

SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

SHROPSHIRE TOWN AND COMMUNITY LINKS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026 ISSUE 19

Welcome

As we turn towards autumn, I am pleased to welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter – and what a summer it has been!

Those of us accustomed to Shropshire summers of rain have had something of a shock this year, it has been repeated days of glorious sunshine and heatwaves with record-breaking temperatures, more reminiscent of the Mediterranean than the Marches. I fear the need for warm and waterproof clothing is back.

The exceptional heat has, of course, brought its challenges. Our farmers, countryside, wildlife and communities have all felt the effects of the prolonged dry conditions, and it has been a timely reminder of the importance of looking after one another – particularly those who are most vulnerable in extreme weather.

But if there is one thing that Shropshire does particularly well, it is pulling together. Throughout the summer, I have continued to see wonderful examples of kindness, volunteering, public service and community spirit right across the county. Whether helping a neighbour, supporting a local organisation, keeping our communities safe or simply checking that someone had managed to find a fan, the people of Shropshire have once again shown what can be achieved when we look out for each other.

In this edition, we celebrate some of the remarkable people, organisations and events that continue to make such a difference across our county. I hope you enjoy reading their stories and discovering more about the many wonderful things happening throughout Shropshire.

With my very best wishes for the autumn...

Anna

ROYAL VISIT TO THE COUNTY

Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Shrewsbury for a morning with Men's Sheds and West Mercia Search and Rescue, both hosted at the West Midlands Showground in Shrewsbury.

During her time with Men's Shed, Her Royal Highness was shown how the Shed is used, she met Katey Evans, and heard about how she uses her professional expertise as a Personalised Cancer Care Navigator in her voluntary role with the Shed; she also described how the project brings people together.

She was shown the kitchen, where free food is prepared, before touring the wood and metal working, greenhouse and horticultural areas. She spoke warmly with the Sheddiers about the work they were doing, their reasons for becoming a Shedder, and what they personally gained from their involvement; finally unveiling a plaque to mark the special occasion.



WEST MERCIA SEARCH AND RESCUE

Her Royal Highness then moved to the riverbank where she met members of the charity, Fire Service and Police partners, charity ambassadors with personal experience of loss, and corporate sponsors who support with website, vehicle maintenance and vital funding. She was escorted to the control vehicle where team members explained the detailed planning behind every search using the day's demonstration and then met land search volunteers, dog handlers and drone operators before focussing on the water-based operations from the riverbank. The demonstration continued with a simulated search and recovery operation showcasing the skills of the kayak and boat teams.



BRITISH EMPIRE CEREMONY

In the summer edition of the newsletter you will recall I was able to congratulate all those amazing Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin citizens that had been recognised in the King's Birthday Honours list. Those awarded British Empire Medals (BEMs) are presented their medals locally at specially organised Investiture ceremonies.

I absolutely love these events; they are undoubtedly highlights of my year, where we aim to make medallists feel incredibly special, surrounded by family and friends, who hear about their wonderful work within the county, helping others and making a major contribution to their communities.



Dean Allen BEM - For services to the community in Telford



Alan Halcrow BEM - For services to the Drainage Industry



Christopher Symes BEM - For services to Disabled People



Phillip Cowell BEM - For services to the community in Shrewsbury



Neville Stephens BEM - For services to the community in Craven Arms

KING'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE RECEPTION

Also, in the last newsletter I was thrilled to announce Shropshire's 2026 winners of the King's Award for Enterprise. In July we hosted a celebratory reception for them at Stockton House, by kind of permission of Lord Hamilton of Dalzell DL. With support from Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils and Shropshire Chamber of Commerce.

The winners Thermserve Ltd, based in Telford, who won their fourth KAE Award, Fowler and Gilbert Ltd based in Market Drayton and Pave-Aways Ltd based in Knockin who both won their first King's Award for Enterprise for Promoting Opportunity; told civic and business guests what receiving one of the most sought-after achievements for British businesses meant for them.



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF EGLANTYNE JEBB

Born in Ellesmere, Shropshire in 1876, Eglantyne Jebb was a pioneering campaigner for children's rights and co-founder of Save the Children UK. Born within the Diocese of Lichfield, her story has a special connection to our local area and she is remembered in the Church's calendar each year.

On Sunday 23rd August Deputy Lieutenant John Crackett CB TD VR represented the Lieutenancy at Evensong at Lichfield Cathedral which included a short homily in which the Dean of Lichfield, Rt Revd. Jan McFarlane referred to volunteering and the life and achievements of Eglantyne Jebb. The reading selected for the service was the source of the quote inscribed upon her headstone, and the prayers included the specific collect appointed by the Church of England for her day (25th August).

"Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



Photo shows: The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane, Dean of Lichfield, Deputy Lieutenant John Crackett CB TD VR DL, Lay Canon Claire Crackett MBE DL and The Ven Nick Watson, Archdeacon of Salop.

CELEBRATION OF FOOD AND CULTURE – HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

Katherine Garnier DL was delighted to represent the Lieutenancy at a vibrant celebration of food and culture held in the Bishop's Palace garden at Hereford Cathedral.

The event brought together civic, spiritual and interfaith leaders from across the diocese with representatives from the Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist communities, as well as pupils from three local Church of England primary schools.

Guests gathered to meet, talk and share experiences over a delicious lunch featuring dishes from Afghan, Ukrainian, Afro-Caribbean, Thai and Indian traditions. The varied menu beautifully showcased the rich cultural diversity that contributes to life across Herefordshire and South Shropshire.

After lunch, Bishop Richard joined the Diocese's Racial Justice Consultant, Anira Khokhar, for an engaging conversation about the Diocese's ongoing work to promote racial justice and social inclusion. Those attending were invited to ask questions and hear more about the initiatives helping to strengthen relationships and celebrate the diversity of the diocese. Katherine said it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon highlighting how sharing food, conversation and experiences can foster stronger connections between people of all ages and backgrounds.



MELVILLE CLUB AFTERNOON TEA

Every year, The Melville Club in Albrighton, previous winners of the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS), organise an afternoon tea for the elderly of the village. Deputy Lieutenant Jo Baugh represented the Lieutenancy and enjoyed meeting members, she said, "it was lovely to catch up with residents for a chat and a beautiful afternoon tea" The amazing team of volunteers looked after their guests very well ensuring they enjoyed the traditional savouries and cakes while raising a fantastic £423 for Alzheimer's Society too!



CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

Recently Challenging Perceptions invited me to an event celebrating their 10th anniversary, “Challenging Perceptions works incredibly hard to make life better with more understanding of autism.

I enjoyed celebrating their 10th anniversary with an autism inclusive fun day at The Park Lane Centre Telford it was a lovely, happy atmosphere with an opportunity to learn about the massive amount of support on offer to children, young people and their families. I am honoured to have been asked to become their Patron and pleased to accept”.



PRIORSLEE GURDWARA

In August, Vice Lord-Lieutenant Jenny Wynn, was invited to the Siri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Gurdwara in Priorslee Telford, meeting with Kumlesh Kaur, she enjoyed meeting users and learning how the Gurdwara engages with the community. Occupying a very large building enables them to offer a wide range of community and religious support services. There are fitness classes in the on-site gym, including rehabilitation equipment, which welcomes members of the public, support groups for women, and community health check sessions for example blood pressure monitoring.

The team of volunteers’ welcome visits from schools where pupils can be given an introduction to Sikhism, a tour of the Gurdwara to provide a glimpse into daily operations, Langar (free lunch, from the Community Kitchen) and an opportunity to ask questions. The community kitchen and the volunteers create many hundreds of meals a week for the community. The Gurdwara also has a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) which is free to use for community partners. Jenny was delighted to visit and see first-hand the fantastic work being done there and the links to the local community.



CURLEWS

I wonder how many of our readers know about the work being done by the team committed to the conservation of the Eurasian curlew in the Shropshire Hills and Welsh Borders? Together with Deputy Lieutenant Claire Crackett MBE DL, I spent time observing these beautiful birds, which are in severe national decline with steep population drops, it was absolutely fascinating seeing the work being done to preserve and encourage the existence of chicks, which are then released amongst other naturally nesting curlews with an enhanced chance of survival in this tough world.



LONG MYND ADVENTURE CAMP

In June Deputy Lieutenant Vern Stokes OBE MVO DL, officially opened the new accessible wash block at Long Mynd Adventure Camp, Church Stretton, during a ceremony attended by trustees, volunteers, donors and supporters of the camp.

The new facility has been developed to improve accessibility and ensure that more young people can enjoy the outdoor learning and adventure opportunities for which the camp is renowned. Vern commented that “Facilities like this matter; they remove barriers. They say to young people, ‘You belong here.’ and that is something you cannot easily measure, but you can see it in confidence built, friendships formed, and futures shaped.” Well done to everyone making this facility work for so many young people.



SHREWSBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB OPEN DAY

Recently I was invited to attend the Shrewsbury Town FC Open Day. As an ambassador of the Shrewsbury Town Female Focus Group, it was a good opportunity to learn more about the 140-year history of the club, meet members and fellow ambassadors.

This group is committed to making Shrewsbury Town FC a welcoming space for all fans, regardless of gender or background and to foster a sense of belonging and pride in Shrewsbury Town FC.

Photo Credit: Shrewsbury Town Female Focus



SHERIFFHALES PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

Each year the Lieutenancy team receive invitations to support schools right across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. In July Deputy Lieutenant Jo Baugh spent a lovely afternoon at Sherifffhales Primary School with children, staff, parents and carers marking the end of the school year.

Jo attended the Superstars assembly and was delighted to join with Helen Bibby, Chair of Governors, handing out certificates and awards. It was an occasion full of emotion as Year 6 pupils said their goodbyes, coupled with wonderful singing from the choir.

Jo received a wonderful welcome and was pleased to learn about the school's Star awards (Strive, Try together, Achieve, Respect) and the lovely actions of the children that resulted in them being given the awards.



TELFORD AFRICAN & AFRO-CARIBBEAN RESOURCE CENTRE (TAARC) - COMMUNITY DAY

Vice Lord-Lieutenant Jenny Wynn OBE thoroughly enjoyed attending an event to commemorate Windrush Day hosted by TAARC, with inspirational speakers, wonderful music and food all made for a fabulous occasion.

TAARC seeks to showcase the best in African and Caribbean cultures. One of their aims, as a charity is to educate others about African and Afro-Caribbean history and culture through social events such as their Cultural Family Fun Day, Commemorative Windrush Day, Black History Month (BHM) Celebration, BHM School Workshops, and Over 60's get together.



SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Back in July I enjoyed a lovely afternoon with Sight Loss Shropshire, at a special surprise celebration, to thank their Market Drayton VIP Group Leader, Barbara, who retired after 26 amazing years of incredible support, friendship and dedication.

She was instrumental in establishing the group and over the years has helped bring people together, offered encouragement and made a lasting difference to so many people living with sight loss in the local community in and around Market Drayton. I was pleased to be able to thank Barbara for her loyalty, kindness and the positive impact over the years her work has had. Local councillor Roy Aldcroft also praised Barbara's commitment as a team leader, community supporter and fundraiser. Barbara shared her own emotional thanks, saying she felt blessed to have met so many wonderful people along the way.

Fortunately, Barbara was able to hand over the reins to Nikki, who will continue to help the group flourish.



GRANT OF APPROBATION – ALBRIGHTON

When the RAF Cosford base was finished just before the start of the second world war, it created a deep, historic and unwavering bond between the base and the community of Albrighton. In 1998 the Albrighton Parish Council recognised that bond by awarding RAF Cosford the Grant of Approbation, which grants the military base the right and privilege to march through the local streets on formal and ceremonial occasions with “swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying”. It is the equivalent of “Freedom of the Town/City” awards.

The honour is renewed every four years; it acts as a permanent tribute to celebrate the economic, social, and historical ties between the military personnel and the local community of Albrighton. Jenny Wynn, on behalf of the Lieutenancy attended the ceremony which continues to demonstrate the special relationship between the village and service personnel.



ARMED FORCES WEEK

Wem

During Armed Forces week, I was so pleased to see Deputy Lieutenants helping communities celebrate their armed forces with services across the county; Deputy Lieutenant Diana Flint DL felt honoured to attend the Armed Forces Day service led by Rev John Jukes at Wem.

Rev. Jukes shared a photo in church commemorating the “Tunnel Martyrs”, a daring and ultimately tragic bid for freedom from WWII Stalag Luft III.



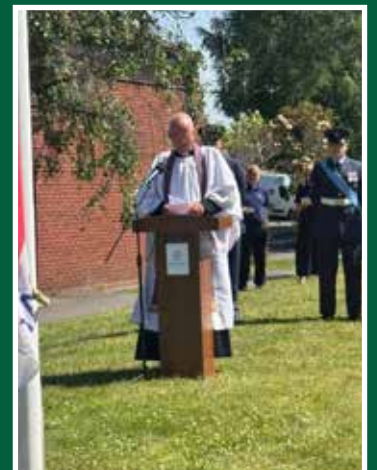
Shrewsbury Castle

Deputy Lieutenants Dave Fox and Sam Brettell attended the Shropshire Armed Forces Day event at Shrewsbury Castle accompanied by Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Staff Serjeant Vihaan Giri. An event well attended by military veterans, personnel and their families, County Cadets plus Shropshire organisations proud to support the Armed Forces.



Shifnal

Vice Lord-Lieutenant Jenny Wynn was accompanied by Lord-Lieutenant Cadet CCF AC Sergeant Reuben Stanton when she attended the Shifnal Armed Forces service. She said it was such a moving ceremony attended by veterans, cadets, school children, local clergy, members of Shifnal Town Council and the public. It was also one of the last services conducted by the Reverend Chris Thorpe, who retired in July from the Benefice of Shifnal.



110TH ANNIVERSARY – BATTLE OF THE SOMME

In July, I attended, along with one of my cadets Flight Sergeant Joseph Beard, the Royal British Legion Madeley branch commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme at the town's cenotaph.

The Somme represented the largest losses suffered by the British Army in a single day and by the end of the battle in November 1916 there had been more than a million casualties on both sides. It was a moving and poignant tribute to all that lost their lives in pursuit of our freedom. I was pleased to be invited to lay a wreath and participate in a moment of reflection and remembrance in memory of those who were part of this battle.

Photo Credit: RBL Madeley



SHROPSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE ANNUAL CAMP

In July, together with Vice Lord-Lieutenant Jenny Wynn OBE DL and Deputy Lieutenant John Crackett CB TD VR DL I attended the Shropshire Army Cadet Force annual camp at Beckingham in Lincolnshire. Along with other visitors, we had the opportunity to see first-hand the incredible experiences, skills and development the cadets are gaining.

The cadets were excellent ambassadors for Shropshire Army Cadet Force. They confidently demonstrated their newly acquired skills, spoke proudly about their experiences, and showcased the opportunities that being a Shropshire Army Cadet provides; they even persuaded me to try my hand at the shooting challenge!



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, different faiths, 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: www.lordlieutenantofshropshire.org.uk](http://www.lordlieutenantofshropshire.org.uk)

Follow us on social media:



Lieutenancy contacts:

Emily Marshall, Shelley Davies and Paige Starkey are Assistant Clerks to the Shropshire Lieutenancy and can be contacted by email or phone;

Emily Marshall		01743 257717		emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk
Shelley Davies		01743 257718		shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk
Paige Starkey		01952 380110		paige.starkey@telford.gov.uk

DESIGNED & PRINTED BY

