

Mayor's Column

On Saturday 25th January 2020 I was invited to attend the Licensing of Revd. Annabel King at Millbrook Parish Church. Revd. Annabel King will serve as Associate Priest of the Rame Peninsula Team Ministry in the Parishes of Maker with Rame, Millbrook, St. John and Torpoint. I am delighted to welcome Revd. King on behalf of the Parish of Torpoint.

Work continues at Sparrow Park, Torpoint. The Torpoint Volunteer Exchange Group, led by Mr. Rob White, started the task of clearing and levelling the area where the Christmas tree is normally situated. I thank Rob and his team for undertaking this work on a voluntary basis. Rob is keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining the volunteer group. Plans are progressing regarding landscaping this area and the small area will be funded by a recent successful funding application submitted by Torpoint Town Council. Thank you to the group of volunteers who cleared the 'long strip' at Sparrow Park and the camellia bed.

Recently we heard about a serious garage fire in our community. Thankfully, there were no injuries received, however, without the prompt response of our local Torpoint Community Fire Station, it could have been a very different outcome. Having visited the residents they were overwhelmed by the kindness of friends and community members. After visiting the Torpoint Community Fire Station thanking them for their professional and timely response, they will be advising Torpoint residents on fire safety and the safe storage of items in garages and sheds.

On Friday 31st January I attended the Torpoint Players pantomime Aladdin, we were entertained in the finest tradition. At the conclusion of the performance I had the pleasure of congratulating Claire Widdecombe - Director, Betty Begbie - Musical Director, Lighting Design and Production - Andy Martin and the cast and backstage crew on a wonderful evening of entertainment. Congratulations to all those involved in this production.

On 7th February I was invited to attend two 100th birthday parties, Nancy from Millbrook and Phyllis from Torpoint. Both birthday ladies were very excited having received their birthday cards from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth.

By the time this is published my Mayor's Charity Valentine Ball will have been held on 15th February in the Council Chambers. My chosen Mayoral charities are the Torpoint & Rame Artificial Turf Pitch Project (YMCA) and the Stroke Association and are very personal to me. I should like to thank our elite sportspersons, Paralympian David Wetherill, who will have travelled from his training base in Sheffield to attend the Mayor's Ball. Also Southampton Premier League footballer Jack Stephens and Lloyd Fairbrother of Welsh Pro 14 Rugby Newport Dragons who have kindly donated memorabilia to be auctioned. All three of these elite sportspersons grew up in Torpoint and have been and continue to be excellent role models for the young people in our community. Inspiring young people in Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula to realise a dream and prove if you work hard enough anything is possible.

Recently reported in the national press there is a drive join the Great British Spring Clean. The Friends of Thanckes Park group are organising an event on Saturday 21st of March, from 10.00am – 3.00pm and have successfully undertaken an annual Spring Clean for the last couple of years. I am hopeful that we can have a co-ordinated approach with other individuals and community groups getting involved.

Week commencing 10th February saw the planting of trees at Hawthorn Avenue and Thanckes Park in Torpoint. The Forest for Cornwall initiative is being led by Cornwall Council, 19 sites in the county will count towards Cornwall Council's flagship project to help tackle the climate emergency. The trees will be a mixture of native broadleaf and non-native trees to provide resilience to local disease and climate changes. More information on the Forest for Cornwall and how to get involved is at www.cornwall.gov.uk/forestforconwall.

For your information the Town Council is working in partnership with Cornwall Council to deliver suitable redevelopment of the Lower end of Fore Street. It is anticipated the community will be invited to engage in a Charrette (collaborative session with a group of individuals) in May 2020, where residents' views will be sought.

Chris Goodman

Torpoint Town Mayor

9th February 2020