



Shropshire Lieutenancy

TOWN LINKS NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 2

MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas is arriving faster than we all care to think about ready or not, it will arrive surrounded with a mixture of emotions. My inner Scrooge dominates and so my family has a Secret Santa system: only one present worth £20 or less, save for grand children who escape the humbug. I once asked HRH Prince Charles what he was giving his boys for Christmas and his reply was they “don’t give presents”. If this is the case The Crown has an incorrect story line!

The past 19 months have all blended together in a mixture of learning to cope with on-line life and trying to get back to normal. Hopefully we don’t have to contend with similar Christmas restrictions this year preventing families from uniting for the day.

I look back over the year and know that the Shropshire Lieutenancy team has worked extremely hard at making sure H.M. The Queen and her Government are kept informed of possible nominations for Honours. We are delighted to receive names of people recommended by members of the public for Honours, Royal Garden Parties or a card from me, as Her Majesty’s representative. In 2021 we have received a really healthy amount of recognition for businesses, voluntary groups and individuals which reflects the huge amount of successful work and help in our community. My thanks to everyone who has contributed, and we look forward to many more suggestions for the panel to look at. The Town Link initiative, which was recommended by my Herefordshire colleague, has reaped rewards following the 28 Deputy Lieutenants getting to know their specific areas even better and being given the opportunity to attend functions in their capacity as Deputy Lieutenants.

Perhaps the most poignant of these events was the laying of wreaths across many towns and villages right across the county. However there have also been many other occasions where my Vice Lord-Lieutenant and deputies have been invited to meetings with councils, churches, armed forces, police and schools. Having the opportunity to present awards, perhaps adding some external recognition to those awards, attending special church services and encouraging greater involvement with local town and parish councils have brought about a new and mutually beneficial understanding of each other’s roles. As a result of this, we have come up with plenty of ideas of how we can assist each of those organisations and have started to do so. Within schools we have been promoting voluntary work and offered briefings on the role of the monarchy. Additionally links have been made with a number of rural communities to discuss the stresses faced, particularly by the farming community.



WORKING WITH KEY ORGANISATIONS

For the Lieutenancy to achieve as much as possible it is vital that we create strong and effective partnerships and links with many organisations, so I thought I would start by asking some of these organisations with which we work closely, for their thoughts on how we work together and how we might help further in the future.

I started by meeting the new Vice-Chancellor of Harper Adams University, Professor Ken Sloan, with which the Lieutenancy has a well-developed partnership, not least because HRH The Princess Royal, as Chancellor of the University is a frequent visitor.



**Professor Ken Sloan,
Vice-Chancellor**

He said, "I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of Harper Adams University. I returned to the UK from Melbourne, Australia where I was at Monash University for five years. Prior to that I was at the University of Warwick for almost 20 years. Having grown up on the Wirral and worked in Coventry and Warwickshire for a long period, the A41 through Shropshire was a constant route and I have enjoyed visiting and staying in many towns and villages over the years. It is a privilege to now be able to call this beautiful county my home.

My predecessor, Dr David Llewellyn, left a fantastic legacy and Harper Adams is clearly valued and respected both locally, nationally, and increasingly, internationally. Harper Adams' strength lies in the quality and relevance of its teaching and research, the talent and enthusiasm of its students, and the relationships we have with industry partners, government, and other organisations. This latter point is vital. As we collectively face the challenges of climate change, partnership is vital to ensure that those who work in the land, agri-food, sustainability, and animal sectors have access to the best talent and the best insights to support their future development.

The future will be challenging but it will also bring opportunities for innovation and excitement. I look forward to these challenges and welcome ideas for our future and how to enhance the contribution that we can make to support the ongoing prosperity of Shropshire

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

David Sidaway CEO said "Telford & Wrekin Council enjoys a strong working relationship with the Shropshire Lieutenancy, who support us to deliver our key objectives to protect, care and invest in the borough. Through the Lord-Lieutenant's support and advocacy, the borough has had the privilege of several visits from HRH The Princess Royal, including the opening of a new Veterinary Centre in Newport and the town's new footbridge, the Silver Swallow.

Both occasions were a great honour and a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with HRH The Princess Royal and highlight the impressive progress our borough is making, driving innovative, award-winning projects and attracting major investment into business and infrastructure.



The Lord-Lieutenant has also been involved in a number of key events in Telford and Wrekin over the last 12 months including visiting the central coronavirus vaccination site to encourage vaccine uptake. More recently in September this year we had the honour of hosting the Lord-Lieutenant at the Forest Glen in Ironbridge for the awarding of British Empire Medals to honoured recipients in recognition of their contribution to local communities during the coronavirus pandemic.



BEM ceremony at the Forest Glen

We are delighted to see many of our local community groups and businesses continue to receive Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service and Enterprise, also achieved with the support of the Lord-Lieutenant. As a Council, we hope to continue our strong partnership with the Lord-Lieutenant and the Shropshire Lieutenancy for many years to come.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Andy Begley CEO said, "We are pleased to be working alongside Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire and it continues to be a great partnership. Maintaining our links to the Royal Family is important and it's a fantastic way to highlight our county and what it has to offer."

We have been honoured to recently welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Anne to Oswestry as part of her visit to pay recognition to AICO's impact as a business in Shropshire. It was a huge success. We have many outstanding businesses here and it's great for one of them to be recognised in this way.



HRH Princess Anne visiting AICO

In September, Shrewsbury was chosen as one of the key flagship locations to celebrate Emergency Services Day, or 999 day. Led by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire and the High Sheriff of Shropshire with our support, we were delighted with the response it received. It was a real celebration which was much needed during what has been an incredibly tough year.



Emergency services personnel were recognised for their work at St Chad's Church in Shrewsbury

We are also proud working with Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire to encourage everyone to plant a tree for the Jubilee. It's part of The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The first tree, an English oak, was planted at Severn Valley Country Park – we look forward to seeing many more."

ROLE OF THE LIEUTENANCY IN THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY – LED BY ROBERT BLAND DL

The Queen's Green Canopy is an exciting initiative which encourages communities as well as individuals to plant at least a single tree for Her Majesty's forthcoming Platinum Jubilee and to support the nation's efforts towards Zero Carbon. Trees can be planted over a two year period from autumn 2021 to spring 2023 with the location of the commemorative plaque (virtual or real) entered onto the map on QGC website <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>.

This map will be presented to Her Majesty as a gift from the nation in recognition of her 70 years' service to the nation.

Free trees, posts, ties and guards are available to eligible schools or communities either from Shropshire Council or the Woodland Trust. Commemorative plaques are available free of charge to eligible communities from Shropshire Council or via the QGC website or for £30 from Shropshire Trophy and Bowling Centre.



Lord-Lieutenant and Robert Bland DL Tree planting at Severn valley

TERN HILL BARRACKS

The last few months have seen 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment deployed around the globe to Mali, Oman, USA and Zambia conducting various training and security roles. An increasing number of ex-service personnel have settled in the area which helps cement linkages. Community relations locally are good, but the pace of operations and Covid means that little specific activity has been undertaken for one to two years. For the soldiers who remain in the UK, Remembrance Day feels more significant when we are all separated by distance but, as a Regiment, continue to be together in our commitment and loyalty to our country.

On this important day, we came together to remember all those who have fallen in the pursuit of freedom and security. We remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict and war and took this time to be thankful for the safe return of our Regimental family back to Shropshire in time for Christmas.

SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY

The Shropshire Lieutenancy is embracing the power of social media to link into and support the communities of Shropshire.

The Lieutenancy is committed to supporting and promoting the activities, industry and people of the county and are using social media to do this.

We are regularly posting every week with details of events, Royal visits, Lieutenancy visits, local Queen's Award and Honours winners and Royal campaigns – many of which you can get involved with. We are also sharing the successes of our people, businesses, schools and organisations far and wide.

We will share details of how you can make nominations for awards and honours to recognise the fantastic work that happens day in and day out, here in Shropshire.

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 platforms.

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, 70 years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old. Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion, culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

You can find us on...

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

You can also find a wealth of information or contact us on our website: <https://www.lordlieutenantofshropshire.org.uk/>

And finally...

I would like to wish everyone the sort of Christmas they are hoping for, be it quiet, outrageous or normal and a prosperous 2022.

I very much look forward to hearing from you about any ways we can help and support your organisation or community.

