



## **Report from the Town Mayor 2017/2018**

What a lively and active town we have, and what a complete pleasure, privilege and honour it has been to be our Town Mayor and what enormous pride I have when representing Bridport elsewhere in West Dorset.

For the past 10 months, I have been totally absorbed in Bridport's Civic life at a level not experienced by me before. I had the honour to be invited to all manner of events, too many to possibly list here, but as townspeople you will already be fully aware of the myriad festivals and events which take place inexhaustibly throughout the year, and which make Bridport the lively and community-engaging town it is. I feel proud to be part of a Town Council that puts in so much work and support to help make these events run smoothly, but much of the credit must also go to you, the townspeople, for the ideas, commitment, expertise and talent you always offer to the town.

My Civic duties have been many and cannot possibly be listed in full here, but let it be understood that I have had a busy and very enjoyable 10 months since taking on this role - and it's not over yet. As well as more Civic visits to other towns, we have our very own and important Civic Day to look forward to in April, when we have the opportunity to host other Mayors and Civic Leaders and show them some of the amazing things going on in our town.

There are many things we could show, but the visitors are only here for a day, so on this year's Mayor's Civic Day we will have the pleasure to show them how our community has rescued our Youth and Community Centre, the wonderfully renovated Bridport Museum and the Literary and Scientific Institute. We will finish off back in the Town Hall, sharing and introducing them to what for me is a proud and so far unique initiative, our Citizens' Charter, making Bridport the first Rights Respecting Town in the UK.

There are of course many other issues our Town Council is working on, but I will leave it to our Leader and our Town Clerk to report on those.

I offer my sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for all your lovely invitations, your generous hospitality, your friendliness and for including me in your celebrations and events. It has been a real joy. Thanks for joining in with ours too.

I will finish by saying that the personal support I receive from the entire Town Council, especially Linda Bullock as my Mayor's secretary, my husband, Cllr Dave Rickard as my consort, and our Deputy Mayor, Cllr Barry Irvine, who has attended those events for which I was unavailable. This help has been invaluable and big thanks must go to the whole team.

Thank you

Anne Rickard  
Town Mayor 2017/18