

The 673rd Mayor of the Historic Town of Hedon

For the past two years I have had the privilege to be the 673rd Mayor of this Historic town. At the start of my term in office no one would have realised what a strange couple of years that would follow the start of my term. To many people last year was a difficult one with losing loved ones or friends (I have personally lost 12 people over the past 12 months). The council has lost two of our long serving councillors to the virus, Cllr Bryan and Cllr Thurston. Both of whom will be missed by all who served with them. With Gordon I will miss him doing his speech for me at the Mayor making ceremony when I hand over to Sarah. We also lost an ex-councillor Mrs Ann Suggit who had been Mayor several times during her years on the council. During my term we also lost Doug Goulsbra, who was a great stalwart to the town, who knew everything to do with the town Hedon, and I would also like to sadly mention about the loss of the wife of our Mace Bearer John Dawson, Jenny who died suddenly after a short illness in December. We will hopefully be working with the church to hold a service of remembrance for those we have lost in the last year through Covid once the regulations allow.

Now for my report into my Mayoral Year. We started off the month of May 2019 with being re-elected to the council, which was a relief to me and Yvonne as we could start to plan for the year ahead. Mayor Making and the Penny throwing is always a great start to the year, and I was proud to share the evening with mine and Yvonne's parents. (My father-in-law threw pound coins instead of copper coins, to see what reaction would be from the children!). The Mayor Making Dinner would be later in the year which as usual was an enjoyable night, and I was proud that my University lecturer Karen came to be my guest speaker.

Throughout the year I have attended several events at the Hedon Museum, as for my term in office I am the president of the society. I attended the Annual Meeting and the opening of the

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'Keep the Home Fires Burning' exhibition. It is a little gem that is under used by the people of Hedon.

As the Mayor I have been invited to events all over Yorkshire and North Lincs. From civic dinners in Withernsea and Brigg; visiting Hearing Dogs training centre; Para-cycling in Wetherby; civic Sundays in Bridlington, Brigg, Hull, Snaith & Cowick, Hessle, Garton and Wetherby; going to Whitby for Yorkshire Day; going to charity events in Brigg, Barton, Hull and Hedon; attending carol concerts in Hornsea and Hedon; and going to a pantomime in Bridlington; I also attended the Battle of Britain parade in Hull. I have said goodbye to one lord lieutenant in Dame Susan and welcomed another in Mr James Dick. Also, I have survived from spilling red wine on Yvonne's white jacket at an event in Hull! (It luckily washed out after being covered in white wine by other Mayoresses)

Everywhere I went, I was promoting the Town, especially when I was outside the East Riding. At Yorkshire Day I was trying to get the name of Hedon onto the Yorkshire Day flag for the second year running, as the town is proud to have held the event in 2010. They started to put the names of the Towns and Cities who have held Yorkshire Day from 2011! I hope future Mayors will continue to pursue this on future Yorkshire Days. In Wetherby I was constantly being asked where we were from as it was a new badge to their chain gang. So being the principal Mayor of Yorkshire has some power when talking to people who do not know the history of our Historic town.

I have also been proud to represent Hedon at events to mark the towns support for the Army Cadets Force, and to have them supporting my role as Mayor while on civic duty within the town. We had an enjoyable afternoon with the Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force at Strensall Camp, near York in the August 2019, and they were my guard of honour

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during my civic Sunday, it was a shame that it rained for my Civic Sunday as they were stood outside in the rain for a long time, and remembrance Sunday. I was hoping to welcome them for our VE day celebrations before the event was cancelled. They were also hoping to come to Hedon for their 60th celebrations last year. This has been postponed until we can hold the service and parade.

Now for the parts I enjoyed the most, events in Hedon. During my year I was hoping to visit all the schools in Hedon, But I only managed to get to Inman's School and Hedon Nursery. Hedon Primary was going to hold a breakfast event for their student's, but it could not happen due to the restrictions. Inmans School was celebrating the schools 40th anniversary, so they asked if I could go along to help with the celebrations. I was glad to attend as my children were there during the school's 25th anniversary. I asked if they wanted me to come back in full regalia to open the schools reading bus and party afterwards. I do not know who had more fun, me or my macebearer. We were getting fist bumps and one child wanted to buy the mace with her cake money! I just wished I could have done the same for Hedon Primary. Yvonne and I attended 3 concerts with the Hedon Mixed voice choir in St Augustine's Church and the Methodist Church. The choir produced a wide variety of songs covering different eras of music, and the Christmas concert had a strong performance of Christmas music that would suit everyone. It was good to see a dedicated group of people enjoying performing to an audience. So, if you get a chance to go and see the Mixed Voice Choir, do it as they also raise money for a different charity every year.

We also enjoyed visiting the residential homes before Christmas 2019 and we had a good time at Easter, so we were looking forward to a busy couple of days talking to everyone in the run up to Christmas. Two days and six homes were a struggle as we really needed more time

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in some homes. It was the same going round the Pop-in, luckily Yvonne and I decided to split up and meet in the middle of Alexandra Hall. We were hoping to carry on the same at Easter, but regulations did not allow it.

My highlight was the Christmas lights turn on as I had a guest of Edith Richards who had just turned 100 the day before (She enjoyed the experience and hopefully she remembered it until the day she passed in July). Yvonne and I had an enjoyable time walking around in the crowd after the lights were turned on as we felt that it was our duty to mingle with the residents. We both enjoyed meeting people who were enjoying themselves that night, and we were asked a lot of questions about being Mayor; how to be the mayor; and how heavy is the mace! (John allowed people to hold it)

I was also looking forward to carrying out events later in the year that would have been the highlight of my term. The VE celebrations would have been a terribly busy time for me and the councillors as we had 3 days of events planned. But the Town Council organised a competition for the best dressed house, and I chose a winner from a vast selection of entries (This was ridiculously hard to choose a winner from all the excellent entries). We would have had a busy end to the year with civic dinners and other events planned cancelled by the virus, but I managed to get Hedon's Civic Dinner in on a Friday the 13th. The Lord Mayor of Kingston Upon Hull surprised me by giving me one of his civic crowns for supporting him and his consort during their time as the deputy Lord Mayor and when he became the Lord Mayor. I replied by handing him a Hedon Plaque.

This year I held three silver shows and was going to hold a fourth until everything was put on hold. One civic, one for family and friends and one for an old guide troop. This is an important role as Mayor as it helps to inform people about the history of the Town. The only problem is

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that I needed to keep an eye on anyone from Hull City Council as they are known to be after retrieving the apostle spoons!

During my year I raised £1000 for my charity 'Second Thoughts East Yorkshire' which has helped them get through a difficult year as their funding was cut when it was needed the most. As my term is coming to an end my wife Yvonne has started to do a sponsored step to raise money for St Augustine's Church to repay the support my Chaplin Dr Rev Susan Pulko has given us during the current period.

To end I would like to thank the people who have helped me to have a sort of successful term as your Town Mayor. So, thanks to Sandy, without you organising all the events in Hedon and replying to all the invites and keeping me in order, I would have struggled; Yvonne my beautiful Mayoress, my other secretary and dresser, she made sure I looked right and to be early to events; Judith for making sure I sign the right documents in the right places!; Caroline for putting up with me calling in more often than normal; John Dawson for making sure I knew where to stand, how I looked whilst in my regalia, and organising all the parades in Hedon and beyond; Sarah my Deputy who stood in for me when I could not cover an event; Kirsty for helping out at the parades and church services; My children and grandchildren, who saw very little of us as the events would take us away from seeing them; Also to my fellow councillors who had the confidence in voting for me to be the Mayor; and finally to the rest of the chain gang 2019/20/21 who welcomed both of us into their fold and accepted our friendship. Looking to continue our friendships with future curry nights!

Sarah, I hope you can have some events during your term as the 674th Mayor of the Historic Town of Hedon. From nervous beginnings to a confident ending, we both have enjoyed the journey.