

## **Mayor's Report – December 2024**

My Christmas season started the same way as many of yours - at the annual Bradninch lights switch on. We are so lucky that the community come together in a joint effort to make our town look festive and joyful. From a purely financial point of view, it's an absolute game changer that the work is done by volunteers, so a huge thank you to everyone who helped! Also, a big thank you goes to Daisy and Bessy, our wonderful Duchy School students who switched the lights on this year.

Of course, what goes up, must come down... And our beautiful tree was a victim of Storm Darragh. All will be put right as soon as possible, and though significant areas of town were without power, our Crisis Response Team were in regular communication and ready to spring into action if necessary. You can find out more about our Emergency Plan, how it might help you, and how you can potentially help on the Bradninch Town Council website.

The Town Council are preparing to welcome Phil Dague to Bradninch this week. Phil is the mayor of Downingtown, Pennsylvania. Bradninch were approached by Downingtown several years ago now about setting up a twinning relationship as the founder of Downingtown, Thomas Downing, was originally from Bradninch. We're looking forward to his visit and showing off our lovely town!

Finally, some future dates to be aware of: Mark your calendars for 27, 28 and 29 December and the return of the annual lantern workshops. This year's theme is "Elements" so start planning your lantern representation of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. Or feel free to take a more scientific approach! Also, the annual window to apply for Town Council Grants is now open. More information can be found on the Town Council website, but local organisations should be sure to have their applications in by the deadline of 31 January.

Cllr. Emily Ottery  
Mayor, Bradninch Town Council