

Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting **8 March 2024**

During the last month we had a visit by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester to view the work of the Cathedral and inspect the Mapa Mundi and the chained library.

I attended the Venture certification of 12 sixth form students who have been working with the street pastors scheme offering safety, support and help to vulnerable young people during the night time economy. The scheme provides appropriate support and medical attention to young people at sometimes critical times and eases the pressure on our blue light services.

I also attended the Annual meeting of the Marches Family Network, the Young Farmers Drama Festival, and the Ross on Wye Civic service of the Mayor of Ross Louis Stark

This month will see the annual event of the swearing in of the new High Sheriff. I want to thank the current High Sheriff Robert Robinson from Little Hereford for his considerable work and numerous visits to support the Judiciary, Community and Voluntary sectors in our county.

His theme for the year was “life chances” and he launched a fund to improve the life chances of people living across the county. The role is the oldest civic position dating back 800 years and while in the past they were responsible for maintaining law and order in the Kingdom, today the role is about supporting the county’s justice system, the work of our blue light services, and the huge volunteer sector in our county. He calculates that there are over 2,000 charities and community groups in our county making such a tremendous contribution to the wellbeing of our county.