

Christmas Message from Cllr Neil Bastow (Mayor of the Bay of Colwyn)

Christmas is a time for family, for friendships and for relaxation. Also a time for some of us to reflect on the birth of Jesus and the message of hope this time heralds. For some it could be literally kicking back and opening a bottle of wine and watching the TV. In fact it's probably going to be all of the above for me.

But working in the Care environment, I know there will be hundreds of people making Christmas enjoyable for the people they support in the community, and I would like and hope that we remember the compassion they have in surrendering their family time. They go unmentioned so often, but these people are some of the most deserving in the society.

So far this Mayoral year I have been truly privileged to meet so many people I'd never normally come into contact with. I use the word privileged with consideration as I know of no other. The most memorable occasion was when I was asked to present a bouquet of flowers and a card to a lady who had reached her 100th birthday. This lady was a living history book and my only regret was that I couldn't spend more time sitting with her and experiencing life at the turn of the century; that you will never find in history books.

From supporting the RNLI fundraisers, New Shops, Joshua Tree foundation, Tree of Lights, MacMillan coffee mornings and countless others I only want the position of Mayor to reflect on these organisations and hope that what publicity they gain solidifies their future and highlights their needs.

Our local community groups do amazing work and as ever there is a superb army of volunteers out there supporting charities, giving time to run and coach at sports clubs or supporting the youth through Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides etc. I also want to recognise the volunteers that give of their time to provide food, clothing and shelter for our homeless.

I like to say "*I know which side my bread is buttered*" and so for that I truly value the support of the Town Clerk and Clerk's assistants and my fellow Councillors. The position of Mayor would be untenable without it. For the coming year, I hope it will be a mix of excitement, discovery and humility and I am looking forward to what that may bring.

So at Christmas, whatever faith you ascribe to, I wish for you a time of relaxation, reflection and rejuvenation. And for myself, I pray you have peace for this period and prosperity for your future.

God Bless us everyone
(*Charles Dickens*)