

Chairman's Report – October 2019 – Dec 2019

Hampshire Harvest Service

Sun 6 Oct – Winchester Cathedral

This service was attended by All Mayors and Chairmen across Hampshire to celebrate the harvest festival. This is an age old festival and a great opportunity to promote the Island especially our farming industry.

IOW Legal Service

Mon 21 Oct - Newport Minster

This annual service is the start of the law calendar and the service was brilliant, followed by the High Sheriff's excellent luncheon at the IOW College.

IOW Jobs Fair

Wed 30 Oct – IOW College

The island jobs Fair this year was a great success and all the exhibitors were very helpful and assisted our young people who had the chance to make contact and get briefed on all employment prospects on the island and it is events like these that make one realise how well our industry is doing on the island. This is a good opportunity for students to discuss and explore their future job prospects.

Citizenship Ceremony

Tues 5 Nov

Another chance to welcome residents who made the journey and gain their United Kingdom citizenship and decided to make the island their home.

Field of Remembrance Ceremony

Thurs 7 Nov – Carisbrooke Castle

This is a brilliant ceremony and it makes me proud to take part in such an important event in the remembrance calendar.

Remembrance Sunday Service

As always, this is a special service and to see so many people paying tribute to those who paid the highest price for our freedom is heart-warming. The weather was better than last year and the service was well delivered.

Newchurch and Nettlestone Primary Schools Visit.

Thurs 14 Nov - Council Chamber.

As before with the Scouts visit, our mace bearer Steve Hammond delivered an excellent presentation of the history of the Mace. All the children had a chance to hold the Mace, with gloves on of course! A Q and A session followed which the children enjoyed tremendously. This visit was arranged by Councillor's Brading and Mosdell, I encourage all councillors to arrange such a visit as this is good encouragement for our children to understand and partake in council proceedings.

Unveiling of the Coburg Designer Christmas tree

Tues 26 Nov – Victoria and Albert Museum, London

This designer Christmas tree was donated by the Mayor of Coburg who attended the unveiling. Our twinning association members attended the ceremony and it was a good opportunity to keep strengthening our relations with Coburg. This was the last of a series of events in 2019, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the births of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. As previously reported, a mini

designer tree was presented to the island which was displayed outside the Council Chamber for a while and is available to view in the chairman's office at the moment.

Brighstone Christmas tree Festival

Wed 4 Dec – Brighstone Church

This was the opening service of the Christmas Tree Festival which is held in aid of Mountbatten Hospice. The service was good and the opening speech by the Chief executive of the Hospice was very moving. I praise the donors with their efforts to make the Christmas trees look so effective and thank everyone who took part in the festival.

Presentation to the Christmas card competition winner.

Fri 6 Dec – Love Lane Primary School, Cowes

I launched a Christmas card competition open to all primary schools on the island and the winner of the competition was presented with a gift. The card design with the red squirrel was relevant to the island and I was impressed by the local talent and to choose a winner out of so many was not easy. The presentation took place at the school assembly and it was well received.

I made several visits to several homes and businesses in the fortnight leading up to Christmas, thanking them for their service to the island and handed them a Christmas card from our council.

I would like to congratulate Medina Marching Band who took part in the Lord Mayor of London's Marching Band event on Saturday 9th November. They have done brilliantly and when I watched the video of the event, it made me proud to see that our presence is growing on the mainland and I think the impact we make in all areas will bear fruits for us.

With us starting a new decade, I would like to wish all a prosperous new year and I hope we all have a successful year.