



SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

SHROPSHIRE TOWN AND COMMUNITY LINKS NEWSLETTER
SUMMER EDITION ISSUE 18

Welcome

Welcome to our summer update. There has been so much to celebrate in the last quarter with success in business and volunteer awards, British Empire Medals and Buckingham Palace Garden Party invitations. Who doesn't love an excuse to dress up, enjoy a garden party and have afternoon tea, particularly if the venue is Buckingham Palace? Does anyone else enjoy the simple pleasure of saying to a taxi driver "Buckingham Palace" and then squeezing through the crowd and being allowed through the gates? Our Royal family send invitations to people aged 18yrs or over, who are making a difference, and you could help make this happen to someone in Shropshire by sending details to the Shropshire Lieutenancy of someone whom you think should be recognised in this way. We received invitations for guests who had done all sorts of remarkable things such as running charities, long term foster carers, very experienced magistrates, committed charity fund raisers and litter pickers amongst many others. All the garden parties this year had beautiful weather, and I have heard some lovely stories from the Shropshire guests who really enjoyed themselves.





2026 BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECOGNISING SHROPSHIRE PEOPLE

Giving recognition is one of the most important parts of my role as Lord-Lieutenant and, as you will all know by now, I eagerly await the Birthday Honours list, and so it was, just a few days ago, that so many worthy Shropshire people appeared on the list.

These included:

Commanders of the Order of the British Empire

Gary Anthony Badley - For Public Service



Members of the Order of the British Empire

Jonathan Mark Boddington - For services to Design and Innovation in Furniture Making

Natalie Cumming - For services to Holocaust Remembrance and to the Missing People Charity

John Anthony Garbett - For services to Foster Care and to Children with Disabilities and their Families

Pamela Yvonne Garbett - For services to Foster Care and to Children with Disabilities and their Families

Michelle John - For services to Family Support and Advocacy.

Kathleen Kimber - For services to Further Education

John Alexander Wagner - For services to British Comic Books and the Comic Book Industry

Hollie Whittles - For services to Women in Business



Medallists of the Order of the British Empire

Dean David Allen - For services to the community in Telford

Phillip Edward Cowell - For services to the community in Shrewsbury

Wendy Ann Ford - For services to Charity and to Young People

Alan Thomas Halcrow - For services to the Drainage Industry

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

Christopher Norman Symes - For services to Disabled People



Of course, all recipients have to be nominated, many using the public route, but did you know that some of these will have come through the Shropshire Honours Panel? If you know someone outstanding, doing an exceptional job in their community, then you may want to look at the Lieutenancy website for further information
www.lordlieutenantofshropshire.org.uk/helping-you/nominate-someone-for-an-honour

Congratulations to you all!

British Empire Medal Investiture Ceremonies

Over the past few months ceremonies have been held to mark the achievement of all those receiving BEMs in the New Year's Honours List. I am passionate about BEMs because they are given to those who truly make a difference within their local community, often creating projects that bring communities together, caring and supporting those who need help, reducing isolation or just sharing activities which bring joy to so many.



Mrs Alison Jane Humphreys BEM—For services to people with Memory Loss and Dementia.



Mrs Annabel Susan Alice Gittins BEM - For services to Young People.



Mr Adrian Robin Emery BEM. For voluntary service.



Mrs Sally Crawford Angell-James BEM – For services to Defibrillator provision in Shropshire.



Mr Gerald Thomas Nickless BEM – For services to the community in Shifnal.



Mr Scott Saunders BEM For services to Emergency Response and to the community in Telford.



Canon John Thomas Naylor BEM – For services to Music.



Mrs Kathryn Foster BEM For Charitable and Voluntary Service to Alzheimer's Research UK, to Heritage and to the community in Shropshire.

KING'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE 2026 WINNERS

What a fabulous year we are having in Shropshire! Last month I was thrilled to congratulate three more Shropshire based companies that have been successful in being awarded the King's Award for Enterprise (KAE) 2026 and look forward to presenting their awards.

This year's Shropshire winners are.

Thermserve Ltd. Awarded for International Trade. They are recognised as a dynamic, service-driven company delivering advanced engineering solutions to the metals industry.

Fowler and Gilbert Ltd. Awarded for Promoting Opportunity. They design and supply specialist steel frame buildings for the agricultural, equestrian, industrial and commercial sectors.

Pave-Aways Ltd. Awarded for Promoting Opportunity. They provide construction services for Public, Education, Healthcare, Commercial and Residential developments.

The highly prestigious King's Awards for Enterprise are given for outstanding achievement by UK businesses in the categories of Innovation, International trade, Sustainable Development and Promoting Opportunity through social mobility. In addition, from this year, a further category "Young Founder," is being added, this is limited to 18–30-year-olds. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise/eligibility>.

I know just how hard it is to win this award but equally it shows just how many excellent companies are based in Shropshire. The Lieutenancy is always ready to help organisations considering applying for the KAE. I am grateful to Deputy Lieutenant Mandy Thorn MBE, who together with a small group of specialists are always happy to discuss applications, so please do get in touch if you are considering applying.



KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Regular readers of this newsletter will already know that last November we celebrated the wonderful news that another eight Shropshire volunteer organisations had been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award given to the voluntary sector in the UK, often described as the MBE for groups. Most of the presentations were made early in the year but I have been delighted to round off a very successful year to the final three groups.

Wem Town Hall;

Provision of a vital local focal point delivering support, public service and community cohesion.



Aston on Clun community Shop;
a rural lifeline supplying and uniting the local community.



Chetton and District Parish Hall;

A hall for everyone where neighbours connect, friends thrive and community spirit comes alive.

I always feel a sense of pride when other Lieutenancies ask how Shropshire manages to achieve so many KAVS each year, it is of course largely down to all the wonderful volunteers working in the county with so many outstanding organisations, charities or simply groups that come together with a common purpose to help their community.

As usual we are offering workshops to share information for organisations who may be considering seeking nomination for the 2027 King's Awards for Voluntary Service



This year we are offering three workshops which will explain the award and the nomination process: We recommend attendance in person at one of the workshops in Ludlow or Telford as this gives the opportunity for members of the Shropshire KAVS panel to look in more detail at the individual group's eligibility. However, we have also added an evening zoom session, for working people who cannot make the in-person events.

Workshops will be on:

Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 11am – 12.30pm at the Ludlow Methodist Hall, 52 Broad Street, Ludlow SY8 1NH

Monday 14 September 2026 at 2.00pm – 3.30pm at the Telford & Wrekin Council Chamber, above the Library in Southwater 1, Telford TF3 4JG

Tuesday 29 September Virtual Workshop 7.00pm - 8.00pm on Zoom

For further information and/or to book a place please email Shelley Davies – lieutenancy@shropshire.gov.uk.

Information can also be found on the KAVS website: <https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/>

ROYAL VISITS

I always feel privileged to be able to show off some of our wonderful organisations to members of the royal family, and I am pleased to say we have had two such visits in the past few weeks. The visits often take many weeks to organise, and I am always amazed at the willingness of people to create wonderful opportunities for our royal visitors. At the end of April, we hosted Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh. I was delighted to share the work of three Shropshire organisations:

The Albrighton Trust, Moat and Gardens where she met the team of trustees and volunteers and toured the accessible angling facility, sensory gardens and workshop. The centre provides a range of educational and recreational activities tailored specifically for individuals with physical and learning disabilities. What a wonderful day it was, the Duchess tried her hand at fishing, making a hanging basket and bird box and spoke to many of the beneficiaries of this fantastic project.



Her Royal Highness then moved to **Crowsmill Craft Centre CIC** based near Bridgnorth, a day centre which supports children struggling with mainstream school as well as adults with disabilities or mental health challenges. Again, the Duchess engaged warmly with many of the users, volunteers and staff.



The final visit of the day was to **Willowdene Farm, near Bridgnorth**. This is an outstanding facility that has been running for almost forty years. Originally operating as a residential centre for men, they now provide targeted support and vocational training for both men and women.



HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

Less than a week after the visit of HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, we welcomed HRH The Duke of Gloucester:



The day began with a visit to **The Christopher Turley Armed Forces Community Hub**. A recently opened, dedicated space for serving personnel, veterans, and their families. It provides specialist support and services tailored to the needs of the armed forces community, as well as a safe and welcoming space to connect with others who share similar experiences.



The Duke then moved onto **Wappenshall Wharf** a restored canal hub with Weldeck Café, community events, and heritage managed by Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust. Formed in October 2000 the project is run by 12 dedicated trustees restoring Wappenshall Wharf to its full potential. It is a place where the community can connect, relax, and explore, it clearly captured the interest of His Royal Highness.



The final visit of the day was to the **Hadley Guru Nanak Gurdwara**, where The Duke received a very warm welcome from the Kushdil ladies who offer a wide range of community projects, from "a warm space," sewing, cookery, yoga, flower arranging, all run by volunteers. A truly multicultural, multi- faith project, their committee fully reflects the Hadley population. The Duke was also told of the importance of the men's group, supporting friendship and reducing isolation for many across the area.



SHROPSHIRE SUPPORTS UKRAINE- APPEAL FOR HELP

A few weeks ago, together with the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, I visited an amazing project, “Shropshire Supports Ukraine” and watched a group of highly determined, passionate volunteers load 8.5 tonnes of goods ranging from reconditioned generators, disability aids, medical supplies and humanitarian aid onto an HGV destined to provide much needed aid in Ukraine.

The organisation is run by Mila, Ukrainian herself, she has spent the past four years dedicating all of her free time to collecting much needed aid and sending it back to her home country. What is different about this, is that she has contacts in Ukraine who can tell her exactly what is needed and where, this is crucial ensuring the right items get to where they are most needed. Mila has largely funded, from her own wages, six storage units in Shrewsbury to support her commitment to filling HGV trucks every six-eight weeks.



This wonderful project is desperate for adequate Storage. Please do get in touch with Mila if you know of any storage in or close to Shrewsbury that can offer:

- Easy access for a lorry
- Space of around 100–150 square metres
- A clean, dry space, protected from pests/vermin
- Access to WC facilities
- 24/7 access to the site
- Forklift availability

Mila is currently collecting items to help two rehabilitation centres and an orphanage currently looking after over 100 children between the ages of 6 and 16. She is also looking for reconditioned/inverter generators .

For men and small number of women in the rehabilitation centre Mila is appealing for donations of; new underwear, socks, vests, T shirts, and Joggers. Also, toiletries shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes and razors.

For children in the orphanage, she is seeking girls and boys’ new underwear for ages 6-16. Toiletries including toothpaste, tooth brushes plus stationery (Writing and colouring books, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers and erasers) and boxed table games.

If you are able to donate any of the above, please contact Mila on; 07588 649706 or email mila_spring@yahoo.co.uk

THE HIGH SHERIFF OF SHROPSHIRE 2026 – 27

Many of you will be aware that each year a new person is appointed to the position of High Sheriff of Shropshire, this year Katy Tanner DL is undertaking the role. Katy has decided to focus her year on;

- 1) Raising awareness of the challenges facing the Probation Service.
- 2) Supporting and promoting the work of rehabilitation groups; Willowdene Farm and “A Better Tomorrow” a charity based in Telford, providing an abstinence-based residential recovery programme for adults recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.
- 3) The Shropshire Community Foundation



PENGWERN BOAT CLUB

I was delighted to be invited to take part in the official opening ceremony of the newly refurbished historic rowing club. The £165,000 refurbishment project has seen essential works carried out on the Grade II-listed brick and timber framed building, which was constructed in 1881 on the banks of The River Severn.



Photo Credit: Katy Rink

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Having received this lovely picture, I thought I would share and also remind readers that the Lieutenancy is always happy to help mark special occasions!

Deputy Lieutenant Claire Crackett MBE was delighted to visit Doreen Dodd on the occasion of her 103rd birthday at River Meadows Nursing Home. Claire joined with family and friends to present Doreen with a card and shared memories of her life.

Milestone birthdays and anniversaries can be marked with a card from Their Majesties the King and Queen. It is simple to organise and such a special thing to do. Details of the process can be found on the Lieutenancy website,
<https://www.lordlieutenantofshropshire.org.uk/helping-you/request-a-message-from-hm-the-king/>



LORD-LIEUTENANT CADETS 2026 – 27

Each year each of the armed forces, which have cadet detachments, are able to nominate an exceptional cadet who has shown outstanding commitment and achievements in their cadet training, to serve as a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for a year. We aim to give these cadets varied experiences from participating in royal visits to Remembrance events. The new cadets are installed each May at a special ceremony which, this year, took place in the historic Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery. The Lieutenancy is dedicated to recognising and rewarding ambition and achievements, qualities which are of particular importance in younger generations

My cadets for this year are.

- CCF – Cadet Sergeant Reuben STANTON
- ACF – Cadet Staff Serjeant Vihaan GIRI
- RAF AC – Cadet Flight Sergeant Joseph BEARD



APPOINTMENT OF NEW LAY CANON FOR LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

Last month The Bishop of Lichfield installed six worthy clergy to occupy prebendal stalls in Lichfield Cathedral on Ascension Day; at the same service he welcomed Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Claire Crackett MBE as Lay Canon of the Cathedral. Those of you who know Claire will know she spends a great deal of her time supporting activities in a number of churches across the diocese, so I was very pleased to see this appointment.



Credit: Lichfield Cathedral

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SHOW

What a lovely day we had for the annual Shropshire County Show. From livestock competitions and main ring entertainment to trade stands, countryside attractions and smiling faces around the showground, a huge thank you to everyone involved in organising it.

Credit Shropshire Show Arthur Hill, show secretary



MAYOR MAKING

Each year 'Mayor Making' Ceremonies are held across the county. It is held in May each year at a full meeting of Council – called 'Annual Council'. This ceremony is where the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor are appointed and receive their chains of office.



WHAT DOES THE LIEUTENANCY DO?

This is a common question I and others in the Lieutenancy are frequently asked and we are happy to provide talks or presentations to community-based organisations, including Schools, Churches, Rotary, WI, Fellowships, Lions, Masons, etc.

St Mary Magdalene church, in Albrighton, recently invited Deputy Lieutenant Jo Baugh to talk at their monthly afternoon tea, where she covered the history of the Lieutenancy and all the different areas of Lieutenancy life – such as King's Awards for Voluntary Service, King's Awards for Enterprise, Honours and Awards, churches, schools and young people, military, and royal visits.



Jo also provided a presentation to Smallbrook school in Sleaf, Harmer Hill where pupils; learned about the county's link to the Royal Family. Jo shared inspiring insights into the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the many enterprise opportunities currently empowering the next generation of young leaders. The visit was intended to link with the school's focus on citizenship and community involvement.

RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY LIEUTENANT ROBERT BLAND

Sadly, another DL has reached the age of retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert for sixteen years of active support and especially for the central role he played in the Shropshire roll out of “The Queen’s Green Canopy” which was the UK-wide tree-planting initiative created to mark Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.



HONORARY FREEMAN CEREMONY

It was an absolute pleasure for Jenny Wynn, Vice Lord-Lieutenant, to be invited to the ceremony to confer Honorary Freeman status on Reverend Prebendary Chris Thorpe of St Andrew’s Church Shifnal. I have long been aware of the exceptional contribution Chris has made not just to the church but to the fabric of life within Shifnal and the surrounding villages that form his diocese. I would like to thank Chris for all his support and wish him a long and happy retirement.

COUNTY BANNER PARADE

On May 31st, I joined Shropshire Army Cadet Force at St Alkmund’s Church for their Annual County Banner Day Parade, this event brought together cadets from across the county, local dignitaries, community leaders, and proud families in a celebration of service and heritage. The highlight of the day was the Drumhead Ceremony, where all County and Detachment banners were formally presented and blessed.



FOSTER CARERS FUN DAY

Back in May, I was pleased to attend the Telford & Wrekin Council closing event of Foster Care Fortnight, for a fun filled day for foster carers, staff and children.

It was fantastic to meet so many of our dedicated Foster Carers and a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on the amazing roles they play in our communities. Shropshire is very fortunate to have such individuals so totally committed to offering loving care and stability to children and young people in need.



RAF COSFORD HONOURS AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Deputy Lieutenant, Air Vice-Marshal Warren James CB CBE, recently joined the Station Commander and staff at RAF Cosford for an Honours and Awards ceremony, which saw Awards for Service: Royal Warrants, Long Service, Operations and Sports Colours.



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

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