

**Full Council 20 February 2019****Agenda Item 3 - Mayor's Announcements**

1. The Mayor would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon Jenkins for his service to the Council, following his retirement from his post in November 2018. Gordon was elected to Eastbourne Borough Council in 2011 and had previously served at the London Borough of Bromley.
2. December was an exceedingly busy month for the Mayor, with the many and varied Christmas events that went on around the town. It started with opening the Christmas market in the town centre and was rapidly followed by 7 Christmas concerts and 6 Christmas dinners (which reminded the Mayor of the Vicar of Dibley for some reason!). In between all of that were a number of award ceremonies organised by the Guides, the Scouts, the Military Preparation College and the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. All of these recognised the enormous effort and ability of the many young people in our town and we should be proud of all of them.
3. The Mayor's focus this year is on the contribution of women and she managed to find an extraordinary group of twelve local women who all contributed to the war effort during World War 2. Ranging in age from 93 to over 100, they joined the Mayor and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for afternoon tea at the Town Hall and shared their stories with each other and with our Heritage team. They were codebreakers at Bletchley Park, firefighters, land army girls, ambulance and army drivers, messengers and RAF technicians. The Mayor remembers her own mother telling her that war work changed her life and opened her eyes to a wider world of possibilities and these women were certainly proof of that. The Mayor was honoured and privileged to meet all of them.
4. January was a quiet month for visits although the Mayor saw two excellent pantomimes (oh, yes she did!) and attended the Eastbourne Lions 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner, where she was privileged to meet Albert, a centenarian with over 50 years service to the Lions. What a man and example to us all. The Mayor has also hosted afternoon tea at the Town Hall for Fountain Digital Ltd who won it at an auction, as well as helped to prepare and serve about 80 ploughman suppers at a fundraising quiz. Being Mayor is never boring!
5. Simon Rooksby, Chairman and founder of Computers for Charities, invited the Mayor to help him celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22 January. Simon and his team of volunteers collect and refurbish old computers and other IT equipment before donating them to good causes both in the UK and worldwide. The Mayor was very impressed with the amount of recycling they were doing which was the main source of their funding. Do contact Simon through the website if you can donate equipment or have need of their services.
6. The most significant event of the last few weeks was the Holocaust Memorial Day event, which took place at the International Lawn Tennis Centre on 24 January. This was a very varied event with contributions from singers, film makers and poets

but the most poignant of all were the personal testimonies of survivors. Their accounts reminded the Mayor of the visit she and her Consort, Alan, made to the Killing Fields and Genocide Museum in Cambodia a couple of years ago, where they saw for themselves what human beings are capable of under an oppressive and cruel regime. During the evening they lit candles in memory of the 6 million Jewish Holocaust victims as well as those from Rwanda, Darfur and Cambodia. An emotional evening but one the Mayor was privileged to attend.

7. The Mayor was pleased to welcome her very own Rambling Club to the parlour recently, who of course immediately asked why she wasn't wearing her walking boots with the mayoral chain! The tour lasts about an hour and tells people about the history of the town hall and the mayoralty. Many of the groups the Mayor has welcomed this year have been local school groups or foreign students, but any group or society can make a request.
8. The Mayor hopes that you will join her at her upcoming Mayor's Charity events which include a Walking Netball Tournament, a Folk Night, Inspirational Women Cream Teas, Quiz Night and not forgetting, the Mayor's Charity Tudor Banquet, where guests are invited to wear costumes of the period, if they wish!
  - **23 February** – Come along and support the Mayor's Charity Netball team at a fundraising tournament, taking place at Eastbourne Sports Park from 10.00am.
  - **8 March** – Join Folk duo Milton Hide at the Mayor's Charity Folk Night. Taking place at The Lamb Inn, in Old Town from 7.00pm, this will be a night of music and fun, including a raffle in aid of the Mayor's Charities. Tickets are priced at just £5.00 and can be purchased in advance from [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply) or in person at the Eastbourne Tourist Information Centre.
  - **9 March** – The 9<sup>th</sup> in the series of the Mayor's Charity Inspirational Women Cream Teas, featuring Professor Sue Hartley, Professor of Ecology and UK Government Advisor for the natural environment, at Eastbourne Downs Golf Club. Booking in advance is advised, either online at [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply), or in person at the Eastbourne Tourist Information Centre. Tickets are priced at £10.00 per person and include a delicious Cream Tea.
  - **6 April** – Hale and merry with our Lords of Sussex at the Mayor's Charity Tudor Banquet, at Our Lady of Ransom Church Hall, from 6.30pm. Tickets are £35.00 per person and include a welcome drink of mead, a 4-course feast, music and entertainment. Tickets are limited and must be booked in advance at the Eastbourne Tourist Information Centre or online at [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk) (fees apply). Period costumes are encouraged, but not compulsory.
  - **12 April** – The final Quiz Night of the mayoral year will take place from 7.00pm at the Town Hall. Entry fee is £10.00 per person and includes a Ploughman's supper. Booking in advance is essential, via the Mayor's Office on 01323 415020 or email [mayorsoffice@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:mayorsoffice@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk).
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in the series of Inspirational Women Cream Teas will take place on **13 April and 11 May**, with further details to follow shortly.

For any enquiries regarding these events, please contact the Mayor's Office.