

MAYORS REPORT FOR APRIL

- 1 Clive and I were invited for the official opening (Family fun day) of Portland Community Venue. This building had been a school previously and since closing had sat dormant for about 6 years. Portland Council have utilised this space so well. They have moved the council offices into the building along with a creche, youth clubs for all ages and a facility for young people to talk and be examined if abuse has been recognised. A wonderful facility with magnificent views across Chesil Beach.**
- 2 Bridport Civic Day started at the Arts Centre. This centre has been transformed since Clive and I visited it last. With theatre facilities, bar and Arts exhibition the old building has been brought to life. We then transferred to the Groves Nurseries where a talk was given by one of the third generations to own the nursery. The history was fascinating and is a really wonderful family business going from strength to strength. West Bay was our final stop with the wonderful view of the Jurassic Coast. A small Methodist church has been turned into The West Bay Discovery Centre and well worth a visit, we then had a very informative talk on the Jurassic Coast in the salt house by a member of the Trust. An excellent day.**
- 3 The Mayors Tea Party was a wonderful success all due to Lindsey. Once again, her cakes were superb and a Huge thankyou to her. We made over £350 which was excellent.**
- 4 My Civic Service held on 7th April in the Methodist Church went really smoothly, with thanks to Val, Joyce and Michaela. Their attention to detail really makes a difference. This was a very special day for me and was made even more special by the Rev Julian Macro and Alex Rimell our young saxophonist.**
- 5 Janine Pulford the editor of Mags for Dorset invited us along for the opening of their new Offices at Dana House. It was wonderful to see how the business is going from strength to strength.**
- 6 Blandford Civic Day seems to always be a military day. This time we had a very informative talk by the Mayor on the Corn Exchange. This old building is really special and is being renovated to its former glory. We were then transferred to the Blandford Army Camp which is absolutely enormous. We were first given a talk about the camp itself and how all the services had used this site at some stage through the ages. We were taken by coach all around the complex which is a town within a town and shown the sports facilities, theatre complex cinema and much more. The next stop was the Officers mess where we met Col Mike Morton Garrison Commander (who attended our Remembrance Day Service this year) were served lunch. The afternoon finished in the Royal Signals Museum. An excellent day.**
- 7 Music for Spring – a really nice evening with the Fayrewood Singers. When Peter arranges these events, he always introduces a budding new star. This**

time it was a young man call Joe Weaver. Unfortunately, when Joe came to sing the microphone ceased to work. This young man was 16 years of age and performed with such professionalism and took it all in his stride. A very nice evening.

8 Portland Ceremony of the Keys is always a wonderful event. It is a replica of the ceremony with Black Rod as he bangs on the doors of Parliament. This old Royal Island performs this ceremony once a year passing the keys from Mayor to Mayor for safe keeping. A wonderful tradition.

9 Ferndown Civic Day started off at the High Mead Community Centre. Clive and I have driven passed it many times and never realised what a wonderful place it is. The facilities are for people with learning difficulties, stress, depression and many more. There are animals and pottery classes and hopefully art classes will be starting in the near future. There is no routine, people can do as little or as much as they like and the quiet atmosphere is really calming. Our next stop was the Caterpillar Marine Power complex on the Ferndown Industrial Estate. This business is Worldwide with a workforce which consists of people who have worked for 37 years with so much experience to 3-year apprentices starting their careers. Our last stop was at the Ferndown Youth Centre. When funding for the youth centre ceased Ferndown experienced a growth in anti-social behaviour amongst their young people. Ferndown Council decided to take the matters into their own hands and opened this centre. It is a wonderful facility maned by part time and volunteer staff at the cost of £30,000 per year. It is keeping young people safe and occupied and is growing rapidly. Four young people stood up and gave us an account of how they felt the centre helped them, a great achievement.