



Report from the Town Mayor 2016/17

It's been an absolute honour to represent our wonderful town in my mayoral year and what a very enjoyable year I've had.

From the Vintage Rally to the Queen's 90th birthday, to being soaked with water in the hilarious Raft Race, the Melplash Show and West Bay Wallow, it makes you realise what an action packed civic year this town has.

I particularly enjoyed the Christmas Cheer and lighting the Christmas lights in Bucky Doo Square and the Christmas Tree Festival, as well as the amazing Hat Festival, Literary Prize, this year's excellent Pantomime, leading the town on Remembrance Day and the church services to commemorate the Battle of Jutland and the Somme. In relation to that. I would very much like to thank the Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts for providing the Mayor's Own escorts in public ceremonies and services - the young people involved have been superb. I need also to thank my own escort, Cllr Geoff Ackerman, who as always is the perfect gentleman. My own family accuse me of 'knowing everyone' as I walk through town on a Saturday and they complain about it regularly. Well - Geoff really does know everyone!

I'd also like to thank my Deputy, Anne Rickard, without whom I could not have undertaken my mayoral year at all and who has really gone beyond the call of duty. Being a County and a District Councillor keeps you very busy and Anne has deputised at the majority of Civic Days across Dorset - good preparation I hope for next year.

My own Civic Day was very well attended and the Mayors of Dorset appreciated the excellent community values and support provided at St Mary's School, enjoyed posing for photographs at the new multi sensory playground in West Bay, saw the fruits of the labours of the Symene Community Land Trust at their new homes in West Road and enjoyed a fish pie at the Riverside, as well as soup at Sladers Yard and a shopping spree at Symondsburry Kitchen - promoting all that is good about Bridport. I want also to thank the High Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant who have attended various events in the town and especially Philip, for his appreciation of all things Bridport.

What many people don't know is that the invaluable component of the Mayor's Calendar is the Mayor's Secretary, Linda Bullock, without whom none of this would have taken place. Thank you Linda for your patience with my business and your superb organisation.

Finally I want to thank everyone who has given to or raised money for the Mayor's Charities. The quiz night raised £280. I'm pleased to be handing over to a new Mayor who will carry on the tradition with aplomb.

Cllr Ros Kayes
Town Mayor
2016/17