

## **Chair's Report to Full Council, 21 July 2021**

Since my surprising and unsought elevation to this office it has been a relatively quiet period, largely due to the continuing restrictions placed on us all during the pandemic. By the time of Full Council most of these will have been lifted by Government.

The main event I attended as your Chairman was the Armed Forces Day flag-raising ceremony in St Thomas' Square, Newport. This was a much restricted event, but I was accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and leading Isle of Wight Councillors. It was a very wet day, but the rain eased for the important part of the ceremony. I was delighted to be able to facilitate this important event, along with Council support staff.

I was also invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. As I was unable to attend on the actual day my wife and consort, Mary Craven and I were both invited to their Havenstreet station a couple of weeks later. We spent the most welcoming, interesting and enjoyable afternoon there, looked after by Mr Jim Loe, Trustee & Director. And the weather was terrific, unusually for this summer so far. The Steam Railway is a major success story for Island tourism and we were surprised at the complexity of what is essentially a volunteer-managed charity. Long may it continue.

Mr Loe was at pains to stress that they would welcome any Isle of Wight councillor for a similar visit. Let me know if you are interested and I will put you in touch. I highly recommend it.

Other than that I have nothing further to report. I met with my predecessor, George Cameron who has given me valuable insight into his two years. And of course the Leader was herself Chair just before him and is always happy to give advice.

Cllr Geoff Brodie