

## Mayors Report for December 2018

1. Choral society Christmas concert is always a wonderful way to start of the December festivities. Ann always makes it a happy event with a lot of audience participation. A lovely evening.
2. My Civic Day was a lovely event. Linda from the Heritage centre said she would like to arrange the morning and had ideas. This was a real success and everyone was hands on brick rubbing and were so enthused with the Museum saying about the memories it brought back to them. Hillside school singing was a lovely addition as people made there way into the hall. I can't thank Val, Joyce and Michaela enough for the wonderful job they made of the hall along with the wonderful flowers from Ann Hilton and help from Mark at the Hub, it looked so inviting when people entered. This year I thought that Ann (Choral Society) and Mike (Band) deserved a well-earned rest and a meal for the years they have entertained us. The Verwood Voices (community Choir) which is one of my favourites and along with the two youngsters looking forward to wonderful careers in music I felt it was a really good contrast. Thanks to all who helped to make it a successful day.
3. Ferndown Carol Service at St Marys Church. This church is one of our favourites, it is so warm and welcoming and the Revered Sarah Pix and Reverend Patches Chabala make a wonderful team. A really lovely carol service surrounded by Christmas tree, candles and fairy lights.
4. Clive and I were invited to Blandford for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Blandford looked absolutely beautiful with every shop having Christmas tree and lights above their windows. A really lovely event.
5. E.D.C Toni invited us to the East Dorset Christmas event at Moors Valley. On entering the tree was massive and with the smell of mulled wine and Apple it was a wonderful Christmas feel. A lovely evening with folk music and canapes.
6. I opened the Christmas Extravaganza on such a damp rainy evening which was such a shame. So much work goes into this event but it so relies on the weather. The Choir still sang and some people persevered but it was cold and wet and in the end every one was gone by about 7.15.
7. I went along to the Lions Christmas Parcel event. The Lions each year have referrals from Doctors, CAB, Social workers and many more for lonely vulnerable people who would benefit from a parcel of food. This food is paid for by the Lions and Jenny from morrison's ensures that the special offers come their way. The Lion volunteers then tour around delivering on the same day. This is a very special event and I am sure really appreciated by the clients they visit.
8. The Sweet Charity Choir is a Choir we have never seen before. They have just been approached to go and sing at Carnegie Hall in America. What a wonderful experience for them all. It was a wonderful evening of song and music with all proceeds from the evening going to Julia's House.
9. The Age Concern dinner this year was at the Swans in Verwood. I was absolutely astonished how Mark and his team transported so many people with so many different problems from one place to another. This was done like a well-oiled machine and everyone had a really good time. Volunteers again made up the work force for the Age Concern and I really appreciate everything they do. A really nice meal.
10. I attended the Little Owls Christmas performance at Hillside School. These are really special events with 4 – 5year olds really trying so hard to remember their words. It was a beautiful performance.

11. Carol Geary and myself attended the Mayors Carol Service in Weymouth. Once again, the church was beautifully decorated and very welcoming. This was a really lovely carol service with many of the old traditional carols. All the readings were given by people of all walks of life, young and old who the Mayor knew. This was a really nice thing and made it quite personnel. A lovely event.
12. I had asked Sue at the Day Centre if her clients could make me anything for Christmas as a competition. They decided to make Christmas decorations, some group, some singles. Clive, Susan and I attended the Day Centre to judge them. It was a difficult decision but I made my choice and all went well. Joyce had prepared me some certificates and I had brought sandwiches, cakes, and finger food for a special Tea at the Council Offices. 20 clients came and I would like to thank Val, Joyce and Michaela for laying out the food and really helping to make this a special event for them. Some had to stay back at the centre as they had large chairs so I had left milk, hot chocolate and biscuits for them to enjoy. The afternoon we were invited to the Hub where the Day Centre clients were being entertained by the Rock Choir. They were then going to perform their own show. This was quite a moving experience as some of the young ones have such severe disabilities, but the music lit up their faces and they clapped and moved the best they could and really enjoyed themselves. The Day Centre is a wonderful place and would make anyone welcome if you would like to visit. A lovely day.
13. Clive and I attended the Brass Band Christmas concert. This again was an amazing event. Every show our band performs is outstanding, they are wonderful ambassadors for our town. The main band are still Wessex champions and have been for the past 4 years, with our Town Band coming third this year, a marvellous achievement. Really lovely evening.
14. Hillside school KS1 Christmas performance was lovely. It's wonderful to see youngsters with so much confidence and enthusiasm. Eight children had gone down with a bug so there were 8 stand ins who did such a marvellous job. A lovely performance.