

Mayor's Diary December 2017 - January 2018

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Accompanied by Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Russell, I attended the Presentation Event at QE School. The awards represented considerable achievements by many outstanding young people.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:** I visited the Community Lunch held at Al Trullo's. Those attending were treated to a beautiful Christmas lunch cooked by and Jacqui and Louisa from Plane Cuisine. The restaurant was beautifully decorated and provided a festive location for a very happy and successful event. Thanks to Cllr Simon Gibson and his family who organised and ran the event.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January:** I attended the meeting of Verwood Friendship Club at Meadow Court. The club received a very interesting presentation on travels in and around Yellowstone Park. It was lovely to meet some of Verwood's older residents, especially Edith aged 104 who is still enjoying life here in our town.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January:** I was invited to attend the opening of an exhibition in Bournemouth Library of work produced by young people who attended Cranborne Middle School. The items on display were some of the work I had previously seen at Cranborne Middle School and which had been inspired by a talk by Mr Henry Schacter, a Holocaust survivor. This display was very moving and inspiring. The young people's interpretation of the Holocaust was varied and fascinating. It was encouraging to see this work in such an important venue as Bournemouth's main library.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** Alan and I were very honoured to be invited to dinner in the Mayor of Bournemouth's parlour with the Mayor, Mayoress and the Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, Mr Angus Campbell. The Mayor of Christchurch, Cllr Nick Geary and his wife, "Miss Dorset", (Ms Samantha Bumford), Lord Stephen of Westbury, Ms Jane Portman and her husband and Mr Connor Burns MP were also present. We enjoyed a lovely meal in the beautiful Mayor's Parlour in very distinguished company. During the evening, I discovered that Cllr Williams, the Mayor of Bournemouth, grew up in Edgware where I was born. I had previously discovered that the Mayor of Christchurch grew up in Wealdstone so that all three of us are from the same Borough.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January:** Remember – there's no such thing as a Yeti! This was the theme which ran through Verwood Pantomime Society's wonderful production of "The Snow Queen" As well as superb acting and singing, the scenery, costumes and make up were fantastic. The production was amazing and I had to consciously tell myself that this is an "amateur" event. My escort, my son Ross, and I had a thoroughly lovely evening although we were a bit hoarse at the end!