

Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting **7 February 2025**

Citizenship ceremonies

In this County we see over 150 people each year apply for UK Citizenship. The process involves learning about our nation`s history and democratic process and if they successfully pass the various stages it ends in a formal swearing of allegiance to the King and his heirs and successors and a commitment to uphold British values and laws.



Myself, deputy registrar Sue Mole and HM Deputy Lieutenant Sara de Rohan at a recent ceremony.

Participants come from all over the world and most have been in Herefordshire for many years working in our businesses and many with families. As a nation we take for granted the fact that by voting in person or by post we can change a government where in most countries changes of government can only be achieved via revolution, violence or fear.

The ceremony takes place at least once a month in the Oak room at the Town hall and the Lord Lieutenant or one of his deputies represents the King, and the Vice Chair or myself representing the Council both giving addresses.

Meeting the Mayors

Every quarter I meet up with Mayors of Hereford and our market towns together with their clerks to discuss various civic and council issues. The last meeting was held at our Museum Resource and Learning Centre in Friars Street which houses our collection of 130,000 objects including the



Inspecting stone age items in one of the storerooms.

Herefordshire Hoard, art, archaeology, costumes, social history and natural science.

We also discussed the Kings award for Voluntary service, the Kings award for Enterprise and preparations for commemorations for 80th anniversary for VE day on 8th May, and VJ day on 15th August. Members perhaps could make their Parishes and communities aware of these dates.

Christmas was a very active time for civic events including three carol services at the Cathedral. I attended the Royal British Legion AGM in January and my Vice Chair attended the official launch of the Hereford Military Festival.

I will be holding a reception on Wednesday 26th March at 6 pm focusing on voluntary and community organisations in the county, invitations to all councillors will be emailed out later this month.

Cllr Roger Phillips