

REPORT TO A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 8TH JULY 2024

AGENDA ITEM 10 – MAYORAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2024-25

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide the Council with details of the 2024-25 Mayoral events programme.

2. 2024 EVENTS TO DATE

2.1 Following the election of the Chair of the Council in May (known as Mayor Making) Officers agree a programme of events and activities with the newly elected Mayor. Events to date are listed in the table below:

| Event Title | Event Date (all 2024) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mayor Making | Thursday 16 th May |
| Silent Ceremony | Friday 18 th May |
| Civic Service – All Saints Church | Sunday 19 th May |
| D-Day 80 | Thursday 6 th June |

2.2 Mayor Making took place at County Hall in May with approximately 100 attendees. Changes this year included using the Ballroom at County which worked extremely well logistically. The Silent ceremony included children from Morgans Primary School in attendance and a talk from Peter Ruffles. This year it also included the tour video for the children to watch.

2.3 The Civic Service reception this year was in the church rather than St Johns Hall meaning that the Council made a saving (by not booking St Johns Hall.) The refreshments provided were welcomed by the congregation including the general public who remained following the church service.

2.4 Feedback suggests that the approach this year was more inclusive Mudlarks provided the catering and were more competitive prices than previous caterers, resulting in a further saving.

2.5 D-Day 80 was a well-attended event. The Mayor of Hertford was joined at Hertford Castle, by dignitaries and approximately 400 members of the public. The commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day started with a Marching Band performance from the 936 Hertford & Ware Air Cadet Squadron. This was followed by Drill Performances from the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force and 936 Hertford & Ware Air Cadet Squadron.

2.6 The Royal British Legion and (separately) Air Cadet standards were presented to the Mayor of Hertford. Following the presentation of the standards by two cadets, the Beacon was lit accompanied by the International Tribute read by the Mayor of Hertford.

3. PROPOSED EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR 2024/2025

3.1 The table details the proposed events programme for the remainder of the 2024/2025 municipal/mayoral year. Events highlighted with * are new events

| Event Title | Event Purpose | Proposed Event Date |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Beating of the Bounds* | Community/Fundraising | 19 th July |
| Mayor of Hertford's Garden Party (previously called Tea & Tours) | Community | Thursday 29 th August |
| Training and thank you for Citizens Advice* | Community/Charity | 4 th September |
| Vintage Tea Party | Community | 23 rd September |
| Café Music evening* | Fundraising | 25 th October |
| Garden of Remembrance | Civic | Wednesday 6 th November |
| Remembrance Sunday including the taking of the salute and the Church Service immediately after the ceremony. | Civic | Sunday 10 th November |
| Wreath Making | Fundraising | 28 th November and 1 st December |
| Carols at the Castle | Community | Friday 6 th December |
| White Gloves Ceremony – Richard Hale School | Civic | December TBC |
| Mayors Quiz | Fundraising | Friday 10 th Jan TBC |
| Writing or Art Competition* | Community | January TBC |
| Celebration of Hertford* | Community | February TBC |
| Mayor's Charity Civic Event* | Fundraising | Date March TBC |
| Civic Faith Services | Civic | Dates TBC |

Beating of the Bounds

3.2 The Mayor will be walking the Bounds of Hertford. The route will be advertised to allow the community to meet her, partake or just wave during the walk. It is a centuries old tradition, of which Hertford in the early 1900s partook in.

“In medieval and early modern society, a parish was a community: it was where you were christened, married and buried; the parish church set the tithes to pay and provided spiritual nourishment and security in return.”

Source: <https://www.hrp.org.uk/blog/beating-the-bounds-a-centuries-old-tradition/#gs.aq5zda>

Knowing the boundaries of the parish was crucial to a community's identity and the residents' responsibilities. Several communities across the UK continue to beat their bounds in honour of the ancient tradition, including the Tower of London. A Just Giving page will be set up for donations.

Mayors Garden Party (Tea and Tours)

- 3.3 This will be a similar format to last year with tea and cakes being served outside and the Castle open for tours. The proposed date is subject to availability of Friends of Hertford Castle. The event will also include an art exhibition of the junk modelling made by children at Playday.

Training and Thank you for Citizens Advice

- 3.4 The Mayor of Hertford will be hosting a thank you to the Volunteers of Citizens advice at Hertford Castle. This will include light refreshments and entertainment. Citizens Advice will host a training session in the morning before the event.

Café Music Evening

- 3.5 The Mayor will be holding a fun music evening at the castle with a local band. It would be similar to a continental café style music creating atmosphere with some food, music and drinks. It is anticipated this will be a fundraising event.

Writing or Art Competition 'Hertford's Magical Rivers'

- 3.6 To engage with young people through either a writing or art competition about the four Hertford rivers. A selection of the entries may then be exhibited at the Celebration of Hertford event.

Celebration of Hertford

- 3.7 A community celebration that is inclusive and celebrates Hertford. A provisional title, Cherish Hertford is intended to be an event of readings, reflections and music to celebrate the different communities in Hertford. Officers are investigating possible venues. One option is using the Quakers Meeting House as it is accessible and central to Hertford.

Mayor's Charity Civic Event

- 3.8 Ideas are being discussed for a Civic fundraising event to be held in March. One option could be a Dance performance event potentially at the new Theatre BEAM or a venue that is appropriate flooring for dancing.

Civic Faith Services

- 3.9 Officers are in the process of arranging Civic Faith Services to take place in 2024/25. Traditionally, the Council has attended services at the main

churches in Hertford and Hertingfordbury, including the Methodist and Catholic Churches. The Council, Town Clerk and Sergeants at Mace attend the service robed (or not depending on the wishes of the Church) and then meet the congregation afterwards.

- 3.10 As part of this Mayoral year, it is hoped that the Council can continue to join a broader range of faiths.
- 3.11 Views from the Council are welcomed on the draft programme.

4. MAYORS CADETS

- 4.1 The role of the Mayor's Cadet is to accompany the Mayor to public civic events which includes the Remembrance Parade and Service, they may also be present to assist in Flying the Flag for Armed Forces Day, and any other Commemorative Parades and Services.
- 4.2 The Mayor's Cadet may be asked to present a reading or perform a duty such as lay a wreath to remember the very young whose served and lost their lives in the service to their country. The role gives a visible association with local cadets of the armed forces.
- 4.3 For the 2024/2025 Mayoral year, there will be three cadets (Police, Sea and Air Force). The Cadets are invited to all Hertford Town Council Civic events. Opportunities for one of the cadets to accompany the Mayor to other appropriate civic events will also be sought (for example Civic services of other Councils).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that the Council:

- a) **notes** the Proposed 2024/25 Mayoral Events Programme.
- b) **notes** that this is a draft programme subject to change
- c) **notes** the report.

Report by: Nick Kirby – Civic Administration Manager
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