



SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

SHROPSHIRE TOWN AND COMMUNITY LINKS NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE 9

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

I do hope, despite the many wet days, that you were able to enjoy summer, I know as a grandparent the struggle to fill the long school holidays particularly when we have so many soggy wet days, I think we all hope for a warm, dry autumn. Despite the weather Deputy Lieutenants and I have managed to attend some really successful events showcasing some of the very best that our wonderful County has to offer.

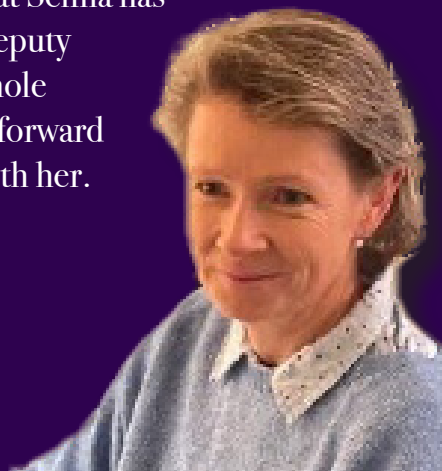
TROOPING OF THE COLOUR

Fortunately, the sun returned to create a wonderful day in London for the King's first Trooping of the Colour. I was delighted that Philip Watney, who had just retired as a Lord-Lieutenant's cadet, was able to attend, accompanied by his mother.



APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DEPUTY LIEUTENANT - SELINA GRAHAM

Many of you will recognise Selina as last year's High Sheriff, she has an amazing dedication to the voluntary sector and in her time as High Sheriff raised over £170,000 for charity. Selina has also been the hidden driver behind so many local organisations; The Cavalier Centre, the newly formed Shropshire Community foundation, Barrow School 1618 and two art auctions she ran raised over £250,000. I am really pleased to say that Selina has now joined as a new Deputy Lieutenant, and the whole lieutenancy team look forward to working together with her.



HONOURS

In early April we held the first of this year's BEM ceremonies at Wem Town Hall, I was delighted to present British Empire Medals to Pauline Dee BEM, from Wem, for "exemplary" voluntary service to the community over 40 years and Graham Furber BEM, from Bomere Heath for services to cricket, to disability sport and to the community.



A second ceremony was held at Shrewsbury Museum for Tom Hatfield BEM, from Wellington, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Station Manager, awarded for coordinating the services response to the pandemic. Patricia Ward-Jones BEM from Bridgnorth awarded for charitable services to terminally ill children and their families and Margaret Ward BEM for services to education in Uganda.



The first King's Birthday Honours were announced in June and the Lieutenancy were delighted to learn that 17 Shropshire citizens had been recognised. When the email arrives with the confirmed list of recipients it is just like getting an exam result, your eyes can't read fast enough. The large number we received this year reflects the incredible contributions to business, the arts, sport, and to our community and I would like to congratulate them all for their efforts.



British Empire Medals are presented locally and earlier this month I was delighted to attend Lilleshall Hall to present honours to; Gwynne Goodfield BEM for services to graduate recruitment at HMRC and to sport, Sally Johnson BEM for charitable services to people with cancer, Marion Micklewright BEM for services to feline welfare and to Eric Smith BEM for services to radio and to the community.



VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL

In July, the County had a royal visitor as we welcomed Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Chancellor of Harper Adams University, to meet a group of scholars who will use their studies at the University to benefit communities in Africa and India. Vice-Chancellor, Ken Sloan said that “the visit was a chance to update the Chancellor on some of the excellent projects currently underway at Harper Adams – and to discuss our ambitious plans for the future.”



VISITS TO LOCAL COMPANIES

Both Vice Lord-Lieutenant Jenny Wynn and myself visited Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land (RBSL) in the last couple of months. Jenny was given a very warm welcome when she attended their Engagement Day which was also attended by the Mayor of Telford & Wrekin, representatives from the local colleges and from SSAFA. Visitors received a tour of the site and met with staff and apprentices and had the opportunity to watch a Challenger 2 MBT being driven around the test track.

It was a real pleasure to officially name the new restaurant at the RBSL Telford site and at the same time learn more about RBSL and meet the team. I spent time in the Systems Integrations Facility where the Human Factors team gave me the opportunity to try new displays and controls that are being developed for Challenger 3 as well as seeing the progress of the Boxer Mission Module. It was absolutely fascinating.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS AT DERWEN COLLEGE

This time of year is always busy with awards presentations around the County and in July Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Jenny Wynn attended Derwen College, last year winners of a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

She joined the students celebrating an impressive 72 Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Award at any level is incredibly hard work for any young person, so it was wonderful to see so many students from Derwen College achieve this award; and we hope it will inspire others to take up the challenge. It has been fascinating to hear how some large companies consider the award as a minimum requirement for interviewing candidates for jobs.



BISHOP'S CASTLE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRANTING OF THE CHARTER BY QUEEN ELIZABETH I IN 1573

In July, Deputy Lieutenant Fiona Rogers-Coltman and I were delighted to visit Bishop's Castle to celebrate this very special historic event for the town. It was wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate, Bishops Castle should be basking in a warm glow of satisfaction having put together the most wonderful Charter celebrations. I felt under dressed in the crowd of traditional Elizabethan costumes. I dearly hope they win the battle to keep their 16 bed Community hospital.

Along with my newly appointed cadets, I attended a lunch hosted by the Coldstream Guards Association. Shropshire's own Garrison Sgt Major Stokes was at the lunch and the cadets had chance to meet him and other members of the Coldstream Guards. It has been fascinating to learn about events of the last couple of years, including Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and the coronation of King Charles III, that GSM Stokes has co-ordinated.



MARKET DRAYTON



Deputy Lieutenant Martin Stevens attended the Granting of the Freedom of Entry to The Town of Market Drayton, by Market Drayton Town Council to the Royal British Legion Market Drayton Branch. The Town Crier read out the citation of the freedom scroll. The scroll was received from the Mayor by M.W. Timmis-Ex Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, the oldest member of Market Drayton Royal British Legion. There was also a salute from the sky, -a fly past by the only remaining Avro Anson Aircraft still flying, piloted by Mr Glen James. The National Anthem was sung. Following the proceedings at the War Memorial, celebrations continued at the Royal British Legion Club, where further presentations were given and toasts. Martin Stevens DL gave the Loyal Toast.

ALBRIGHTON TRUST, MOAT AND GARDENS



One of the final events of the summer was attending the Albrighton Trust, Moat and Gardens to officially open their Coronation Garden. This amazing organisation, designed around the remains of a 13th century fortified moated manor house in Albrighton, offers educational and recreational activities for people disadvantaged by physical and learning disabilities or ill-health. The new garden will offer extra community space for anyone wanting to visit. What a wonderful facility they have created, the serenity of the lovely gardens and coarse fishing in the moat makes it a spot to visit or even consider volunteering at.

So, how can you help?

If you or your organisation has something special to celebrate over the next year please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you and if we can help by supporting any of your initiatives we would love to do so. We have deputy Lieutenants right across the county who can attend if I cannot personally attend. We would also like photos of your events, which may then be shared in my reports to the palace.

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](#)
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Lieutenancy contacts:

Emily Marshall and Shelley Davies are Assistant Clerks to the Shropshire Lieutenancy and can be contacted by email;
Emily Marshall emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk **Shelley Davies** shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk