

Mayor's Remarks *(For full council 22nd September 2017)*

Since becoming Mayor in May I have attended over 50 official engagements. These have been very diverse but I have learned something from all of them.

My article in October's Town & Around is entirely about my incredible experience of walking blindfolded around the town centre as part of raising awareness for Guide Dogs, a charity our TIC Supervisor, Denise Hunt, is involved with. Denise has been working in the TIC for ten years and it was a privilege to present her with a badge to recognise her length of service.

It was also a privilege to be able to attend the Anglia in Bloom Awards Day at Gorleston, especially as Hunstanton was once again awarded Gold and declared winner of the Coastal category. This is a well-deserved reward for all of the Hunstanton-in-Bloom team. Earlier this year Pat Richardson took the decision to resign from the Hunstanton-in-Bloom Committee. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat for all the time he has put into helping Hunstanton achieve such a high level of achievement over a number of years, and also for his work with Anglia-in-Bloom.

Next year is the centenary of the end of World War 1. Cllr Earnshaw and I met with John Crisford, Chairman of Hunstanton British Legion, to find out about some of the events and activities planned for next year. I was able to hear more about these from the President of the Norfolk British Legion at his reception in Norwich.

Back in Hunstanton it is very good to report that work has commenced on the repairs to the front of the Town Hall. We are optimistic that work will be completed for the beginning of the new year.

Finally in this report I want to pay tribute to our Town Clerk, Lisa Powell. This is her last full council meeting before she leaves to prepare for her move to Derbyshire. Lisa has been Hunstanton Town Clerk for twelve and a half years. During that time she has seen many councillors come and go, including a number of mayors, several of whom are in this room tonight. I am sure that they will all agree with me that it has been very reassuring to know that Lisa has been sitting next to them at meetings such as this. On behalf of Hunstanton I want to thank Lisa for all she has done for the town and to wish her all the best for the future.