Patron’s report 2016-17

As Sarah Eardley so clearly explains in her Chief Executive Officer’s Report, the HOPE Centre continues to thrive but is certainly neither resting on its laurels nor blind to difficulties that may lie ahead. After nearly 20 years of service to the Bromyard community, the range of diverse activities at HOPE continues to change and expand; the very welcome Play Zone at Oscars and the enhanced Contact Centre service being but two examples. Year in and year out, the take-up of the various services provided by HOPE, to those whose need for such provision would not otherwise be met, conclusively demonstrates that these services are not some form ‘optional extra’ but that they provide vital and necessary support to many individuals in this rural community. At HOPE the adage about ‘the proof of the pudding’ is amply demonstrated by the fact that over 2,500 attendances were made in just the last three months; on this basis, the need for what is on offer is most amply proved.

The provision of continued, reliable, insightful and effective support services which have integrity does not just happen; it needs commitment, care and sheer hard work from all those involved. Each of these qualities, and more, are shown in abundance by the team at HOPE. What provision of this nature also needs, however, is funding which is, in like terms, continued, reliable, insightful and effective. This year HOPE has experienced unwelcome funding cuts and adverse contract changes. Typically, the team have responded in an inventive and constructive manner, but the need to access reliable funding remains as pressing in the coming year as it has always been.

Finally, I wish to record how extremely proud I am to be the Patron of the Bromyard HOPE Centre and, in a very small way, to be associated with the truly excellent work that goes on there under Sarah Eardley’s wise and clear leadership.