

**Monthly Update September 2024**

Not a lot that has happened in August on the local government front so I thought I’d do a short piece on my role as County Chairman.

Apart from chairing the full meetings of the County Council, the role is largely ceremonial in representing the County and supporting local events.

I’ve been all over the County from Hastings to Peacehaven from Polegate to Ashdown Forest and everywhere I’ve found vibrant communities with a lot of energetic and dynamic people putting in a lot of voluntary effort in an incredibly wide range of roles and projects.

One highlight has been a trip to Dieppe on a commemorative visit. Not many people know about the Newhaven Dieppe Raid in 1942 which was a disaster. Troops were sent to attack the Germans in Normandy under cover of darkness and in great secrecy. Regrettably the Germans found out about the raid and slaughtered nearly a thousand troops, mainly Canadian, on the beaches near Dieppe. Thousands more were injured and taken prisoner. It was a stark reminder of the cruelty of warfare and has been commemorated ever since. It did, however, provide lessons for the D-Day landings and contribute to their success.

The High Sheriff, the Mayors of Brighton and Newhaven along with the Vice Chairman of Lewes District Council also attended. We laid a number of wreaths in association with our opposite numbers in Normandy and Dieppe.

Interestingly quite a lot of young French people were involved. Whilst it’s a long time ago, it remains important to commemorate such events otherwise we will forget the horrors of war which is particularly important as the international storm clouds gather.

Another job I have enjoyed has been officiating at citizenship ceremonies which I’m asked to do if the Lord Lieutenant as the King’s representative is not available. People who have been granted British citizenship are given their certificates and swear an oath of allegiance to the King. People from all over the world want to stay here and many take their citizenship after several years of being residents. It is fascinating to me that Americans, Australians and Canadians have become citizens as well as those from, for example, Russia, Italy, Peru, Gambia and Syria to mention only a few.

Next week I’m looking forward to hosting a thankyou tea for about 40 volunteers cross the County.

**Roy Galley**

**September 5th 2024**

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