

REPORT OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF LANCASTER FOR 2016/2017 COUNCILLOR ROBERT REDFERN

I have felt honoured and privileged to be Mayor of Lancaster and District for 2016/17. I feel very proud that I have had the opportunity of serving the citizens of this District in the prestigious role of Mayor for the year 2016/2017.

Everywhere I have been as Mayor I have been warmly received and wholeheartedly welcomed, both within the District and further afield.

One of the first duties I had as Mayor was attending the Shield Hanging Day for the High Sheriff of Lancashire at Lancaster Castle. It was a great day and I enjoyed it immensely. I have been lucky enough to meet with the High Sherriff and his wife several times over the year.

In June I was honoured to be asked to support a testimonial dinner for Lancaster City Football Club's Neil Marshall. The defender retired after 10 years at the club to spend more time with his family in an ongoing battle with cancer.

I welcomed guests from Lancaster, Pennsylvania to Lancaster Town Hall in July. What a lovely group of people.



I was very happy to be invited to officially open the new Primark store in Marketgate Shopping Centre, Lancaster. I was overwhelmed when they donated £5,000 for my Mayoral Charity which I thank them for from the bottom of my heart. I also sealed a time capsule in Marketgate Shopping Centre which contained local children's drawings of the Mayor and also a photograph of me! It will be re-opened in 50 years in 2066.

Two local charities have been very important to me in my Mayoral year. I have spent hours at Homestart in Morecambe and also Morecambe Bay Foodbank. I was privileged to see the volunteers who work at these two amazing charities in action. They work so hard with little recognition. I hope to continue the close relationship I have with these charities when my Mayoral year comes to an end.

In November I was invited to take part in Radio Lancashire's Bed Push for Children in Need. Local radio presenter Graham Liver pushed a bed in his pyjamas from Pudsey in Yorkshire to Bare in Morecambe. It was great fun and we finished off in Happy Mount Park in a soggy, wet bed due to the wet November weather.



Chinese New Year holds special memories for me – I was involved in several events to mark this annual celebration. To welcome the year of the Rooster I took part in a procession through Lancaster with a huge dragon! I also attended Lancaster University's Chinese Dance, Music & Martial Arts performance, workshops on Chinese music and dance at Moorside School and a celebration at Lancaster Town Hall.



Before Lord Shuttleworth officially opened the Bay Gateway in March, I was invited to take part in a drive up the new road before it opened. It's strange now to see it so busy when it was so peaceful that day.

One of the highlights of my year was to attend the Lancashire Special School Swimming Gala and Dance Festival at Salt Ayre Sports Centre. It was humbling to watch so many children with differing disabilities try their best in their chosen sport. The dancing was brilliant and I had a wonderful day.

I have raised money this year for my chosen charity – the newly built Diabetic Hub at Royal Lancaster Infirmary. I have held several charity events over the 12 months and I thank all those who attended for their generosity and the staff from the charity office at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for their support.

The highlight of my fundraising year was the fantastic Christmas party we hosted at the Town Hall. The entertainment was superb, the food was delicious and the atmosphere was vibrant.

On a number of occasions I have supported the Princes Trust and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on their team projects within the community, seeing the results of their work and listening to the stories of how the young people have been helped through each 12 week development course. I have also attended many charity events throughout the district and never cease to be impressed by the outstanding work that is given by volunteers and often goes unseen.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Linda, my Mayoress, who has supported me tirelessly throughout the year.

I must offer my thanks to my Deputy Mayor, Councillor Carla Brayshaw and her husband David. They have represented and supported me admirably during this year and I am grateful to them.

I have had a tremendous year, visited places and met people that I would never have done otherwise. Memories to cherish forever.

I would like to offer my very best wishes to Councillor Roger Mace for the coming year and hope that he will enjoy his mayoral year as much as I have done.

Councillor Robert Redfern
April 2017