

Mayor's Column

In this month's Mayor's Column, I should like to take the opportunity to thank a variety of people and groups that have served our community well.

On Sunday, 30th June I attended the last service conducted by Canon, Rev. Lynn Parker before her move to her new parish. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Lynn for all the work she has undertaken in support of the community of Torpoint and wish her well in her new post.

On Saturday 6th July I opened Torpoint's Field Day Festival accompanied by the Mayor's Cadet, Miss Buffy Taylor. It was an excellent festival of fun with free face painting, bouncy castle and activities for the children. The event was well supported by the community with families staying until the light faded. I should like to thank all of the volunteers who made this event possible.

At 7.30pm I slipped away from the Festival for an hour to thank our Street Pastors who for the past seven years have been patrolling Fore Street at the weekend to help keep revellers safe. This was their last night providing such support and they are pleased to report that this support is no longer needed.

On Friday 12th July the Mayor's Cadet and I attended the Circo Coppola performance which was held in the Town Council Hall. The Hall was transformed thanks to the skill and expertise of Mr Andy Martin, it was a joyful evening of song, dance and jokes. I should like to congratulate Kelly - Jane Brown, Director, on an excellent performance which was enjoyed by the cast and spectators alike. Once again, I should like to offer my thanks to the whole team who made this performance possible.

In October, we plan to hold a Plastic Free Torpoint Community event following on from the Plastics Awareness stall at the Field Day Festival.

As I reported last month on Wednesday 12th June, I met Dr Laurence Barnes of Penntorr Health to discuss the difficulty community members have reported having with parking at the Health Centre. Steps have been taken by the Penntorr staff to improve the parking situation who have made an effort to car share where possible. Deliveries have been scheduled for early morning before morning surgery starts. When investigating the use of the car parking area it has become apparent that there has been some unauthorised parking by individuals. Examples of this unauthorised use are motorists using the Penntorr car park as a 'park and ride', leaving the car in the car park and catching the bus into Torpoint. Some individuals are parking the car in Penntorr and taking their dog for a walk. There is particular pressure on car parking spaces on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as these are the days that the specialist clinics are held, with extra staff attending to run the clinics, patients attending these clinics as well as the routine patient appointments, we can all help by being mindful of what is authorised and unauthorised parking. Perhaps if our appointments or visits to the pharmacy are not urgent, we could avoid the particularly busy Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Recently, there has been a fundamental change in public expectation relating to grass verge cutting. We have been contacted by Torpoint residents who have emphasised the need for minimal cutting of grass verges in order to improve the environment and local wildlife. On Friday 12th July a meeting was arranged with Cornwall Council officers to discuss grass verges. We toured Torpoint seeking out potentially suitable sites for wildflower planting. I will share any progress on this in my next column.

Presentations were made at the Civic Service on Sunday, 14th July. Award Winners, nominated by Councillor Lambert Keise for the Mayoral Year 2018/2019 were: Mr Roy Bright received the Organisation of the Year Award for Churches Together, Dec Kelf was awarded the Citizen of the Year for volunteering his electrical expertise over the last 10 years, particularly with the Christmas Lights and Mrs Chris Trethewey was posthumously awarded the Person of Courage for her dedication to the town. Mr Ken Trethewey received the award on her behalf. Thank you to all the children from Torpoint Nursery and Infant School and Carbeile Junior School who sang beautifully in St. James Church, as well as the staff and parents who supported them. Thank you to Father Michael Brown for a wonderful Civic Service with over 350 people at St. James Church, this was followed by Any Occasions Catering who served a vintage tea at the Council Chambers, the conclusion of a true community celebration.

I should like to give advance notice of the Torpoint Town Carnival which is to be held on Saturday 14th September 2019 in Cambridge Field.

Councillor Mrs. Chris Goodman

12/07/19