**Councillor Ian Jeffrey, Mayor of Test Valley 2024/25**

**Biography**

Ian was born in Lancashire before King George VI died, and grew up in Dorset. He attended Hardye’s School in Dorchester, leaving with a Scholarship to Dartmouth for a 37-year Royal Navy career, retiring as a Captain.

During his Navy career Ian qualified as a Chartered Engineer in the weapons and communications field, and as a professional linguist during 2-and-half years simultaneous interpreting English-French at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Bavaria. As an interpreter, he was required to assist with the repatriation of 2 sailors who had been shot in the bottom while running away in Bordeaux.

Ian served in 5 ships and went to war twice; the Falklands and the Gulf, and also served ashore in France, Germany, Italy and Belgium.

Managing sailors sometimes posed a challenge. As a Divisional Officer in one ship, Ian found himself defending one of his sailors at Captain’s Table. The sailor had returned from shore leave in Marseille very worse for wear, and woke up in the night needing to go to the *heads*. At the top of the ladder from his Mess, the sailor turned right instead of left, and opened the Dining Hall fridge, relieving himself on the Junior Ratings’ cheese. When asked by the Captain if he had anything to say for himself, he said he thought it was strange that the toilet light came on automatically!

After the Navy came 6 years as a diplomat at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, in a rank equivalent to Brigadier General. This entailed chairing 27-nation international committees and helping a Dutch major-general to run a staff of about 80 people.

Also in Brussels, Ian was asked to represent the Queen as Military Attache in the year in which Belgium was celebrating the 60th anniversary of its liberation from German occupation.

While working in Brussels, Mrs Maura Jeffrey announced that as their 3 daughters had enjoyed gap years and gone off to university, and Ian had had a **gap life**, it was Mrs Jeffrey’s turn to fulfil an ambition to volunteer for service in the Developing World. Maura trained in Canada and England, then went off to Uganda, where she was Head Teacher of a school for orphans for two and a half years. The Uganda government gave no funding for this project, so Mrs Jeffrey had to raise the funding herself. Ian and Maura set up a UK charity to achieve this and ran it for 10 years.

Since retiring from foreign service Ian has served 9 years as Borough Councillor for Dun Valley and Mid-Test Wards, including two periods as Chairman of the Borough’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Cabinet experience in Community and Leisure, and Democracy and Governance.

Ian has also taken on the role of TVBC Member Champion for the Armed Forces.

The new Mayor is very much looking forward to representing our delightful Borough during his mayoral year and hopes to meet many fellow Test Valley citizens, meet, support and encourage local businesses, enjoy and encourage local arts and culture, showcase the Borough to outsiders, and support local charities.