

**Retiring Chairman's Announcements
Annual County Council Meeting
25 May 2017**

Welcome back to Members who sort re-election, and welcome to all new Members. I hope you find your time as County Councillors a rewarding experience.

I would like to say a few words of thanks, and highlight some of the many events that Jennifer and I have attended over the last twelve months.

First of all, a big thank you to my wife, Jennifer, who has been a great ambassador to the County Council over the last year. Her support has made my year an even greater success.

A big thank you to my two chaplains, Sue Wallace and Katie Lawrence, from Winchester Cathedral. Both have been very supportive throughout the year. The production of Joseph by Sue Wallace at the Cathedral was a particular highlight.

A big thank you to Natalie, who has had to put with me for two years! And also to all the staff in the Members' Secretariat.

I would like to thank the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roy Perry, and his wife, Veronica, who have been a great support to me, as has our Chief Executive, John Coughlan and his wife, Madeleine – thank you for your support and wise counsel.

I would also like to thank all Members who have attended my many concerts. The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson, and High Sheriff, Tom Floyd, have also been incredibly supportive to me this year.

In a year in which we have attended seven royal visits and over 56 music and related events, I would like to draw your attention to a few of the highlights.

A guest appearance of Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber and Gina Beck, a well-known West End Star, at my first Chairman's Concert, is something I shall always remember!

The aim for my Chairman's year of music was to encourage as many young people as possible to get involved with music, either by joining an ensemble or by being part of the audience. I've been delighted with what we've managed to achieve over the last year. I think what I have been most moved by is the enthusiasm for my theme, from the Hampshire Music Service, to fellow Councillors and of course, the enthusiasm from the young people (and their parents!) across Hampshire who have taken part this year.

A highlight for me was my Chairman's Concert at the Anvil. Many professional orchestras don't attempt to play Carmina Burana in its entirety, and yet our young musicians not only tackled this difficult task but did so with great enthusiasm. Many

of the young musicians thanked me for the opportunity to play such a wonderful piece of music, and the performance was absolutely fantastic. To have a fanfare commissioned for me by the Anvil was also a very special moment and something I will fondly remember.

As I was leaving the Anvil Concert Hall after a Hampshire County Youth Orchestra concert, I was approached by a group of young adults at Stage Door. They asked me all sorts of questions about my taste in music. They were a pleasure to talk to and I hope that my Chairman's year will have and will continue to encourage further conversations and involvement in music.

Another highlight was visiting Osborne School in Winchester for children with learning difficulties and seeing how they responded to music just proves how beneficial musical education is to our young people.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the Hampshire Music Service Staff Showcase concert and was delighted to see so many children in the audience. When Jill Larnner, Head of the Music Service, asked the children in the audience to stand up if they were currently learning an instrument through the music service, almost everyone stood up! It's great to be able to see so many young people enjoying themselves through music.

Of course, none of this could have been realised without the Hampshire Music Service. We are so fortunate to have the best music service in the country. It is truly outstanding, and the young people who play in the ensembles are some of the best in the country as well.

Throughout the year, parents and young people have thanked me for my year of music, and have also told me how much they've enjoyed my speeches. I am so grateful for the kind words and support I have received. I have had a fantastic year as Chairman of the County Council, which would not have been possible without their support.

Members there is now a short three minute video about my Chairman's Year of Music. Members, please continue to support this great service.

I have been told on many occasions that the Chairman does not raise money for charity as a general rule. However, as some of you will know, following the death of Sue May in the Chairman's Office and Fleur Wainwright, who used to conduct the Castle Singers, I decided to make an exception. This year, the Music service and I decided to raise money for Cancer Research UK and I am delighted to be able to present a cheque for £5,000 to Cancer Research UK.

With the help of David Fletcher, Assistant Director, Economic Development, I would like to present a Chairman's Business Award to recognise the support Hampshire County Council has for business. I am pleased to present the Chairman's Business Award to ASV Global. ASV designs, builds, operates, sells and leases Unmanned and Autonomous Surface Vehicles. They are a proactive and growing business based in Portchester with a turnover now approaching £11million. Many of ASV's components and supplies are sourced locally and 50% of their output is exported. I

would like to invite Dan Hook, the Managing Director, to come forward and accept this award. Thank you.

ENDS

[Check against delivery]