



Shropshire Lieutenancy

CHRISTMAS TOWN AND COMMUNITY LINKS NEWSLETTER
2022 ISSUE 6



The Shropshire Lieutenancy did our best to serve our Late Queen and we all felt a real loss on her demise. As a Lord-Lieutenant you receive guidelines for correct protocol on the death of a member of the Royal family and in my four years in office I became increasingly anxious as it became inevitably closer to Her Majesty's death. It goes without saying that we wanted to get it right and I have felt extraordinarily lucky and grateful for the meticulous work done by Deputy Lieutenants making sure London Bridge (the official name for the protocol) was perfect. I am delighted to say that I felt immense pleasure in reflecting on our Late Queen's dedication to duty with formalities in Shropshire carried out with decorum and dignity due.

Every Lord-Lieutenant in the country that attended The Lying in State and funeral at Westminster felt deeply privileged to have been present and I will never forget the roll in my stomach when we heard the Pipers nearing The Abbey in advance of the coffin. It was a truly memorable few hours with loyalty, love and respect filling The Abbey. I raced home that evening to watch the entire replay, start to finish on television.



Before attending The Lying in State at Westminster I stayed alongside The Mall and was woken at 3 am to the sound of Massed Bands at full blast and a dress rehearsal unfolding. Not wanting to miss a second of this incredible sight I grabbed clothes and rushed out to some steps above The Mall where I watched the thousands of troops in the dark, dressed in full military regalia rehearsing the funeral route. I would have walked the entire route as it would have been easy without crowds, but I stupidly feared my husband might have woken concerned I was missing and thought I was sleep walking (not unknown), so I crept back to find him still blissfully comatose even with the room shaking with noise!

As you may imagine our new King has had many additional duties to perform in a very short period, one of those duties being to meet his Lord-Lieutenants and I was duly invited to be presented to both HM The King and The Queen Consort.

Photograph taken of me standing in front of The Duke of Wellington's desk at Horse Guards Parade was taken by Garrison Sergeant Major Stokes after meeting him, he was responsible for Her Late Majesty's funeral procession an incredible man with fantastic attention to detail. He also has a home in Shropshire.

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE-UPDATE

During the summer the Lieutenancy organised 5 workshops to encourage nominations for local organisations, charities, and community groups for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. I am delighted to say 16 organisations from across the county were nominated. This represents a much larger number than previous years, and I was thrilled to see so many deemed eligible by the sifting panel. Sadly, we then had news of Her Majesty the Queen's death, and everything went on hold for two months.

Very recently we received the green light for the nominations to be assessed by the Shropshire panel members who are now frantically working to help turn nominations into awards - watch this space! The awards were introduced to mark Her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and since then 59 organisations throughout Shropshire have been awarded, it is the highest accolade for the voluntary sector. We are hopeful that the awards will continue but are not yet sure of changes which may be implemented.



ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE

During remembrance week, the Lieutenancy team laid 39 wreaths in towns and villages across the county. This is an area of work which is especially important, and it was inspiring to see so many people, young and old, coming out to remember all those who fought and lost their lives fighting for our country.

Remembrance Sunday parades and religious services provide an opportunity for representatives of the Crown, armed forces, civic leaders, Royal British Legion, cadet forces, scouts, guides, and many other organisations to honour those who served to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life; and to remember the sacrifice of all those who have died to protect our way of life and to keep us safe





THE
QUEEN'S GREEN
CANOPY

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Queen's Green Canopy Update



Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen and the wishes of His Majesty King Charles, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to now give people the joint opportunity to both plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty and reduce their carbon footprint. As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the QGC was due to conclude in December – the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom is from October to March, the initiative will now be extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022, and concluding in March 2023.

The Shropshire Lieutenancy together with Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council are supporting The Queen's Green Canopy and would love to see as many individuals, companies, schools, community groups, parishes and landowners as possible planting trees across the county and registered on the QGC map in memory of our late Majesty.

A new hedge of 2,000 native trees has been planted in the Gatacre playing fields, organised by Corrie Davies, Project Development Officer of Oswestry Town Council. The Mayor, Jay Moore and other members of Oswestry Council helped plant as did DL Veronica Lillis, and support for the initiative came from Cae Glas Cricket Club, Woodside Primary School, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Oswestry in Bloom plus help planting by North Shropshire College.



BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL CEREMONY

One of the best parts of my role is presenting BEMs to those awarded with a national honour for their outstanding service in the community, announced in the Honours lists twice yearly.

This year was particularly poignant as I was presenting the last BEMs of Her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth's reign. A very special ceremony was generously hosted by Telford & Wrekin council at the newly refurbished Anstice Hall in Madeley.

There were four recipients at the ceremony;

Mr Simon Griffiths, Watch Manager, Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service - for services to Fire & Rescue. Ms Kate Philips, Founder, Christmas Smile - for Services to Vulnerable families and people. Mr Malcolm Smith, Councillor, Telford & Wrekin Council - for services to Local Government. Mr George Watkins, Head Coach, Mid Shropshire Wheelers - for services to Cycling.



It brings me a huge amount of pleasure to see that we have so many people in Shropshire that have been recognised for the outstanding work they have achieved. These medals are only given to a small proportion of people who have either achieved something exceptional in public life or selflessly made life better for others.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT RECENT EVENTS



I have also;

- ◆ Presented West Mercia Police Good Conduct and Long Service Awards at Hindlip Hall
- ◆ The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Awards at Shrewsbury Theatre
- ◆ Presented Platinum Jubilee medals to the Adult Volunteers of Shropshire Army Cadet Force (ACF)
- ◆ Attended the service as HMS Talent handed back the Freedom of Shrewsbury Scroll as they have been decommissioned
- ◆ Attended the Police Anti- violence campaign in Shrewsbury Square, with the Bee made with guns by the British Ironworks in Oswestry
- ◆ Attended Celebration of Polish Independence Day in Shrewsbury

THE PIONEERING HEADLEY COURT VETERANS ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE

I was extremely pleased to attend the soft launch opening ribbon cutting event of this new centre based at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital which followed a £6 million donation from the Headley Court charity and was built by local contractor Pave Aways. As I cut the ribbon the guard of honour was led by Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Rebecca Warren of the vaccination service; both Carl and Rebecca are serving reservists in 202 field hospital.





Christmas Message

I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and hopes for a calmer and more settled 2023. We have had a year of sadness but success too, with celebrations due to the many honour recipients in the County. My Deputy Lieutenants will continue to search the County for those unsung heroes that work tirelessly to make life better for others and successful businesses who deserve recognition for outstanding achievement.

As I place a turkey order for our family Christmas lunch, I am hopeful this year will not be disrupted by absent members of the family hit by covid. As so many, we had a slightly bizarre 2022 lunch because at the last-minute main players were taken out, leaving five households with minimalist lunch; one had brandy butter and another only champagne, luckily for us we had control of the turkey and so 2022 was a 'foul fest luncheon' with a turkey big enough for 25 eaten by 3!

My best wishes.

Anna



Please do get in touch.

We are looking to link with as many schools, churches, voluntary organisations, and businesses throughout the county as possible, so that we can see all the fantastic work that is taking place and, where appropriate, share your news through our own platform.

To find out more about the Shropshire Lieutenancy visit our [website](#)
Follow us on social media:



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