



Lewes District Council

Southover House
Southover Road
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1AB

Civic & Member Services Officer: 01273 085030

CHAIR Councillor Ian Alexander

**VICE-CHAIR
Councillor Lesley Boniface**

caroline.hanlon@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Chair's Engagements 24 July – 25 September 2023

Date	Time	Event
Thursday 27 July	6pm – 8.30pm	Chair: To attend The Makers Directory Big Summer Meet Up at Lewes House
Sunday 13 August	12pm for 12.30pm	Vice-Chair: To attend the 81 st Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid Commemorations in Newhaven – Lunch reception at Denton Island Bowls Club followed by a memorial service at Canadian Memorial, South Way, Newhaven. Vice-Chair to lay a wreath on behalf of LDC.
Friday 18 August - Saturday 19 August	Various	Chair: To attend the 81 st Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid Commemorations in Dieppe, France. (See Appendix A below for Chair's report on this engagement)
Weds 30 August	5pm – 7.30pm	Vice-Chair: To attend the Landport Community Annual Barbeque, Eridge Green
Thursday 31 August	5pm – 7pm	Chair: To host the Launch of Lewes Heritage Open Days weekend at Lewes House, Lewes
Thursday 7 September	5pm – 9pm	Chair and Consort: To attend Celebrate Cuckmere drinks party with guest speaker Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall at South Hill Barn, Cuckmere Haven, BN25 4AR

Monday 11 September	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Chair and Consort: To attend the launch of Charleston's new space and private view of Jonathan Baldock: Through the joy of the senses and Bring No Clothes: Bloomsbury and Fashion, Southover House, Lewes
Thursday 14 September	5pm – 7.30pm	Chair: To attend a reception at Reeves studio, Lewes to view the exhibition 'In Their Footsteps' accompanying 'Stories Seen Through a Plate Glass' in light boxes in the streets of Lewes.
Wednesday 20 September	1pm – 4pm	Chair and Consort: To attend 3VA's Celebrating Communities event at the Civic Centre, Uckfield
Thursday 21 September	3pm- 6pm	Chair and Consort: To attend the High Sheriff of East Sussex's Service of Thanksgiving for Volunteers in East Sussex followed by a Summer Reception at Ashburnham Place, Battle

Dieppe Raid Commemoration 18-19 August 2023
Chair's report

I was honoured to receive an invitation to attend the Commemoration Services in Dieppe from the Mayor of Dieppe to mark the 81st anniversary of the Raid. I attended on behalf of Lewes District Council and laid wreaths at three sites – the Canadian Cemetery, Puys Beach and the Dieppe memorial to the Raid, together with the High Sheriff, Mayors of Brighton and Newhaven and the ESCC Chair.

The commemoration is a significant event to the French and relatives of those who were on the Raid and is attended by Armed Forces representatives from all the countries who were involved in the Raid – mostly Canadian but also American, British, Belgian, Czech, Norwegian and Polish. Representatives from the Canadian Embassy and NATO also attended. The local people attended in large numbers and at the Dieppe memorial there was one sole survivor, a Frenchman who was there on the night of the raid, as he was in the local Resistance.

The Commemoration takes place over two days as the troops embarked at night from England on the 18th August 1942, arriving on the 19th. Unfortunately for them, a German patrol boat spotted the convoy of ships and landing craft and raised the alarm. There were around 6,500 infantry, supported by naval and air units on the Raid, but within 10 hours over half of the force had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Some of you will be aware of the significance of the Raid, particularly the use of mostly Canadian forces due to their country's long links with France. There is a plaque near the memorial that states that from 1663 to 1673, King Louis XIV of France paid the costs for single unmarried women to emigrate to "New France", now known as Quebec, to bring about further colonisation of the area. Approximately 800 women went, with 600 leaving from the port of Dieppe.

The women were known as Les Filles Du Roy – Daughters of the King. Some of the Canadians who attended the commemoration this year had links to these women in their family trees, which made their visit more poignant.

This was my first visit the Commemoration and it was a very sobering and moving event for all attending. The bravery of all those who attempted to take the port was never in doubt but the early warning gave the Germans every advantage and they repulsed the attack causing heavy casualties.

The local people are very appreciative that the Commemoration is still attended by friends, family and organisations after all these years, and the corresponding visit to Newhaven is also a significant and very well attended annual event. I would urge all those with the opportunity to attend either event to make every effort to attend.

Cllr Ian Alexander
Chair of Lewes District Council