

# Mayor 2023/24: Dave Jasper

## May 2024 update:

Mayor of Sedgfield Cllr Dave Jasper and Consort Annette Lawson have had a remarkably busy year, travelling far and wide to promote our town and community. Attending well over 100 events (including his own highly successful music nights, coffee mornings, fashion show, civic ball and more), Dave has raised just over £13,300. This incredible 12 months of fundraising culminated in the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024, where Dave proudly presented cheques to a whopping 32 causes.



Dave's headline charity was Red Sky Foundation, who have provided much support to his fundraising efforts, and together they have fitted 6 defibrillators in the town, raising awareness of their purpose and training. You can see the full list of causes which received donations from Dave this year, including images of the cheque presentations, at [www.sedgfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/atm2024](http://www.sedgfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/atm2024).

Over the course of Dave's two years as Mayor, an incredible £28,000 has been donated to charities and our local community. You can view Dave's monthly updates from his second year as Mayor on the news page of our website.

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## November 2023 update:



Since the end of the summer holidays, I have had a busy itinerary of events. Early in September, local company Wootzano from NETPark invited me to a talk and demonstration in Newcastle about their latest invention, a robotic arm which can pick up soft fruit without damaging it.

My next destination was for a Civic Service for Great Aycliffe's Mayor in St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village. Civic Services followed each week after that in Spennymoor's Kingdom Culture Church, St Cuthbert's Church in Peterlee, mine held

here in Sedgfield at St John Fisher Church and Cockerton Methodist Church in Darlington. All the services were very different yet all enjoyable in their own way.

The funeral of former Seaham Mayor Leanne Kennedy was a very sad occasion. At 44 years of age, she was taken far too soon. A packed St John's Church in Seaham bore witness to her popularity.

The Macmillan Greatest Coffee Morning event saw my Consort Annette and I attend 3 during the course of the morning. It's just as well we like coffee and cakes!

Music featured prominently too with events at the Phoenix Club in Newton Aycliffe, an Oompah Band at the Twinning Association's Beer Festival in Ceddesfeld Hall and of course my own Jersey Boyz tribute band, who wowed the packed audience in the Parish Hall with their singing, dance moves and humour.

I am looking forward to attending lots of Carol Services as we build up to the great Festival of Christmas. I hope your Christmas proves to be enjoyable and peaceful and that the New Year brings all of you good health, prosperity and much happiness.

Keep an eye out in the New Year for information about my Mayor's Civic Ball taking place on 1st March 2024 at Hardwick Hall. It will be yet another incredible night of dancing, fundraising and delicious food.

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### **September 2023 update:**

My new Mayoral year kicked off on a gloriously sunny day at the Mediaeval Fayre in May. My Consort and I were pleased to award medals to all the teams in the keenly-contested Tug of War competition.

June saw us attend the Mayor of Sunderland's Civic Service in Holy Trinity Church, Washington.

The inaugural Laidlaw Trust's 'Innovation Festival' celebrating Hardwick Primary School's fantastic achievement in being named as the Most Innovative School in the country, was a great occasion for the village to acknowledge their success.

We attended 2 events in a week in Stockton marking 'Armed Forces Week'; the 'Flag Raising Ceremony' on the Monday followed by 'Armed Forces Day' on the Thursday. Local schoolchildren entertained us with some delightful singing, as did Janie St John.

Spennymoor Town Hall was the venue for the town's Mayoress to host an 'At Home' event. We returned to Sedgfield with a sackful of prizes after a successful raid of their tombola stall! More Mayoral 'At Home' events came next in Great Aycliffe's Oak Leaf Sports centre, Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Seaham Town Hall and Shildon Civic Centre and further invitations were given out to Civics to attend my events.



I try to attend as many Coffee Mornings as possible in the village and have succeeded in getting along to quite a few, including the Village Veterans' and the Memory Café's. My own Coffee Morning saw the Parish Hall packed out with standing room only.

The Twinning Association held a successful 'Strawberries and Fizz' event and it was a most pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Winning the quiz was the icing on the cake!

Finally, I wonder how many of our readers have heard of the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society's Museum in Newton Aycliffe? I hadn't until I received an invitation to attend their Open Day. They have a collection of single and double decker buses dating from 1942 plus a coach and a converted towing truck. This is another hidden gem which I would encourage people to visit.

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## June 2023 update:



It was a great honour to be entrusted with the role of Mayor during 2022/23 and I am incredibly proud to have raised over £13,000 which was donated to Cancer Research UK and a wide variety of local groups and organisations at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 9th May 2023.

To be elected to continue as Mayor for a further year is a real privilege and an undoubted pleasure. Once again, I will endeavour to give 100% commitment to the position, representing Sedgefield across the North East and promoting the fact that it is a fabulous place to live and bring up a family.

A large part of the role is to raise funds for charity so watch out for me shaking my collection bucket at various events during the next year. My headline charity for the year ahead is the Red Sky Foundation, which raises funds for defibrillators in the North East, together with local community organisations. Some of these defibrillators will be heading to Sedgefield. So please get behind me and show your support once more.



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The full list of organisations I presented cheques to can be found on the news page of the town council's website.



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## November 2022 Update:



I am almost at the halfway point of my year as Mayor already and I have been present at a wide variety of events. The sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II provided me with the rare opportunity and great privilege of reading 'The Proclamation' in the Service at St. Edmund's Church and 'The Statement' a week later at the War Memorial, a tremendous honour. On a happier note, there have been a number of Coffee Mornings to attend. We have also had the opportunity of visiting some iconic sites and of enjoying guided tours, such as at Ryhope Pumping Station and Shildon's

Locomotion Museum. Julie and I were thrilled to be asked to present the winners' trophies at the Sedgfield Players' Drama Festival of One Act Plays, a group I have belonged to for a good many years. The Twinning Association's 40th birthday party in Ceddesfeld Hall gave us the chance to meet some old friends and new, thanks to Alda and Phil's very kind invitation. Our Congratulations also go to the Pop In for celebrating their 30th anniversary with an afternoon tea recently, an event which I was honoured to attend. It was a touching moment for all to see founding member Betty Roper cut the pink and white birthday cake.

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## September 2022 update:

The first 3 months of my year as Mayor of our wonderful town have been incredibly busy but hugely enjoyable. Julie and I have been delighted to meet many residents engaged in various community activities. We have been pleased to be invited a) to present the medals to the tug of war teams at the Mediaeval Fayre, b) to help groups of youngsters plant up the tubs on the Village Green, c) to attend the Strawberries and Prosecco afternoon by the Twinning Association (where we won the quiz), d) to visit the Methodist Church to listen to Belmont Ladies' Choir and e) to go on a tour of The Hive. We have met a great many Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Civic Heads and Consorts during my term

of office so far and have become good friends with some of them. We really enjoyed our day in Stockton when the 8 Rifles were given the Freedom of the Town.

The highlight of my time so far has to be my first event, the fabulous night in the Parish Hall with 50s/60s tribute band The Moondogs. It was a roaring success where over £1,400 was raised for my charities, Cancer Research UK and local community groups. Those who were there have clamoured for a repeat performance so they will be back on Friday 18th November. I'm looking forward to meeting lots more busy villagers during the year and to raising much more money at my events so do keep an eye out for what is coming up next.



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### June 2022 update:

I am delighted to accept the great honour and privilege of being elected as Mayor of Sedgfield. My links to Sedgfield go back to 1976 when I was appointed as music teacher at Sedgfield Primary, a position I remained in for 8 very happy years. During that time, I became the MD of the Lyric Singers, a position I held for 7 years. In 1988 I moved into Sedgfield and soon after married Julia before we welcomed our children Tim and Ciaran who have both grown up in the village. I joined Sedgfield Players in 2003 and continue to have a huge amount of fun with this group of which I am Treasurer. I still sing with the Lyrics and last year I was made an honorary life member. I am now three times the age I was when I first worked in the village and feel fully accepted as a local Sedgfield(ite)! I promise to carry out the civic duties of Mayor to the best of my ability and, along with my wife, look forward to representing Sedgfield and supporting its wonderful community. Throughout my year I will be raising funds for local causes as well as my headline charity Cancer Research chosen in memory of my much-loved parents.



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What a fantastic two years! Take a look at some more images from my own events, plus those I've had the honour to attend overleaf:















