MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

I want to thank everyone who attended, and who had helped organise, the Mayor of Havering's Civic Service on Sunday.

We had hundreds attending the service at St Edward's Church in Romford Market Place, and I was very proud to see so many people of different ages and backgrounds taking part.

They included our wonderful young cadets, veterans and standard bearers, voluntary organisations and groups, community leaders and many more. It was a very moving service, followed by an enjoyable reception in the Church Hall.

Meanwhile, the Mayoress and I had the great pleasure of attending a production of the award-winning play 'A Wing and A Prayer' at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch last week. It follows the heroic exploits of young pilots based at the air field in Hornchurch, as well as the lives of their families and loved ones.

We'd first seen this wonderful musical last year and had been so moved by it, I recommended that the Lightnin' Drama Group perform it at the Queen's, so as many local residents can see it as possible. I'm delighted to say that both shows at the Queen's were sell-outs.

I have also recently been handing out prizes to local young artists who have impressed me with their work, both in a borough-wide competition for primary school pupils, and a separate exhibition for local children with autism.

On Monday, we played host to the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley, who came to Romford to officially open our new social care help and advice facility called Care Point, in South Street.

And this Sunday should see the installation of a new Visitor's Centre, also in South Street. This will be officially opened in the near future to coincide with the launch of a visitor's guide called 'Discover Havering', promoting all the wonderful attractions around this borough.

Finally, please don't forget that we have got the Mayor's Civic Dinner in Romford on March 10, which promises to be a wonderful evening full of entertainment, while also raising funds for the Mayor's charities.