Area Youth Orchestra performed a rich and varied programme and I would like to thank Philips Solicitors in Basingstoke for their sponsorship.

Hampshire Music Service is one of the best in the country. It offers so many wonderful opportunities to our young people across the County. 25,000 children learn to sing and play every week and over 65 ensembles, such as those performing at my Chairman's concert.

Please, Members, continue to support the Hampshire Music Service.

This past year has been extraordinary. It has been an enormous privilege for me to represent you at events around the County and it has been an honour to broadcast the Hampshire message.

These are just a few of the events I attended during my year of office and many, if not all, were amazing in various ways but what stood out most of all was the dedication and commitment of all the people involved, many of whom are volunteers.

I will treasure my memories of these events for a long time to come.