

As I sit to write this year's message, I cast my mind back to the end of 2019. Writing then, I looked ahead to what I hoped would be a positive year, paid tribute to the kindness and spirit of the people of Rhyl and talked about how community binds us.

Looking back, those words seem almost prophetic. Rhyl has been tested many times, but this year has been exceptional.

Without a doubt, 2020 has tried us all. Businesses, individuals, families, young and old alike...no one has gone untouched by the ravages of the pandemic.

But, once again, armies of volunteers and keyworkers have come to the fore, helping those who needed it most. From caring for the vulnerable to teaching the young, all parts of our town have worked together. From all quarters, there has been a determination and willingness to get through this. People have adapted, changed their ways of working and shown real grit and determination to meet all challenges head-on.

I did not expect to be serving a second term as mayor, but it has been a great honour to do so during this time. Over the last few months, I have seen first-hand hand how our communities have come together. There are unsung heroes and heroines in every corner of our town, and I pay tribute to you all.

The next few weeks and months will require patience and determination as more is asked of us. But by supporting each other - keeping a safe distance, wearing our face coverings and sanitizing - we can, and will, get through this. Sunny Rhyl will be once more; our beaches will be full of families again, people will be able to leave their homes safely, and the grassroots of business recovery will begin.

Until then, we will navigate our way through the next few months together. I want to close by sparing a thought for our NHS workers, emergency services and all those who will be giving up their Christmases so that we can enjoy some normality in ours. On behalf of the town council, I wish you a happy and healthy new year and hope 2021 brings peace to all.

Cllr Ellie Chard Mayor of Rhyl