

Her majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Robert Voss CBE

# A remarkable year has already passed as the Lord Lieutenant

I cannot believe it is already 12 months since Her Majesty The Queen appointed me as Her Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire-how the last 12 months have flown by.

People have asked me what have been the most memorable and surprising aspects of my first year in the role.

Was it the weekend spent at Windsor Castle-living for a couple of days immersed in history including the Queen's private library; or meeting Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace; or receiving a number of Royal visitors to Hertfordshire?

Learning about the military in the county and appointing my own cadets-including for the first time a police cadet; spending time with Hertfordshire's wonderful police force including a night "on duty" with the patrols (Yes I did enjoy speeding down the A1 at over 100 mph with the blue light flashing...!); or learning about the magistracy as Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

No...I think the most memorable aspect of the last 12 months has been meeting the people of Hertfordshire volunteering in so



many different ways-at hospices and hospitals; with youth movements including the huge number of scouts and cadets in the county; at churches and other religious establishments; at the vast number of charities for the homeless, the disabled, the vulnerable, the elderly, the sick, the needy, in museums, in church halls, with St John's, The Prince's Trust, DofE, The Samaritans, CABs, and so many more.

The list is endless and without the tens of thousands wonderful volunteers-many organisations and charities simply would not or could not exist.

Presenting British Empire Medals on Her Majesty's behalf is the crowning glory and to see people from all walks of life honoured for the work they have done to help their community-often for many years-is extremely humbling (and anyone can be nominated for an honour-see Lieutenancy website) and have given me some of the best memories of my first year as Her Majesty's representative.

August gives me a couple of weeks respite and September and October onwards is wonderfully busy with numerous presentations of Queens Awards for

Voluntary Service; Queens Awards for Enterprise; British Empire Medals; receiving several Royal visitors coming to the county as well as continuing to meet the great people of Hertfordshire. And preparations are taking place for the release of the Lieutenancy film-"A County at War" and the commemoration of the centenary of Armistice Day in November as well as RAF100.