

Councillor Ann Berry - Biography

Ann Berry, one of four children, was born in Morehall Avenue, Folkestone and has lived in Folkestone ever since. She went to Harcourt School in Surrenden Road and she left at 15 years of age.

Ann started work in retail and eventually worked for Folkestone's Woolworths from the age of 17, which is where she met her husband Maurice. Following their marriage, Ann and Maurice went on to have two children and they now have six grandchildren.

During her time at Woolworths, Ann progressed from Sales Assistant to Supervisor to Staff Manager, eventually becoming a Manager of the Rye store, at which time she was made Chairman of Chamber of Trade and was instrumental in re-introducing late night shopping at Christmas. After four years at Rye, Ann moved to the Hythe store as Manager until retirement.

Ann has worked in the community in various ways over the years. For example, as part of Home Start, she had the pleasure of looking after triplets for a few hours each week until they were 5 years old.

Ann played a key part in the formation, development and leadership of the Go Folkestone action group which then led to the successful 2003 referendum campaign seeking to establish a proper council just for the town of Folkestone, something which had been lost in the local government reorganisation of the early 1970s. Six members of Go Folkestone were subsequently elected to serve as Councillors onto Folkestone Town Council in 2004 and Ann was elected to be the first Chairman/Town Mayor of Folkestone.

Since joining the Town Council Ann has served on the Planning, Community Services, Finance, Grants and Allotments Committees. Ann is also an elected member of the Folkestone and Hythe District Council and has served on Overview and Scrutiny, Planning, Licencing and Cabinet.