

## Buckerell report

I was able to attend the raising of the Union Jack at Blackdown House today (May 8th) to pay respects on VE Day. It was gratifying to see so many in attendance, and share stories from veterans and relatives. I am always in constant awe at the bravery of all that helped keep us safe then and achieve their ultimate defeat of evil. We need their stalwart spirit more than ever in this upended world.

At District level, although it's been relatively quiet, the ramifications to local government still hang like an unanswered question. I'm assured that work behind the scenes is pressing forward to achieve the best outcome for our district. I still, however remain deeply concerned that the proposed changes to local planning will see many of the checks and balances that have protected our communities from savage development are about to be swept away in the pursuit of short term gains, with no regard to the cohesion of our parishes and villages.

On a more positive note, it would be re use of me not to mention the major changes to Devon county council following the recent elections. I am pleased to congratulate Cllr Jefferies, our new representative, and very much look forward to working with him. I'd also like to put on record my sincere thanks to Cllr Twiss for the sterling service he has given to our ward. In the 15 years I have been involved in local politics, I have not come across a more hard working councillor and one so dedicated to doing his very best for his electorate.