

## Mayor's Annual Report 2017-18

I have been proud to represent Lancaster on many occasions and at many events during the year. I would like to think I have been able to learn from my mistakes and improve my performance in the role as Mayor as the year has gone by, but I can at least take comfort from the fact that I have been enthusiastically welcomed - and thanked by my hosts - at many of the events I have attended.



I've been supported in forty two years of marriage by my wife Joyce, and as Mayoress, she has been by my side at virtually all the events I have attended as Mayor. The Mayoralty only functions as well as it does because of the support in the background from Jenny Kay and the skills of our Beadles, Mike, Chris and Tim in finding the locations for events - finding where to park the Mayoral car, and getting us there and back again in a timely way with minimal fuss.

I must also thank Stuart Bateson, my Deputy Mayor and his fiancée Pauline Schofield for their invaluable contributions throughout the year in attending unmissable events and helping to raise funds for my chosen charities.

The Mayor arriving at the Priory for the Mayor's Sunday Service

My predecessor had attended a testimonial dinner for Lancaster City Football Club's Neil Marshall, who had retired after ten years at the club. Sadly, Neil lost his battle with cancer - and it was my privilege subsequently to unveil the Club's new stand, "The Neil Marshall Legend" Stand.

I am not known for sporting knowledge (or prowess) so it was a delight that my first official engagement as Mayor was to blow the starting whistle at a charity football match, and to become at the same time a minor star in a film by 'Boris Productions'.



The Mayor awarding the cup at the Arena

This event was shortly followed by another football match: an occasion for inspection of the teams on the pitch, and for awarding the trophy at the pre-season friendly between the Shrimps and the Dolly Blues. To demonstrate Mayoral neutrality, I had supported one team, and the Mayoress supported the other !

At one time, it was feared that there would be no more occasions when the Mayor would attend an International Youth Games, but I am glad to report the expectations were wrong, and I assisted in hosting the Games at Lancaster last summer.

I had three occasions early in my year of office when it was necessary to officiate at the holding of a minute's silence. These events demonstrated community solidarity in the face of terror. I hope there are no repetitions of the circumstances which gave rise to them.



Presentation of the Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur to Private David Greenwood Rodwell



The Mayor Inspecting the Troops at the Freedom March

Apart from the annual Remembrance Day, military events of various kinds featured in my year: Armed Forces Days at Lancaster and at Morecambe, the Duke of Lancaster's Freedom March, the unveiling of a Memorial Plaque at Miss Whalley's Field, the awarding of a Legion d'Honneur to a D-Day Veteran and commemorations of the centenary of the Royal Air Force and of the final battles of the First World War.

It was a great privilege for me to inspect the troops from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment when they exercised their right as Honorary Freemen to march through the City of Lancaster with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying.



I also experienced a Remembrance Service and Military Parade at Lublin in Poland, one of Lancaster's twin cities, where I attended as an honoured guest representing Lancaster at three days of glorious celebrations of the 700th anniversary of their City Charter.

Dr Krzysztof Zuk (right) President of the City of Lublin

Apart from this one trip far out of Lancashire, I have generally prioritised attending at local events, encouraging local business initiatives, and giving support to local charities and to the many volunteers who do so much for our local communities. From judging a mince pie competition, a photographic competition, and the floats at Morecambe Carnival, I have done so many different things - and been invited to events held by so many different organisations - including the WI, Brownies, The Confucius Institute, The Soroptimists, The Olive Branch, The Mothers' Union and The Rainbow Centre - that it is impossible to mention everything in a short report !

My ear for music is not very well trained, and I was happy to let my deputy attend some of the musical events to which I was invited, though I really enjoyed the Christmas Concert of the Brass Band in which my deputy is a performer, and the music at the Chinese New Year celebrations that took place at Moorside Primary School.

I've spent a very large amount of time in churches and cathedrals during the past year, including the traditional 'Mayor's Sunday' service and I have made visits to local Universities, the Boy's Grammar School and various primary schools. In particular amongst all the activity, I have noticed that University students are not the only ones who really do enjoy taking 'selfies' with mayors !

The Mayoress and I have helped organise a number of fund raising events during the year, notably a Wine Tasting, a Macmillan Coffee morning, a Fish and Chip supper for the RNLI (which I unfortunately missed as it was the day I went to hospital for an operation), a fashion show, a sponsored walk (by the Mayoress and Deputy Mayor) along the Promenade from Heysham Port to Happy Mount Park and a Dinner with the High Sheriff of Lancashire as the guest speaker. The High Sheriff this year has been Robert Webb, a resident in my Ward, and it has been a pleasure to meet him and his wife on a number of occasions during the year. On behalf of the Mayor's Charities, I thank all those who so generously have supported our fundraising efforts in many ways.

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

their development courses have helped and encouraged the self confidence of young people.



The Mayor at the Lancashire School Disability Games

Recently, I attended the Lancashire Schools Disability Games at Salt Ayre where I made a friend!

I have learnt a lot during my year of office - not least that one of my ancestors (my 3\*great grandfather) spent time in the Debtors' Prison at Lancaster Castle.....

I have ended my year as Mayor on a positive note with a renewed appreciation of the large number of people who give their time to keep our district such a good place to work, live and play. I have had a number of contacts with Morecambe Bay Foodbank during the year. Volunteers at this and the many other charities in our district work hard, and often for long hours, with very little recognition. Whether it is running events for young people, helping people with learning difficulties, or running a Foodbank, without the efforts of volunteers, our district would be a lot poorer.

I would like to offer my very best wishes to Councillor Andrew Kay, Mayor elect for the coming year, and I hope that he will enjoy his Mayoral year as much as I have enjoyed mine.

**Councillor Roger Mace**