

12 MAY 2011, MAYOR MAKING

Last week, Councillor Coad asked me ‘**What are the benefits of being a mayor?**’

This set me thinking. I could paraphrase President Kennedy, and say: “**Ask not what Hayle can do for you, ask what you can do for Hayle**”. And the mayor is the doer-in-chief.

On the plus side, there are indeed many pleasures to be had in representing the town. The mayor is invited to attend the ceremonies of neighbouring towns, some in a form that remain little changed over several centuries. And the mayor gets a ringside seat at unique events such as Lafrowda, Golowan, Trevithick Day and many more.

Within Hayle, there is also the chance to meet many of our citizens, through visits to homes, hospitals, businesses, clubs and organisations. I am always learning more about the town and its people – and the more I learn, **the more I like Hayle**. Oh, and the mayor gets to name the citizens and organisations of the year – **a huge privilege**. This year I named **Esme Jelbert** for her work at the Passmore Edwards Institute, **Gil Tredinnick** for 50 years’ service to the Hayle Surf Life Saving Club, **Bliss Ellis** as young person of the year for her outstanding flute playing, the **Angarrack Christmas Lights Committee** and the **1st Hayle Cub Pack**.

But it is the opportunity to serve and to lead the community that I consider the greatest benefit. Before I became mayor, I was not clear exactly what a mayor does. Now I know: **All the things he can’t persuade other people to do!**

Let me look back now on a year that has whizzed by.

Hayle is buzzing with exciting things and I would like to present just some of the highlights. So many things are happening - and our **secret ingredient** is that we have a **vibrant community**, willing to get involved and to get things done. During the Hayle Area Plan process we had hundreds of people attending and contributing to meetings. And we were able to give grants to dozens of organisations to spur them on.

But first let me talk about the council itself.

To be effective a council needs two things: **good councillors** and **high-quality professional staff**. I believe we have a great council, with representation from a wide age group, working and retired, male and female, going back more than 4 generations in Hayle and newcomers – and with a variety of education and work experience. Having chaired the council over the last year I can honestly say that the debates have been robust yet polite, hard-fought yet fair and I am sure that every councillor has been swayed during debate by hearing the ideas of others. **This is how a council should work** and those of you that attend council meetings from time to time will, I am sure, agree. (Mary Coad, Robert Jones, Bob Mims).

It takes a lot of time and commitment to be a councillor and I would like to give my personal thanks to our councillors for their efforts on behalf of the community. Particular thanks are due to the chairs of the Resource and Amenities committees, **Brian Capper and Graham Coad**, for the additional work they take on in leading this important work. And welcome to our new councillors, **Anne-Marie Rance and Nick Farrar**. I look forward to the enthusiasm that new members bring.

For the resolutions of a council to have meaning, though, **they must be acted upon**. For this we rely on the **Town Clerk and her staff**. Our Town Clerk, Eleanor Giggall, is skilled, well-trained and experienced and works tirelessly for the town. She is supported by her cheerful and competent staff, **Neill James, David Gallie and Rose Hopes**. Neill is a former senior planning officer and David is a former town clerk and their **skills are often called on**. And Rose keeps us clean and tidy with unfailing cheeriness. I would like to express my personal thanks to the Clerk and her team for the fantastic support they have given me over the last year. Later this month we will be joined by **Caroline Willoughby** who will become our new interface to the public during our office open hours.

So, let me remind you of **some of the great things** that have happened this year:

- Our fantastic **allotments** are finally ready and 40 happy gardeners are now in open warfare with rabbits. The floodlights and machine guns are now in place – we are just waiting for the risk assessment before the battle commences.
- Our acclaimed **town guide** was updated and reprinted
- The **Discover Hayle map** was distributed throughout the town. We are only the third town in Cornwall after Newquay and St. Austell to have a Discover Map - and our neighbours are scrambling to catch up.
- The **Mayor's Walk** in association with St. Julia's Hospice raised a record £5,200. The next walk will be on **Sunday, 11th of September** and it would be nice to raise £10,000 this year. The sponsorship forms will be out soon.
- **More than 50 new blue plaques** have been put up around the town identifying some of our many historic assets – most proudly displaying the World Heritage Site logo.
- The **Screen Machine** came to Hayle and gave us a taste of what we can look forward to when the Pioneerium comes to town.
- Daniel's supermarket is being renovated into the new **Julian Foye** furniture store due to open in June. Copperhouse will get a real boost.
- Our much-loved newsletter, the **Hayle Pump**, is back and as good as ever and provides a valuable way for local businesses to advertise economically.
- Work has commenced on the North Quay to unlock the potential for a **Marine Renewables Park** – finding some interesting historical artefacts in the process.
- The **Wave Hub** has been deployed and their office has opened in Foundry Square.
- We had **Christmas lights** to cheer the winter months in both Hayle and Angarrack
- Four major companies are vying to build a **supermarket** in Hayle (as I am sure you noticed!)
- **Bodriggy school** is now an academy –the first in Cornwall
- **Hayle in Bloom** won Gold and the Cup for the third year in a row in the South West in Bloom competition. Well done to our town gardeners Mike and John and to **Margaret Tanner** and her team. More volunteers are always needed.

- And we tried hard to close the **King George V Memorial Walk** to traffic on Sundays and we are still working on it. Thanks to **Ann Forman** for the petition with hundreds of names on it.
- The **old Hawkins buildings** were finally demolished and our public garden will come along soon.
- The **Railway Walk** is being cleaned up and will become a public footpath – thanks to all of the volunteers who helped and to the local companies that donated equipment and support. I hope to do an archaeological survey on the historic sand drag soon.
- The **Passmore Edwards Institute** has been renovated and will be holding an exhibition throughout the summer to mark the Passmore Edwards Centenary.
- The **Hayle Oral History Project** has recorded and transcribed hundreds of hours of priceless memories and produced a hugely successful book: **Churks, Clidgy and Doodle-dashers** which had hundreds of people queuing to get a copy and necessitated an immediate reprint. Congratulations to the director **Lucy Frears**.
- **Pratt's Market** has undergone a fantastic refurbishment and is now full of exciting shops and businesses. Make sure you take a look.
- The **Hayle Archive** is going strong and has researched and, among many other things, produced the material for the Passmore Edwards Exhibition
- Our **library** is secure and our **Tourist Information Centre** has been funded for another two years
- Despite severe cuts to funding, our **neighbourhood police team** will remain at full strength
- More importantly,... the **Hayle Under 9's Rugby Team** won the County Festival this year scoring 26 tries while only ceding 1.
- And what can be wrong with a town that has **Mr. B's ice cream?**

And here are some of the things the council has done:

- Maintained our precept (**the town's part of the council tax**) at the level of inflation – despite intense pressure from Cornwall Council to take over more of their responsibilities without any funds to pay for it.
- Supported a working party to solve issues at the **Millpond** and continued its on-going battle with the Environment Agency over **Copperhouse Pool**
- Maintained an informative **web site**

- Given a 2-year lifeline to the **swimming pool** despite huge cuts from Cornwall Council
- Kept our **footpaths** clear
- Supported: Hayle in Bloom, Heyl Fest, the Twinning Association, Hayle Decorative Lights and Hayle Pump
- Given grants totalling over **£5,000** to local organisations
- Undertaken numerous consultations to ensure the town's views are heard by higher authorities.
- Represented the town on **25 external bodies**
- And considered **144 planning applications**.

Some of the important planning applications have included:

- Construction of **22 affordable homes** on Trevassack Hill by Rosemullion Homes
- The **Julian Foye** application at Copperhouse
- Erection of a **bridge to North Quay** from Hayle Terrace
- **Morrisons** Supermarket on the Jewsons site
- **ING foodstore** and buildings on South Quay
- **ASDA** store and new rugby club
- **Sainsbury** Supermarket at Marsh Lane

Of course, some of the **most important issues** facing the town are related to planning - and the harbour and supermarket applications are **some of the largest ever to be made in Cornwall**. The council is compelled to grapple with the complexities of modern planning law in order to steer applications in a way that is best for the town - and we try hard to do this well, through training and study. We are ever conscious that decisions made now could affect the town **for a century or more**.

[And so far our difficult decisions have been **proved correct**. Following the deferral of the supermarket applications, ING appointed new architects and a new **heritage consultant, Stephen Levrant**. Stephen agreed that the previous applications for South Quay had been inappropriate for a World Heritage Site and I have high hopes that the next application will address many of our concerns.]

I owe thanks to many people but I would like to mention the **Rev. Richard Selby-Boothroyd** who helped me to make the 2010 Civic Parade and Service more inclusive and, I hope, more fun and who I hope will continue as my chaplain for the forthcoming year. The **Rev. Canon Martyn Trembath** for his support to Hayle's community and for his help in the Civic Service. And to **Monika Schallhorn** of the Fresh Café for catering this evening. I am continuing my policy of supporting Hayle businesses whenever possible. And thanks to the **Hayle Flower Club, Juliet Stoneman** and her team for the lovely table decorations.

Now a quick look to the future.

The visitors from our Twinning town, Pordic will be here on June 2nd and 3rd – time to brush up your French.

Hayle in Bloom will be holding a celebration on the afternoon of Sunday, 26th June on King George V Memorial Walk called **Blooming Hayle**. There will be bands, choirs, stalls, food, gig-rowing and jet skiing, bird watching, guided walks and a parade. The Walk will be closed for the afternoon. Come along and have fun.

Our Carnival this year will be on Saturday, 6th of August and I am still hoping that we will have a Summer Festival from the 5th to the 7th of August.

As I mentioned, Sunday 11 September will be the **Walk for St. Julia's**. Join in to help make this a great event as the Fund Raising for the Building the Vision project comes to an end.

This year's **Civic Parade** will be on Sunday October 2nd and we hope to come up with some new ideas for this year's event.

And this year I intend to support the **Precious Lives** appeal, as well as Cornwall Hospice Care, to help support the **Children's Hospice South West** in their important work with young cancer sufferers and their families.

In summary, I can look back on the past year with pride and satisfaction that the council and its staff have worked hard and effectively to represent and support the people of Hayle. I thank the members of the public who have taken the time to come to council meetings and engage with councillors – your views are important to us – keep it up.

And to those that say '**nothing ever happens in Hayle**' – I say 'you are not paying attention – Hayle is on fire!'