

Chairman's Report February 2021

I would like to start this report by thanking all our NHS staff, along with all the other agency staff, including council staff and volunteers who helped us and others during this difficult time plus delivering the vitally needed vaccine programme. I am overwhelmed by the way the island community pull together to help others in need and I am sure you will join me in thanking them. We are making headwind and if we adhere to the rules, we will see the end of this epidemic soon.

Last month, on the 27th January I attended two virtual Holocaust Memorial Day services. This annual event is gaining a lot of support every year and this is good to see so many people joining this service. On the 4th February I joined the virtual launch of this year's Remembering Srebrenica's theme for 2021 which is "Rebuilding Lives". This year is the 26th anniversary of Remembering Srebrenica and is in honour of the two million people who fled across the world from Bosnia in the 90's to escape genocide and ethnic cleaning.

I have just sent off another parcel to the USA with lots of Isle of Wight goodies and memorabilia, this is requests that I have been getting from school children in different states. I am told this is for school projects and I am glad to be able to help raising the profile of the Isle of Wight and I thank The Needles for their kind donations.

I would like to remind everyone that the national census is taking place on the 21st March this year and encourage councillors to promote this in their communities to make sure every household take part. The census started in 1801 and has been done every decade except from 1941.

Thank you.