

I was very honoured to have been elected Mayor of Brigg by my fellow Councillors, and with my wife Jane by my side as Mayoress for the last two years we are proud to have served our town.

My two chosen charities for the last year are Motor Neurone Disease Association and Lindsey Lodge Hospice. A lot of money has been raised already and I really look forward to presenting them with their cheques in May, when the final total has been tallied.

We have received wonderful support from our three Ward Councillors, Rob, Carl and Nigel. With their support Brigg Town Council has been successful in being awarded Grants from North Lincolnshire Council that helped to pay for the planters in the town and the wonderful Adult Gym equipment you can see on the Ancholme River Path and on Millennium Green.

Talking of Grants, I am so pleased that Community Groups have accessed the Brigg Town Council Community Grant Pot. This fund within the Council budget is a really important one to us. The Council is pleased to support Brigg Community Groups. This year alone we have awarded grants to the Ancholme Valley Way Park Run, Brigg Angels WI, Brigg Trefoil Guild, OIKOS, Brigg bell Ringers, Brigg Arts and Culture, Brigg Live Arts, and to two scouts who had been selected to attend the Brigg Explorer Scouts World Jamboree in South Korea. We have also allocated money for street party grants and Community event grants for anyone who wishes to get together to celebrate the new King's Coronation. Please get in touch with the Clerk or have a look at our website for more information.

I would like to praise the town and its people who came together to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee last summer. So many people came to support the lighting of the beacon and even turned out to take part in the Family Fun Day on what turned out to be the coldest June day for 30 years. The rain didn't dampen the spirits and we moved the service of thanksgiving and concert inside the Church. I would like to take this moment to thank the hard-working Jubilee Committee who made the weekend the success it was. Sadly, the celebrations soon turned to mourning just a couple of months later, when the Queen sadly died. Once again, the town came together in unison at the moment of reflection in the Market Place.

I was able to hold my Civic Service last July and my Civic Dinner at the beginning of March. It is always an honour to invite other Civic parties to Brigg and really showcase the talent we have and show off what a great town it is. The Civic Dinner also raised nearly £1000 for my charities.

I was pleased to hold the first Mayor's Appeal Golf Day. It's hoped that this is an annual competition, with the winner being presented with the Mayors Appeal Trophy. The first recipient being the team, Mick's Marvels.

One of my duties as Mayor is to present awards throughout the year. In the summer I awarded the Annual Gardening Trophies to the winners of best front garden, best hanging basket, best allotment and the new Environmental Garden trophy.

I was honoured to award Nigel Fisher the Freeman of Brigg Award for his support and promotion of the town of Brigg. At the recent Civic Dinner, I presented Mary Knaggs with the Magrath trophy for her voluntary contribution to Brigg.

As the Mayor I get to carry out many really enjoyable functions, I was invited to start the Brigg 10k Poppy Run, plant crocuses with the Brigg Rotary club and even invite guest to enjoy the Brigg Amateur Operatics' performance of Carousel at the nearby Plowright Theatre. What a varied year I have had.

I must say thank you to Kerry, our clerk for continuing to run the Brigg Poppy Appeal and to all the volunteers who help her.

In January I was proud to do a reading and lay a stone of remembrance at our Holocaust Memorial in Millennium Green. This very poignant and moving, annual service is always supported by our MP, Andrew Percy and even gets a mention in parliament. The young people of our town deliver some very powerful readings and respect at this service.

I and my fellow Councillors are pleased to have been able to deliver some amazing projects for this town, its people and the environment, whilst managing to not raise the precept for 3 years. With careful budgeting we support the community with funding towards the local Brigg Shopper Bus, Gym equipment, bins and benches. We pay for the Christmas lights, bunting, gym equipment, handyperson service that keeps the town clean and clear of litter, grass cutting around the town and in the cemetery, new play equipment in Kings Ave Park and Woodbine Park as well as refurbishing the older equipment. The list goes on and on but if there is anything that you think we may have missed, get in touch and we'll see if we can help.

The only thing I have left to say is thank you. Thank you to my chaplain, Keith Simpson and to our Clerk, Kerry McGrath for their support and thank you to my fellow councillors for working so hard for our town, thank you to Steve and our local policing team and finally thank you, to you.. the residents for caring about our town.