



**CITY OF TRURO**

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2012/2013**

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the Mayor of Truro over the past year and I am so grateful to this Council for giving me this opportunity, as well as the support and advice they have freely offered.

I believe Truro City Council to be very special – the councillors are passionate about Truro and have such a wealth of knowledge and expertise. The staff are unfailingly patient, helpful and efficient.

Roger Gazzard has embraced the Neighbourhood Plan with quiet vigour, not to mention the taking over of the public conveniences and the guidance on the Judicial Review of the Truro Eastern District Centre. He gets through a monumental amount of work without ever seeming in too much of a hurry for anyone. Richard Budge's achievements in parks have been much mentioned of late and I know that Councillor Miss Fozzard, as Chair of Parks Committee, has much praised Richard and the entire team on many occasions. The Tourist Information Centre is a hub of activity and Abi so ably masterminded the launch of the Truro Guide. The community workers continue to work so hard on the estates and don't let resource constraints stop them from being innovative and supportive. I understand that the new team for the conveniences is doing a great job and are happy to have the City Council as their employer. Finally, the staff in this building have been the most supportive and caring they could be to me personally, always ready with help and advice, and I know their 'customer services' leaves nothing to be desired.

I have met some lovely people during the course of the year. There have been royal visits and, of course, the new Archbishop of Canterbury visited shortly before his enthronement. But I think what has given most pleasure is visiting care homes and projects. It highlights how much people are prepared to give of their own time and skills to help others and the community. The care homes have been particularly poignant as the residents are often so grateful for time spent with them. I have particularly enjoyed the close relationship with the Cathedral and the opportunity to learn more about their pastoral role. Canon Philip Lambert has not only been my Chaplain – he has also been a friend and mentor.

It has been a particular pleasure to work with Kenwyn Councillors on the Neighbourhood Plan and I hope the partnership will continue into the future – we have much in common and share a need to defend ourselves against inappropriate development.

I have relished the opportunity to take forward some of my pet plans. I have been overwhelmed by the interest in the Mayoral Year of the Bee and must thank Richard Budge and the Truro in Bloom team for their support in this. The Truro Renewable Energy Enterprise is making steady progress and we have much expertise at our disposal – we could do with cash now but will pursue funding streams. The Green Street Volunteers has been supported by very enthusiastic people and we hope will be Truro wide in the future.

Underlying all these schemes is a community effort and my strongly held conviction is that strengthening our community spirit will increase our resilience and help us to face future challenges – be they environmental, social or economic.

It just remains for me to say a huge thank you to all the councillors who have put their faith in me and supported me through this year, not least the Deputy Mayor, John Tamblyn, who has been there whenever I needed him. I wish him all the luck and happiness in the coming year.

Councillor Ms L Southcombe  
Mayor

April 2013