

**Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting**  
**23 May 2025**

**This month has seen the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Europe and there were many events held throughout the county to mark the occasion. It was a time to reflect on the huge sacrifice and ordeal that our predecessors had gone through and for us to be grateful for the 80 years of peace and freedom we have enjoyed.**

**There was a huge attendance at Hereford Cathedral for the memorial service of our former Lord Lieutenant Sir Thomas Dunne. Attendees including HM The Queen, representatives of other members of the Royal Family and organisations Sir Thomas had been involved with; tributes reflected his modesty, capabilities and great love of Herefordshire.**

**Can I thank those of you who attended my reception at Plough Lane for our local voluntary sector at the end of March with over 150 attendees. Can I remind you to confirm if you are able to attend the visit to St Michael's Hospice on Monday 2nd June.**

**This time of year sees the changing of many civic roles and I want to thank the outgoing Mayors of our City and Market Towns for their stewardship and hope they enjoyed their role during the last twelve months. I look forward to welcoming the new Mayors and working with them. Since our last meeting we have seen a handover of the role of High Sheriff from Patricia Churchwood to Helen Bowden, which historically oversees the County judiciary and latterly has a role on the promotion of local volunteer organisations and public services. Helen is Herefordshire born and with her husband owns Orphans Press in Leominster and its digital company eighteen73. A leading Netball coach in the county for many decades she received the national Rose Award for outstanding contribution to Netball.**



**In August we will be commemorating the end of the WW2 in Far East and I was reminded of the long standing Sakura Cherry tree project between the UK and Japan. This friendship project which commemorated 400 years of trading between the two nations offers communities the opportunity to plant trees which are free including delivery.**

**The ambition is to plant 10,000 trees over a 10 year period with over 8,000 planted in England with most Counties having over a hundred – in Herefordshire we have only 15. (Worcestershire has over 150)**

**Can I ask that you work with your communities in identifying any appropriate locations where they can be publicly accessed, maintained and celebrated.**

**All the trees are grown in the UK by F P Mathews in Tenbury Wells following proper procurement process. Trees need to be ordered in advanced to ensure supply. More details on [SAKURA CHERRY TREE PROJECT | Celebrating a new era of UK-Japan friendship and cooperation.](#)**



Pictured outside the fitting room in Hereford HQ are Wendy Tarplee-Morris (founder) and Phil Brace (Chief Executive).

### **The Little Princess Trust - Hereford**

**The Little Princess Trust, which has its headquarters in Hereford city centre, helps around 2,000 children and young people in the UK with hair loss, usually due to cancer, every year by providing them with a free, real hair wig.**

**The Little Princess Trust pays for the making, fitting, and styling of every wig so the entire wig service is completely free. The charity also works with wig stylists across the UK and Ireland to ensure that each child or young person does not have to travel far to receive their wig.**

**Members of the public send their hair cleaned and combed to their offices in Hereford where it is graded on colour and then each hair is individually sewn onto a base cap. The hair will have different patterns to reflect normal hair growth and is of exceptional quality. The longest hair received was over six foot in length and famous donors include the Princess of Wales and Harry Styles.**

**The trust was founded by Wendy whose own young daughter died of cancer and has expanded over the last 20 years employing staff and supported by volunteers. Partnerships have been established in countries such as Portugal,**

**Bulgaria, Sweden, and Slovenia to provide wigs to young people up to the age of 24.**

**The charity is the second largest funder of childhood cancer research in the UK and has given more than £30 million to scientists, hospital research units in the UK and links to other world centre of excellence, searching for kinder and more effective treatments for all childhood cancers.**

**The Little Princess Trust can only carry out its work to provide wigs and fund research thanks to the phenomenal support received from the public. I visited them recently and was a very proud Herefordian that such a charity exists in our county and wanted to ensure we were all aware of their existence and work. More details [www.littleprincesses.org.uk](http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk)**

**My vice Chair and I have carried out many engagements during the last two months and I look forward to attending the Three County Show next month in Herefordshire's year and the 297<sup>th</sup> Three Choirs festival in July at Hereford Cathedral.**

**Cllr Roger Phillips JP**