



SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

SHROPSHIRE TOWN AND COMMUNITY LINKS NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE 10

Last Christmas family Turner had to wade their way through two turkeys because I panicked on Christmas eve when the ordered one arrived and I considered it looked like a big chicken, a friend of a friend knew where another one could be sourced and 2nd bird arrived just in time to be shoved into the aga (taking all heat carefully saved for crispy potatoes) and guess what, we didn't need one single slice of it, so Boxing Day was spent making creative turkey dishes for the freezer. It's not going to happen this year even if we have to share a sparrow.

This year has seen so much to celebrate in the county, we saw the coronation of the new King and Queen and have now settled into the new norm that is the Carolean era with a King who is proving to have been bred and nurtured to do a wonderful job with the support of a woman who has also taken to her new role with aplomb. We have been blessed with unbelievable people who have been recognised with Honours for their outstanding, dedicated service in the community, also an amazing eight organisations have been awarded the King's Award for voluntary Service which is the MBE for the voluntary sector. I can't help but feel proud because this took us to the top of the country per capita. I would love the county to gain more King's Awards for Enterprise as we have so many successful businesses and we could help to encourage and get more of them recognised as exceptional if we know where to look.

This year has seen Deputy Lieutenants, of which there are thirty-three spread across the county acting as incredibly important eyes and ears, forging links with many different sectors whom we are reaching out to. We want to make the county aware of the honours system, the Monarchy and the work of the Lieutenancy. We also have presentations that we are very happy to take into schools, if you are interested, please do contact the sender of this newsletter or message via the website.

I hope this newsletter shares information with businesses, churches, interfaith communities, charities, voluntary organisations, councils, schools, KAVS/KAE nominees and winners, and others. I would be delighted if you could share it with colleagues, other organisations you work with or, if you are a school, with parents. Indeed, please do forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would benefit as it helps spread the word, but let's make it a two-way thing and hear about relevant news from you so we might share.

My best wishes to you all for a lovely Christmas and Prosperous New Year,

Anna

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire

ROYAL VISIT TO TELFORD

Last month we were thrilled and privileged to welcome his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Telford. After a private visit to Rheinmetall, the Duke visited the Dawley Squadron at the Royal Yeomanry, Dawley Reserve Centre and the Army Reservists. He watched demonstrations undertaken by the cadets and saw some of their training activities completed as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award challenges. He met members of the Shropshire Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Cadets and Royal Navy cadets.



His Royal Highness then visited Dawley Town Hall, which was laid out as a veterans' tea party, where the Duke enjoyed refreshments sitting and chatting with the veterans and members of the Royal British Legion. They discussed their contributions and current involvement with the Armed Forces Covenant and the "Calm Café" hosted fortnightly at the Town hall. Veterans described how they enjoy meeting up together on a regular basis and also to access mental health support.





The Duke was told how earlier this year over 30 High Street businesses in Dawley had signed the Armed Forces Covenant leading to the town being named the UK's first official "Armed Forces Friendly High Street". The armed forces covenant is a promise by the nation, ensuring that those who serve or have served in the armed forces and their families, are treated fairly. It is estimated that Telford has an armed forces community of around 20,000 residents, some of whom were able to showcase their work to his Royal Highness. The Duke also met some of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold and Silver award holders from the Telford and Wrekin area which included Dawley Council.



Coincidentally the Town Hall was celebrating its 150-year anniversary as a much-loved and very well used venue, so it was a fitting end to the visit when the Duke unveiled a plaque commemorating his visit. It was a wonderful day, and the visit was appreciated by so many people who got the chance to meet and talk with the Duke.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



In November the County 'Remembered'. Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday is so very important to the Lieutenancy. My Deputy Lieutenants and I ensured that the Crown was represented, on a cold and wet weekend, by laying wreaths and paying our respects at services across Shropshire, including Telford & Wrekin. It is a poignant reminder, in these troubled times, of how many lives were lost and the gratitude we owe to all those who fought and died for our freedom.



Remembrance can take many different forms and we were delighted to be invited to a Remembrance art exhibition.



I have also been incredibly impressed to see the wonderful post box toppers that have been created by incredibly skilful Shropshire citizens also for Remembrance.

KINGS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

On the King's Birthday, November 14th eight voluntary organisations from across Shropshire including Telford & Wrekin were delighted to be awarded the most prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is an incredibly difficult award to achieve, and I am so proud that as a county we have so many wonderful voluntary groups. The crystal award and certificate will be presented at a ceremony in the new year.

The Shropshire groups honoured with the award are:

The Cavalier Centre

*Riding for the Disabled
and personal development
programmes for improved
wellbeing through horses.*

Shropshire Child Contact Centres

*Providing safe space for children
to have a relationship with both
parents following separation.*

Church and Chetwynd Aston Village Hall

*A Community Hub benefiting the
local and wider area, for all ages,
backgrounds and capabilities.*

Ludlow Cancer Support Group

*Offering safe, supportive space
for sufferers, family and the
bereaved to meet, socialise and
laugh.*

Clun Valley Good Neighbours Scheme

*Befriending and supporting
vulnerable, isolated and lonely
people in the community.*

South Shropshire Engineering Ambassadors

*Inspiring the interest and
ambitions of young people
towards engineering*

Home-Start Telford and Wrekin

*Family support charity
improving health and wellbeing
of families with young children
in Telford.*

Telford Crisis Support

*Providing the community with
basic essentials ensuring no one
needs to go without*

NATIONAL HONOURS

we need your help

Hopefully by now you will know just how passionate I am about ensuring that truly outstanding individuals, voluntary organisations and businesses, throughout the county, are recognised by the Crown. I was delighted when we had 17 individual honours announced as part of the King's first Birthday Honours list in June; I think this is the longest list awarded in Shropshire.

I believe that there are other outstanding individuals that we ought to put forward for recognition. To help streamline the process we have a local panel made up of my Deputy Lieutenants who will take on the role of submitting suitable, outstanding candidates to try to get that national recognition. If you know of someone whom you believe to be truly outstanding either in their particular field of work or in the community then please consider filling in our local nomination form and the local panel will consider it, and if the case is felt to be compelling, they will undertake to complete the national forms. The local nomination form can be found on the Shropshire Lieutenancy website.

You can download a form [here](#)

Once you have completed a form please forward to

Emily Marshall

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or

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REACHING COMMUNITIES

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this special Christmas edition of the lieutenancy newsletter. I would be delighted if you could share it with colleagues, other organisations you work with or, if you're a school, with parents.

MERRY
Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR



So, how can you help?

If you or your organisation has something special to celebrate over the next year please do get in touch, I would be delighted 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](#)
Follow us on social media:



Lieutenancy contacts:

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