

Chairman's Announcements

Members. May I express my heartfelt thanks for the confidence you have placed in me to represent you as your Chairman. At this time last year we all anticipated that our much respected colleague, Freddie Allgood, would be sat where I am now. I cannot presume to share his wisdom but I shall seek to emulate his capacity for calm and measured control.

I am immensely honoured and privileged to have been asked to represent Hampshire and the County Council in such a momentous year. We have a rich heritage, many wonderful people and a strong message of hope, courage and commitment. I shall do my utmost to carry Hampshire's message with dignity.

May I also welcome on your behalf those Honorary Aldermen who have graced us with their presence today:

Patricia Banks; Susan Glasspool; Pam Peskett; Margaret Snaith-Tempia and Michael Woodhall.

Thank you in particular to our outgoing Chairman, Cllr Anna McNair Scott, who has added such a graceful and natural touch. She has captured some real opportunities to engage with and bring together key staff members and representatives of external organisations to share knowledge, increase our understanding and make friends. We and she have had the bonus of her husband, Nigel, as the High Sheriff, at her side on many occasions. They have been a formidable combination – in the nicest possible way!

Congratulations to Councillor Pam Mutton on her election as Vice Chairman.

Not every Chairman has a theme for the year. I have decided that a Diamond Jubilee year, which commemorates the enormous contribution that Her Majesty has made to the morale, standing and spiritual welfare of our country over 60 years, presents us with an opportunity to follow her example. My theme is simple: It is "Making A Difference". I want to encourage our people to make or continue an effort to make a positive difference for the benefit of others, particularly in these difficult times. Many already do but many more could, given just a bit of encouragement. As members we seek to make a difference – let us carry the message. I am not a fan of acronyms but 'Hampshire goes MAD' has a certain appeal!

I shall continue to host a series of net-working lunches and to stage functions which showcase Hampshire and our services. I shall also continue support for the Heroes Welcome initiative as well as forge even stronger links with the Armed Forces who live in such numbers amongst us and who deserve our fullest support.

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I intend to circulate engagements via email to all Members prior to County Council Meetings.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Diamond Jubilee Flag purchased, at the instigation of the Chairman's Office, to fly from the Castle offices during the Diamond Jubilee weekend (3-5 June). Many events have been organised throughout the County and, in particular, the Countywide Diamond Jubilee Service being held in Winchester Cathedral on 27 May. This is now a Royal occasion to be graced by HRH The Earl of Wessex. Around 1500 people are expected for the Service and tea afterwards in the Close (provided by the WI and the TA). May I remind Members that if you have not yet responded to the invitation it is highly unlikely that we can now accommodate you. The response has been overwhelming.

Please see the Council's web pages for complete listings of other Jubilee events: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/diamondjubilee>

The County Council's major Diamond Jubilee initiative is to encourage the planting of thousands of commemorative oak trees across Hampshire as a lasting legacy of HM The Queen's reign.

OLYMPICS

The Olympic Torch Relay passes through Hampshire over the period 11-16 July. If you want to watch and enjoy the Olympic spirit full details are on the Hampshire 2012 website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/2012/torch-relay.htm> The County Council is working with LOCOG (the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic Games), the Police and District & Borough Council colleagues to ensure as far as possible that that the torch convoy and associated events run smoothly. The County Council has also made it easier for event organisers to get the necessary permissions associated with street parties and banners, both for the Olympic Torch route and the Diamond Jubilee.

DEATHS OF FORMER OFFICERS

- (1) Professor Gerald Smart, CBE - former County Planning Officer
- (2) Vicky Jolly – Head of Facilities Management
- (3) Keith Furlonger – Senior Facilities Assistant

END.