

## Mayor 2018/19 - Cllr Mavis Wayman



Sedgefield Town Councillors were delighted to elect Councillor Mavis Wayman (pictured above with Cllr Ann Carr) as Mayor of Sedgefield for 2018/2019. Councillor Wayman joined the council in 2017 after living in Sedgefield for 58 years. Councillor Wayman, well known in the town as the proprietor of Jayne's Fashion for 31 years until retiring in 2014, was excited to take on the role, adding that she was "proud and honoured to be elected as the mayor of our beautiful town. I commit to serving the residents of Sedgefield to the very best of my abilities and trust together we can ensure a successful future for this special part of the country." Mavis supported Diabetes UK and Prostate Cancer UK throughout her year as Mayor alongside local community groups and causes.

Mavis had the following to say about her year as Mayor:

It seems no time at all since I was given the honour of becoming Mayor of Sedgefield. After the initial apprehension, I have to say that the past twelve months have been very interesting and enjoyable.

During the year I have had the opportunity to visit various groups, new and old, and have been encouraged by the enthusiasm of their members. It was a great pleasure to be in office at the inauguration of our new Clergy. It was a wonderful occasion with a visit from the Bishop of Durham and opportunity for us to warmly welcome Revd. Geoff Short OBE, Revd. Elizabeth Bland and their families.

I held my first event as Mayor, my Afternoon Tea and Flower Demonstration, on Thursday 16th August in the Parish Hall. I am pleased that so many guests and dignitaries were able to attend the event and I am thrilled to announce that we raised a total of £1,350 for my chosen charities. The event would not have been the same without Val Guest who created some beautiful, intricate floral arrangements which were included as raffle prizes. I would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who baked or helped on the day, the event would not have taken place without you all. My thanks also go to lay reader Michael King and all who attended and read at the civic service on Sunday 9th September.

It is always a delight to visit the schools and this year was no exception. For the Christmas Tree festival, every child in the nursery and key stage 1 classes of both our local primary schools were invited to make an angel which was placed on the Mayor's Christmas tree. A big thank you to the staff and children involved, the tree was amazing!

One of the joys of being Mayor of Sedgefield is being able to interact with and support our local community groups. I was delighted to be invited to present awards at Sedgefield Primary School and the Sedgefield Players' annual drama festival and had a lot of fun judging the Sedgefield Youth Club logo competition with local graphic designer Neil Edmundson.

Part of the Mayor's role is to raise money for charity. My chosen charities were Prostate Cancer UK, Diabetes UK and of course local groups. A total of £6,162.00 was raised during the year. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported me in any way, its not always easy to ask for yet another donation but I have been overwhelmed by generosity of the people and businesses in Sedgefield.

Behind the position of Mayor is a hard working office team who make sure everything runs smoothly, so thank you ladies. A special thank you also goes to Councillor Ann Carr who has been my consort and Councillor Mel Carr who has chauffeured me on occasion.

Hosting charity functions allowed me to showcase our beautiful town (although I still refer to it as a village) and I have constantly been complimented on our beautiful village green, flower beds and tubs. The Parish Hall is the envy of the many of the visiting dignitaries, as are the nice shops, cafes, restaurants and smart pubs. We are so lucky to these facilities on our doorstep so to all the people responsible and who take pride in their work, a big thank you.

I have promised to catch up with all of my neglected friends after May, but I plan to take a holiday before that!

To finish, being an ambassador of Sedgefield has been a great honour, thank you fellow Councillors for this unforgettable privilege.

As I get ready to hand over my chain of office to the new Mayor of Sedgefield, I wanted to share with you a few words which have been shared with me by a Mayor from elsewhere and I thought them very apt!