

Chairman's Update

July 2020

Mr Graham Gibbens

Introduction

As we continue in these difficult times, I am pleased to say that many of my duties as Chairman are continuing in a virtual or socially distanced way. July saw a second virtual County Council meeting along with the opportunity to be involved in a number of virtual meetings and visits. As restrictions have eased over the last few weeks, I have been able to attend some outdoor meetings and visits as well. I have also started to plan some fundraising events for my year.

Chairman's Charity

As you may already be aware, my charity for this year will be [Porchlight](#), a charity that supports homeless and vulnerable people across the county. I am already planning my first charity event for the year, a sponsored walk from Ebbsfleet to Canterbury over four days, and including visits to Dartford, Farningham, West Malling, Aylesford, Penenden Heath and Bearsted. Much of my route will be following the Pilgrim's Way and I will be visiting 20 of the 72 electoral divisions in Kent. More details, including how to sponsor me, will be available shortly.

8 July – Tree Unveiling



Each year I try to give a grant from my Member Fund to plant a tree in my division and this year was no exception. I went along to see the tree that the grant was used for earlier in the month. It was great to see the tree in situ and to have a small, socially distanced meeting, with photo, to mark the occasion.



10 July – Virtual Civic Coffee and Catch-Up

I attended a Civic catch-up with some of the new Mayors and Chairmen across the county, organised by the Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council. This was a great opportunity to welcome those who have been newly elected in these very difficult times, and to discuss the options available to us to take our respective years forward. It was also good chance to look at how we can serve our county and recognise some of the amazing work that is taking place to help the most vulnerable in our communities.

16 July – Virtual County Council Meeting

Our second virtual County Council meeting took place today, along with our second virtual county council lunch via MS Teams. The meeting is available to watch via the KCC website ([morning session](#) and [afternoon session](#)).

21 July – Long Service Award



I was honoured to be able to attend a virtual Long Service presentation to an officer who had reached their 40-year milestone. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting them and their team and am grateful to have been included in the celebration.

I have also been pleased to have signed two other long service certificates for officers and would like to congratulate all those who have given such committed service to the county.

A Look Ahead to August



As you may be aware, this August marks the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day and there are a wealth of resources available for anyone who is interested in finding out more about the day, hearing some of the veterans' stories or who would like to mark the occasion. The [Royal British Legion](#) website has some great information on the untold stories of VJ Day and the [Imperial War Museum](#) website is showing some amazing photos of the VJ Day celebrations from 1945.

The [VE-VJ Day 75](#) website has some great ideas on getting involved and marking the day, including a [bunting template](#). Young people can also get involved with [Dan Snow's VJ Day Challenge](#). If you need some inspiration, you can see some of the entries in [Dan Snow's VE Day Challenge](#) on the VE-VJ Day 75 website.