

## Mayor 2016/17 - Cllr Chris Lines



Councillor Chris Lines was appointed the Mayor of Sedgefield in May 2016.

“I’m hugely honoured to have been appointed to this role. I have lived in Sedgefield for most of my life, as have many of my family. I loved growing up here, was later married here and now I run a business in the Manor House in the centre of the town, and my wife and I are bringing up our own children here too. There have been changes in Sedgefield over the years and, inevitably, more are on the horizon. However, there has always been a really strong community spirit here and it’s really important that we sustain that for this and future generations. As Mayor of Sedgefield, I aim to play my role in doing so over the next 12 months. I hope that residents and businesses will be keen to work with me on events and initiatives that will benefit some very deserving charities and I will welcome any offers of support.”

Chris Lines raised money during the year for three specific charities:

- The Lullaby Trust, which provides specialist support for bereaved families and anyone affected by a sudden infant death. The trust has been chosen in memory of local girl Alice Robinson, who passed away in November 2015 aged just 11 months. Alice was the daughter of Sedgefield residents William and Katy Robinson, good friends of the mayor and his family.
- The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, in memory of his mother Margaret Lines, who died in 2009 after a brave battle with cancer. Lines received care at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, where much of the foundation’s work is focused.
- Friends of Sedgefield Harriers (FoSH), a charity that was founded to support amateur sport and improve sports provision in Sedgefield. FoSH is leading the campaign to build training facilities in Sedgefield that will benefit the hundreds of young people in Sedgefield who participate in sport.

During his year as mayor, Chris Lines raised an incredible £7,200 towards his three chosen charities – The Lullaby Trust, Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, Friends of Sedgefield Harriers – and other local organisations. At the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 9th May 2017, Chris Lines presented cheques to the following location organisations:

Taste & See, Pop-In, DIDO, Sedgefield Squash Club, Sedgefield Players, SPYS, Sedgefield Village Veterans, Sedgefield Development Trust, Sedgefield Lyrics Youth Choir, Lirica, One Step Forward, Sedgefield Youth FC, Sedgefield In Bloom, Sowers & Growers, Sedgefield Primary School PTA, Sedgefield Hardwick Primary School PTA, 1st Sedgefield Scout Group, Sedgefield Guides/Brownies.

## Well, my year as Mayor of Sedgefield is over.

It has been a huge privilege.

I have had the opportunity to spend time with some of the many groups and individuals in Sedgefield who help to sustain our wonderful community.

I have met other civic dignitaries, either welcoming them to Sedgefield, or at events around the North East (and even in our twin town of Hamminkeln in Germany).

I have experienced the great honour of representing our community on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, and other important moments in the year.

I was able to raise money for good causes. I chose three charities that are close to my heart for different reasons – The Lullaby Trust, Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Friends of Sedgefield Harriers – and also supported other local good causes. I managed to raise over £7,200, which has been shared among the three charities and numerous community groups.

*I have had some fun*, and I hope that some of the people around me have been able to share that enjoyment!

All of the above was only possible due to the numerous people who supported my events (in many different ways) and I am extremely grateful to everyone who contributed. Thank you all.

I owe the team at Sedgefield Town Council a huge debt of thanks, along with fellow town councillors, county councillors and civic dignitaries from around the region, and of course a large number of Sedgefield residents.

Numerous businesses have provided prizes for events or helped publicise my initiatives, and that has been very helpful, while venues such as St. Edmund's Church, the Parish Hall, Ceddesfeld Hall and the Manor House have been invaluable. Sedgefield's schools have also helped to spread the word about mayoral events, and provided performers who have been the highlight of civic events.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my friends and family, who have played a huge role in my year as Mayor of Sedgefield. Whether volunteering at or attending events, or contributing in other ways, they have provided more assistance than I can adequately acknowledge. In particular, I am enormously grateful to my sons Ciaran, Charlie and Samuel, and to my amazing wife and (reluctant but dedicated!) Mayoress of Sedgefield, Catherine. Whether they want me or not, they can have me back now!

My very worthy successor is Cllr David Brown. I wish David and Mayoress Elizabeth Brown every success over the next year and will support them as much as I can.

**Over and out!**

