

Chairman's report November 2020

To start this month's report, I would like to inform the council of the passing of Councillor Pamela Jones, ex-Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane 1999 – 2000. I have passed on our sincere condolences to Councillor Jones's family.

Unfortunately, I had to cancel my plans for the Chairman's Charity Ball, planned for the 14th November to be held at Northwood House. This Ball was going to be the prime fundraiser event in the Civic office's calendar this year with all proceeds donated to Mountbatten Hospice. As we are aware, Mountbatten rely on donations for the wonderful work that they are doing and I plead with members to donate, support and encourage others to donate to the hospice more than ever before as this is a very difficult time for them and all other charitable organisations as well.

I attended the annual Garden of Remembrance Service at Carisbrooke Castle on Tuesday 3rd November, this was originally scheduled for Thursday the 5th November but was brought forward to take place before the lockdown. A video was prepared by our Lord Lieutenant's office and was live streamed on Remembrance Sunday before the 11:00 am two minutes silence. I also attended the remembrance wreath laying service on Sunday the 8th at Newport war memorial along with our Lord Lieutenant and Member of Parliament. This was a very moving ceremony because of social distancing rules and the absence of the usual parade and attendees was sadly noted.

I attended a virtual remembrance service arranged and hosted by the PAN African Ahmadiyya Muslim Association on Friday the 6th November. This was a brilliant service attended by over 300 people worldwide, 98 of them were Mayors or Chairmen from Councils across the country. This remembrance service was to honour the service men, women and all Commonwealth Forces that served and serve to defend our freedom. It was good to see faiths, non-faiths and cultures unite and stand shoulder to shoulder to remember the fallen.

As we are in the throws of a second lockdown, I would like to thank all those who are going out of their way to help others in this time of need. I know that all councillors are doing their best and our officers deserve a big thank you, I have written to all hubs on the island to thank them for the work they are doing, it is publicly acknowledged that we as an island are probably the best when it comes to community spirit and volunteering for the benefit of our communities and for that, I'm am grateful.

Councillor George Cameron