

**APPENDIX 1
(Minute 84)****MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I'll begin by telling you all how pleased I was with the success of this year's Mayor's Civic Dinner, which was held at the Forest Lodge Community Centre in Collier Row on March 10.

It was a wonderful evening with lots of entertainment. We had 230 people attending, which was a great turn-out.

The event raised more than £5,000 for the Mayor's charities, which was superb. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and all those who worked so hard to make the evening such a great success.

It has been a busy month and I have been invited to many interesting and varied events, some of which I'd like to share with you tonight.

Last Monday, I had the great pleasure of hearing the Queen's Speech in Westminster Hall, at Parliament. I'd been invited by Romford MP Andrew Rosindell. It was a truly spectacular event, and Her Majesty gave a heart-felt speech; she is an inspiration to us all.

And last Thursday, I was delighted to go to Harrow Lodge Park where we planted a rare black poplar tree, which had been donated to the Council to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

These trees can grow quite big, so we have been looking for a suitable spot for it for a while. I can assure you it looks lovely in its new home by the lake in the park, where it will be a fascinating sight for many years to come.

Did you know the Metropolitan Police have been running a Jubilee competition with London's young people? Pupils from infant and junior schools, and children with learning difficulties, have been busy designing special Diamond Jubilee cards for The Queen.

I was delighted to help choose the winners from our local schools. Their cards went on display at the recent International Women's Day event at Havering College, and will be sent to Her Majesty. It was lovely to see so many young people taking part in this historic event and having lots of fun while doing so.

Keeping with the Royal theme, I'm very proud to be representing Havering at a special event tomorrow. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be attending a ceremony in their honour at the Assembly Hall in Waltham Forest.

I know hundreds of people across Havering will be joining us in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee this June, by holding street parties, flying the flag and much more.

And after that we celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – it truly is going to be a spectacular and historic summer!

Meanwhile, I've had a very interesting visit to a bell-maker in Tower Hamlets, one of only two left in Britain. They made the world-famous Big Ben there – Big Ben of

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course being the nickname of the bell in the Palace of Westminster, and not the clock, as many people think.

That same day I also visited Canary Wharf and took in the spectacular view from the top of the biggest building there. This is a huge regeneration area and, by the year 2019, there will be around 220,000 people working and living there, with lots of new jobs being created.

I see this as an important opportunity for people in Havering who want to work in the City, as we are only half an hour from Canary Wharf by road and rail. I look forward to hearing more about this scheme in the future.

I was delighted to represent Havering at the Royal Anglian regimental church in Warley for a service of thanksgiving earlier this month.

So it was with great sadness that I heard about a vandal attack on the Royal Anglian's memorial plaque there.

On behalf of the Council, I wrote to the Regiment to reiterate the tremendous support there is for them in Havering, and to say we look forward to welcoming them to Romford in November, when they will be exercising their rights as Freemen of the Borough to march through the town.

I have also visited the crime museum at New Scotland Yard, which is the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police; attended one of the Citizenship ceremonies at Langtons House; and was inspired by the International Women's Day event at Havering College. I also had a rather interesting health check-up by cancer charity workers in Romford Market!

And I was delighted to visit a seminar held by Add+Up, which is one of my charities. It raises awareness for children with Attention Deficit Disorders and supports their parents and carers. This is a very worthy cause.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that we have the annual Mayor's Civic Awards on April 2. This is where we honour members of the public who have been working hard for the benefit of their local community.

It will be one of my final civic roles as Mayor of Havering, and I am sure you will all join me in showing your support for these hard-working, selfless and dedicated residents.