

Mayor's report to Full Council July 2025

I was elected Mayor at the last full council meeting on Thursday 15th May. In the week prior to this we saw the culmination of a very successful Haslemere festival with a VE day event on Lion Green and finishing with a festival evensong service at St Bartholomew's church.

My first event as Mayor was at the Beacon Hill Beer festival which is a very lively event spanning two days (although I only attended on the first evening). This was followed the next day by a Secret Soiree at the Undershaw school in Hindhead which was a major fundraising event for the school with a literary theme.

The following week, beginning 19th May, saw the town hall busy with interviews for a new member of staff conducted by Cllrs Keen and Carter and the town clerk. There was no shortage of applicants for the role, but I was delighted with their selection of Amelia King who is settling in well in the town hall office. During the week I attended the fascinating exhibition in the museum foyer of the history of U3A.

In the week of the 26th of May, Cllr Waters and I had a very useful meeting with a Waverley officer, Marissa Nash and our Deputy town clerk to understand better the feasibility of a couple of potential CIL applications. Later that week, on 30th May Cllr Keen and I met our MP Gregory Stafford to discuss with him our strategy for the town. He was very interested to hear about our activities and direction for the council. At the weekend many of my fellow councillors could also be seen at the Rotary Club Garden party in the grounds of the museum with many members past and present in attendance.

At the beginning of June the Beacon Hill working party met to discuss items for the community meeting which we held in the British Legion Hall in Beacon Hill the following Monday. Later that week, I attended the year 6 lunch at St Ives school with all the food and table settings prepared by the pupils. On Tuesday 10th June I attended the Haslemere Wildlife friendly gardening event where I learned some useful tips for my Beaver group as well as my own garden.

On Friday 13th June, we held a very constructive LGR working party meeting to discuss the potential transfer of assets.

The week of 16th June was open week for care homes and as well as visiting Chestnut View and Brownscombe, I had a meeting with Anderley Wade, one of the Directors of the Tapestry Club, an outreach dementia charity running across Surrey and West Sussex. At the end of that week was the Haslemere Civic service held at St Alban's church in Hindhead. The Rev'd Richard Bodle presided over a formal but warm service to mark the start of my mayoral year and I was very pleased to be able to introduce the two charities that I am supporting.

In Armed Forces week, on 23rd June, I raised the flag outside the town hall and to keep myself informed of all the work of the town council attended the Biodiversity meeting and Planning meetings.

At the beginning of July, I attended the Mayor of Waverley's Civic service and earlier in the week the dementia café in Grayshott which is held monthly and called the Kindness café as it hosts dementia sufferers, their carers and anyone else who wants to come along for coffee, cake and a chat.

I apologise for writing such a long report, but I wanted to share the variety of activities taking place in our town and surrounding villages. I will finish by thanking the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Keen for stepping in to attend some of the events I was unable to.

Dates for your diaries:

Car boot sale 10th August 2025

Mayor's Ball 21st February 2026