Mayor 2017/18 - Cllr David Brown

Sedgefield Town Councillors were delighted to elect Councillor David Brown as Mayor of Sedgefield for 2017/18 (pictured above with his wife Elizabeth).

Over the year, David raised money for the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), the Macular Society and other local good causes.

"I chose GNAAS because the organisation is not publicly funded and it has come to the aid of friends of mine in the past. The Macular Society provides outstanding help and support to people with macular disease and dystrophies. Macular degeneration generally occurs among older people, but Elizabeth has had the disease since her early thirties and is registered blind. She has had excellent experiences in her contact with the charity and we are both very keen to raise money for such a worthy cause."

David summed up his experience as Mayor with the following:

My year as Mayor of Sedgefield has been rewarding and enjoyable. Before I became Mayor, I was already aware of the large number of interest groups within Sedgefield mostly run by volunteers operating in Sedgefield and which contribute to the community as a whole. During the past year I have had the opportunity to find out more about some of these groups and I have joined some of their meetings which has been a great experience. I have also enjoyed meeting with other civic dignitaries, either welcoming them to Sedgefield or at other events around the North East. It was a particular pleasure to welcome my counterpart from our German twin town of Hamminkeln, Burgermeister Bernd Romanski, and his wife Heike, when they joined a visit organised by Sedgefield Twinning Association.

It has been a huge honour to represent the community on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, and other times in the year that are very important to the people of Sedgefield.

The Civic Service was held in St Edmund's and Michael King (lay reader) kindly arranged the service to coincide with Harvest Festival being apt for the farming community which many will know has encompassed my whole life. The children from Sedgefield Primary and Hardwick Primary school took part in the Carol Service, also in St Edmund's Church and performed as a joint choir which was a wonderful start to the Christmas season.

One of the privileges of being Mayor has been the opportunity to raise money for good causes during the year. I chose two main charities, the Great North Air Ambulance Service and the Macular Society. Through a number of events held during the year, some individual donations and the very generous support and contribution from many friends and residents of Sedgefield and the surrounding area, I have managed to raise over £9,500 which was shared among the two charities as well as the following community groups: DiDo, Pop in, Guides & Brownies, Scouts & Cubs, Taste & See, SPYS, Sedgefield Cricket Club Juniors, Sedgefield Memory Café, Sedgefield Junior Squash Club, Sedgefield Harriers (Juniors), Sedgefield Neighbourhood Watch, Sedgefield Village Veterans.

This was only possible thanks to the many people who supported my events and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way. 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 have been invaluable.

I would like to thank the staff at Sedgefield Town Council who have been very supportive throughout my time as Mayor. Also many of my fellow town councillors have attended or supported my events and civic dignitaries along with a number of Sedgefield residents and I give you my thanks.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my family and friends, 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, my wife Elizabeth has enjoyed being Mayoress of Sedgefield, despite her difficulties with her eyesight, she has embraced this opportunity and been a great support to me.