



# Shropshire Lieutenancy

TOWN LINKS NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 1



## Welcome

to the Shropshire Lieutenancy first "Town Links newsletter", which I hope you will find interesting and something to which you feel able to contribute articles for future editions.

### TOWN LINKS INITIATIVE

The past 16 months have been quite horrendous for the county and indeed the country as a whole. Whilst we all had to quickly adapt and get used to doing business and keeping in touch using Zoom and smart phones, I was constantly in awe of the herculean efforts of many organisations across the county, big and small, and how everyone pulled together to help each other. Despite the trauma and suffering, many people found comfort in being able to help others and many new friendships were formed. As part of my contribution, I researched areas as much as possible, and with help from many sources was able to write thank you cards and letters expressing my gratitude to more than 900 individuals and organisations.

So, during a meeting with Deputy Lieutenants several months ago we agreed to trial a "DL Town Links initiative" basically asking Deputies to make contact with organisations such as councils, churches, schools, military establishments etc in their area, to create links and encourage greater partnerships with the Lieutenancy. In so doing we hope we can officially recognise more of our local heroes.

### WORK OF THE SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

Acknowledging that some people will have had little contact with The Lieutenancy, I thought I would outline the roles undertaken. Each county has a Lord-Lieutenant appointed by Her Majesty and is assisted by Deputy Lieutenants. We, on behalf of Her Majesty:-

- Represent and maintain the dignity of The Crown.
- Co-ordinate and organise Royal visits.
- Research, promote and present Queen's Honours and Awards.
- Encourage the voluntary and charitable sectors.
- Support and encourage local business.
- Liaise with Armed Forces.
- Promote and encourage civic activity.
- Act as a network of information for The Crown.

I am passionate about ensuring that we recognise all those throughout Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin who dedicate their time to helping others, but to do this effectively I need your help. Many of you will have some knowledge of the different formal methods of acknowledging contributions e.g. The Honours system, The Queen's Award for Enterprise, and The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and, as indicated above, there are also informal ways such as the personal cards and letters expressing my profound admiration and appreciation of those who were able to step forward and help their communities during Covid.

If you think someone may have been missed, please do forward the name, contact details and a short paragraph outlining their contribution and I will check whether they have been acknowledged and if not will do so. Please use the email used to send this newsletter to you so that Deputies can compile a list.

# INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

I was thrilled to see so many of our local residents awarded by Her Majesty in the recent Birthday Honours List, many of whom were recognised for their contribution during covid.

As you will no doubt be aware there is fierce competition for individual honours, and it is a very robust process.

Many of you will also know of the public system for nominating individuals, but you may not be aware that the Shropshire Lieutenancy has a panel that can assist with nominations. There is more information and a local nomination form available on the Shropshire Lieutenancy website

<https://www.lordlieutenantofshropshire.org.uk/helping-you/nominate-someone-for-an-honour>



Four recent recipients: Trevor Bate BEM, Amanda Medlyn BEM, Dr John Alexander MBE, and Nigel Dugmore BEM



Tricia Sharpe BEM and Sufu "George" Miah BEM, just two of the recipients



## QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

This is the most prestigious of all business awards. I am very aware that this county has some amazing businesses and another four were recently recognised. Our four local winners, Aviramp Ltd and Scanning Pens Ltd recognised for their achievements in International Trade; Reconomy (UK) Ltd for innovation and Landau Ltd for promoting opportunity, are wonderful examples of the innovative and enterprising culture that we have throughout our Shropshire business community.

The Lieutenancy role is to promote QAE and this year, to launch the QAE 2022 competition, we were supported by generous Shropshire-based organisations enabling us to promote the competition to a wider business audience despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

This year we embraced technology and, thanks to Reech Media Ltd, developed a wonderful microsite, [www.qaeshropshire.co.uk](http://www.qaeshropshire.co.uk) to promote the awards.

We were offered pro bono support from a number of companies, including Reech Media, enabling the microsite as well as planned professional social media promotion of our launch event by BeBold PR Ltd to invite Shropshire-based businesses to participate in the competition. Shropshire Chamber of Commerce together with Aico Ltd and Yarrington Ltd facilitated a wonderful 'hybrid' launch event of pre-recorded and live studio interviews and information sharing through which we were able to reach over 100 local companies who watched online.

All four 2021 winners joined the event, and it was so lovely to be able to congratulate them in person and to share their excitement and pride on their achievement.

## BRITISH EMPIRE MEDALS

These awards are presented locally and because of covid, we recently organised a lovely afternoon ceremony at The Shrewsbury Castle to present the 12 outstanding British Empire Medal winners.



# QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

This county has an exceptional history of voluntary work and many wonderful charities. This particular award, known as the MBE for the voluntary sector, was introduced by Her Majesty almost twenty years ago to mark the Golden Jubilee. Since then, many local organisations have been recognised.

The Lieutenantcy role is to promote these prestigious awards, help to guide nominations and then undertake assessments. I am confident that there are many more eligible groups within the county, and I would like your help in identifying potential nominations. Organisations need to have been running for more than 3 years, have at least 3 people involved and most importantly be volunteer led. If you know of a group/organisation, please do encourage them to come forward and perhaps attend one of our online briefings. Information on our website.

A few weeks ago, we were able to celebrate another four success stories all of whom have made significant contributions during covid and were awarded a QAVS. Our 2021 recipients are:



## SHREWSBURY FOOD HUB

Which stops food going to waste and tackles food poverty by sharing good leftover food from supermarkets with community groups.



## BRIGHT STAR BOXING

Based in Shifnal using boxing to help children and adults deal with behaviour and mental health issues.



## THE RED HOUSE ALBRIGHTON

Providing services and facilities for the local community and providing comprehensive community support during covid.



## THE SHREWSBURY DRAPERS

Providing sheltered housing for the elderly, preserving the heritage of their historic hall, and promoting textile design through competitions. John Crackett DL is centrally involved with this organisation.



# COVID 19 COMMEMORATIVE SCULPTURE

Gavin Hamilton DL has undertaken a massive task of organising the commissioning of a bronze to mark the suffering from covid. This was an inspiration by Claire Crackett DL who casually mentioned what a lovely idea it would be when we were discussing a church service in The Abbey on Sunday 26th September 6pm to also mark the suffering from Covid. So, at that moment an idea was born.

Gavin commented:

“Along with everyone in the United Kingdom and many other countries, the people of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin have had a harrowing time since the Covid Pandemic hit us in early 2020. Many people have lost loved ones and everyone has had to make extraordinary sacrifices in their daily lives and in their businesses. Communities on all levels have pulled together to get us through. From the dedicated and unremitting work of health and care workers, through frontline workers in a wide variety of roles, to many people helping their neighbours, our communities have risen to the challenge.”

To remember the many people who have suffered and sadly died and to thank everyone for their enormous effort I would like to commission a public sculpture, which will be unveiled at Shrewsbury Abbey later this year if funds can be raised. Paul Kennedy, an artist and bronze founder working in Shropshire, has designed a beautiful and moving sculpture.

We intend running a fundraising campaign to raise £12,000 to commission this sculpture.

# QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Lieutenancy is also actively involved with the QGC, a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, by inviting people to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools, and corporates will be encouraged to plant trees from October 2021 when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

## TREE PLANTING SEASON – OCTOBER TO MARCH

The QGC will encourage everyone to learn more about the best way to plant trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come. Trees and hedgerows must be planted with care, at the right time of year, in the right place and with species that are not prone to prevailing tree diseases. The QGC initiative will encourage planting during the official planting season, October to March, to optimise the chance of trees surviving and flourishing.

The countdown to planting season began at the launch on 17th May 2021. People are encouraged to use the summer to plan their Jubilee tree planting projects and be ready for October.

# So, how can you help?

I would love to hear what is going on in all parts of the county and if you feel we can help by supporting any of your initiatives please do get in touch. The easiest way to do this is to reply to the mail address that has sent you this newsletter.

It is my sincere hope that by the time we produce another newsletter we will be able to incorporate your news and promote your special events.

