

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

I didn't realise when I accepted Peter's offer to be the Vice Chairman and then Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council that it would prove to be such a momentous couple of years! A time of highs and lows. We received nearly 300 invitations this year alone and attended 150 of them. The majority have been within the District. I have tried to ensure that we visited every Borough and District in Kent and our immediate neighbours in Surrey and Greater London as well as the various Town Mayors throughout Kent.

I mentioned earlier that it has been a time of highs and lows. Some of the high points were the various Jubilee celebrations including Beacon Lightings and Street Parties. But nobody expected so suddenly to be experiencing the lows of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 and her subsequent Funeral. I felt privileged to proclaim the Accession of the new King Charles 111 and am looking forward to the various Coronation events that are taking place.

On most occasions I have been accompanied by my husband, Allan. We have been to a variety of events ranging from school performances to Forget Me Not Cafes, concerts, visits to vineyards, Chatham Historic Dockyard, the Hawkinge Battle of Britain Museum, Biggin Hill Airport and several Garden Parties and Dinners. There have also been a number of AGMs, the opening of shops, tree planting, the burying of a Time Capsule at Swanley Whiteoak, I could go on and on but hope this gives a flavour of the past year. Possibly one of the most memorable visits was to Margate for the Blessing of the Seas on a rather cold January day. We felt very sorry for the young boy who dived into the sea to "rescue" the cross.

We will shortly be attending our second Run, Walk, Push for Dementia in Knole Park, a joyous occasion for the fun runners as well as the more dedicated athletes which raises valuable funds for the Dementia charities.

I could cover many more pages about the wonderful experiences we have had and I just hope our next Chairman will have an equally enjoyable year.

I cannot end without thanking the Democratic Services Team and Amanda Miller for their help and support over the two years, quietly and efficiently dealing with the booking of tickets and confirming details of visits. And, last but not least can I thank all Sevenoaks District Councillors for your support and encouragement.