

**Mayor's Column**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October I attended the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Concert at St. James Church. It was a pleasure to be able to hear so many of our local choirs sing and for me the highlight was when the choirs sang together. Congratulations to all participants on an excellent performance.

The Surfers Against Sewage October Beach Clean was organised for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October at Whitsand Bay and members of the Torpoint Community joined the SAS Beach Clean, part of our work towards Torpoint Plastic Free Community status. Many events in the area were cancelled the day before due to adverse weather conditions, however Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day. I should especially like to thank Torpoint & Rame Lions, the Torpoint Sea Cadets and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School for their support on the day.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Chris and I attended the Launceston Civic Service. We left early to attend this service as the storms of the previous day had reportedly led to fallen trees and a surplus of surface water on the roads. Thankfully, we returned to Torpoint without incident.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, I attended the funeral of Mr. Mike Howells. The service was held at St Joan of Arc Catholic Church and was full to capacity. Throughout the service and following the service reference was made to Mike as having been a 'colourful character' who we will not forget. Following the service, I was standing by Sparrow Park and noticed a person in a mobility scooter ten metres to my left. Ordinarily, I might not have reacted as I did as the person was not quite close enough to talk to. But having attended Mike's funeral and reflected on how there are many in our community that, at times need our help, I walked towards the scooter and asked if the person needed assistance. It turned out that the lady had only been out using her scooter once before, her eyesight was poor and she was very worried about crossing the road. I walked with her across the road and patiently explained to her where the best place to cross would be in future. We started chatting and it turned out that I had been her daughter's teacher. So, with Mike in mind, there are perhaps times when we could be more aware of others around us and take the time to notice when they are in need of support.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November our community turned out in their hundreds to support the Remembrance Parade. I should like to publicly thank all the team who made the Parade and Service such a success. The huge community attendance numbers, both parade participants and spectators, indicated how highly our community values this annual act of Remembrance. The planning and preparation that went into making it a success was exemplary.

It is anticipated the Christmas Lantern Making Workshop will have been held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in the Torpoint Town Council Hall. This is the second year the TTP (Torpoint Town Partnership) has organised the workshop. Anticipating an even bigger attendance the Main Hall has been booked.

By the time of reading, the Christmas Best Dressed Window Competition will have been judged. Joining me on the judging panel will be Dec Kelf - Torpoint Citizen of the Year, Clive O'Shaughnessy - Town Crier, Liam Ashby - Torpoint Carnival King and Ellie Rushbrook - Torpoint Carnival Queen. More entrants are anticipated this year and competition between the Torpoint Traders is heating up. The annual Christmas Lights Switch On and Lantern Parade should have been held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, thank you to all those who have helped put up the Christmas Lights, perform at the event and help to organise this significant event in our town.

A Volunteering Event is being held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 4.00pm – 6.00pm in the Torpoint Library and Community Hub. When talking with community groups I have been informed that the numbers of people volunteering is declining. The event is to enable community groups to attend and showcase what they do. I should like to appeal to members of all ages in our community who find that they have time to spare and would like to volunteer, but do not know how to go about doing so. Come along and find out how you could support a community group or activity.

Chris Goodman

Torpoint Town Mayor