



SheriffsofEnglandandWales.org

National Association of City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales Cymdeithas Cenedlaethol Siryfion Dinas a Thref Lloegr a Cymru

Chair's Newsletter - May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to be in a position to report to you on so many positives in this my first report as Chair of NACTSEW.

I am extremely grateful for the support I have had from all committee members in these first few months. It is also right that I mention past Chair John Ebo who ensured I had a wealth of helpful advice and documentation.

The new committee has now met very successfully (via Zoom) with representatives of Berwick-upon-Tweed and Norwich so that I can now provide an update to help you plan for our AGM in September.

In addition I am anxious to reflect, in the following pages, on the warm welcome we received in Chester last September. I left with so many good memories and was delighted to have the opportunity to return to Chester last month when I saw many familiar faces and enjoyed an excellent St George's Day dinner.

Finally, I also wish to focus on the tremendous amount of work carried out by Xena Dion (Poole) to help you all get involved and tell the story of your local Shrievalty Association through our website. Thanks also to Graham Kent for providing information and various documents at key times.



David Brown



Firstly three cheers to the City of Chester and John Ebo, along with Jeanne Storrar from the Chester Sheriffs Association, for the excellent Sheriffs AGM weekend in Chester last year. It was organised so well and went off very smoothly, and marked our emergence from lockdown in a very memorable way.

It's also three cheers to our new National Chairman, David Brown, for taking over the leadership of the Association from John Ebo. Good wishes for your term of office David. And huge thanks to John Ebo for his great term as Chairman and who, with Jan Lugg worked tirelessly to ensure that our Association didn't fold during lockdown, while we were unable to meet in person. It's hard to believe that it's nearly 40 years ago since I formed the

Association in 1985 while I was Sheriff of Gloucester. I've been wondering how we can mark that 40 years milestone. If you have any thoughts or ideas please drop me a line.

When I formed the Association, we were a very small band of former Sheriffs, and I often thought we'd be lucky if we kept going for ten years or so. We've come close to folding a few times, but we've always breathed new life and vigour into the Association, just as Chester did last year, and it always seems to work!

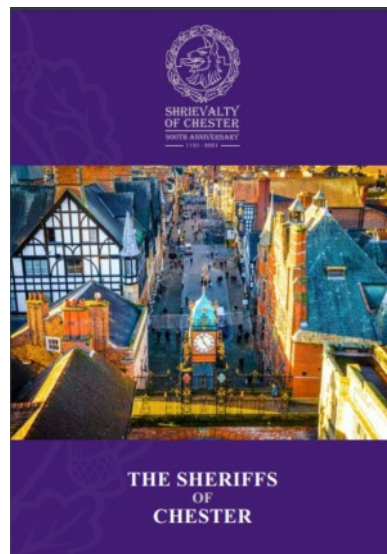
David has covered a wide range of issues in this newsletter, so it just remains for me to thank you for continuing to support the NACTSEW through your membership and, when you can, attending our AGM weekends.

Here's wishing you a happy and healthy summer, and safe journeys to Berwick in September. Happy to hear your ideas and thoughts.

Very best wishes from Gloucester, Andrew (Hon Life President)

The 900th anniversary of the Shrievalty of Chester 1121 - 2021

- reflecting on the 36th Conference weekend (1st - 3rd Oct)



Booklet by Prof. Graeme White to mark the 900th anniversary. (Available in full at our website)

Following the disruptions caused by Covid, including the postponement of the Berwick Conference weekend in 2020, what a truly wonderful time many of us were able to enjoy in Chester.



The tone was set from the start with a warm welcome by Sheriff Jill Houlbrook in the Lord Mayor's Parlour on Friday evening.

On arrival every guest was also presented with a cloth Chester shopping bag containing useful information about the City. Most useful of all was the specially commissioned souvenir umbrella.

This proved to be particularly practical as there was heavy rain on the Saturday!!

There followed a reception drink in the Council Chamber, after which a hot dish was served in the Assembly Room.

The formal AGM business took place on Saturday morning in the Council Chamber. This was followed by a brief reception for current Sheriffs, and by a light lunch for all guests in the Assembly Room.

It was clear much planning and organisation had gone into the schedule as guests were now well nourished and energised to make the most of the variety of afternoon tours of the beautiful City of Chester.

The venue for the Saturday evening drinks reception and Conference Dinner was the 5-star Chester Grosvenor Hotel where it was an absolute joy to be entertained by (and sing along with) Chester's Mr. Matt Baker BEM (Composer, Musical Director, Performer). The menu was also very high quality and such a wonderful surprise for guests to receive a specially commissioned box of chocolates.

On Sunday morning arrangements were in place for Sheriffs to robe in the Town Hall before a full procession across Market Square to the magnificent Cathedral where seating had been reserved.

At the conclusion of the service there was time for official photographs before a much-welcomed bacon bap (vegetarian alternative) in the Refectory. Yet another example of the thought put into planning this Conference weekend.

Thank you Chester for some wonderful memories.



Cheshire Life (Dec '21) featured Conference and 900th anniversary of the Shrievalty of Chester

The Countdown to Berwick-upon-Tweed is now on!

Diary dates: Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th September

We can now confirm the following schedule planned for the 37th Conference thanks to the efforts of the organising committee in Berwick-upon-Tweed led by Lance Robson and Michael Richardson.

Very little has had to be changed since delegates attending Chester were provided with a helpful “goody-bag” of information and leaflets.

The itinerary can be summarised as follows:

Friday 23rd September

- Reception in the Guildhall from 6:30pm when a hot buffet will be served.

Saturday 24th September

- AGM will start at 10.30 am at the Guildhall.
- Tea and coffee will be available
- A sandwich lunch will be provided following the meeting.
- After lunch there is a choice of excursions for the afternoon.
 - Bus trip to Chain Bridge Honey Farm and a chance to walk across the bridge into Scotland
 - Boat trip on the River Tweed
 - Escorted guide of the town's Elizabethan Walls
 - Alternatively just explore the town, the beaches or the countryside
- Dinner at the Guildhall, 7 for 7:30pm

Sunday 25th September

- Meet in the Guildhall 9am for 9:30am procession to Berwick Parish Church, service starts at 10am
- After the service process back to the Guildhall where tea and coffee will be provided before departure.



Guildhall incorporates the Town Hall and Town Gaol

Accommodation:

It is strongly suggested that bookings are made as early as possible.

*Options include the Lindisfarne Hotel
(www.lindisfarne.org.uk/lindisfarne/ or 01289 389273)*

*plus various other options on our website at
www.sheriffsofenglandandwales.org/upcoming-berwick-upon-tweed-2022*



The Holy Island of Lindisfarne is also recommended as a place to visit. Access is dependent on tides and sadly these are not in our favour for the Saturday afternoon.

Members staying longer may like to try and arrange a visit in their own time.

**Sheriffs Club of
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Committee Leads**

**Lance Robson
Michael Richardson**



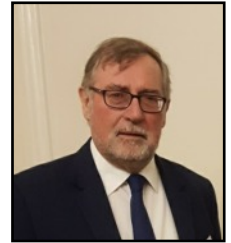


Jan Lugg

Committee Changes at Chester AGM

We all know that no organisation runs itself, there are always a few key people there to keep things running smoothly and NACTSEW is no different.

At the AGM in Chester there were a number of new appointments though I start with a person no longer on the Committee! John Ebo stepped down having come to the end of the 3 year terms for Chair, though due to Covid it was agreed to extend John's term to 4 years. I am very grateful to John for his support handing over the 'reins'. It has also been a great comfort to know that John Hartshorne continues as Vice-Chair.

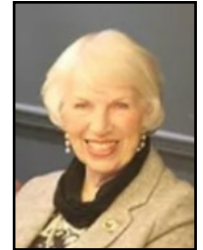


John Ebo

The role of Treasurer is always a challenge to fill and I was delighted that Jan Lugg took on the role. Jan will do a tremendous job and ensure our finances are kept in order.

Which reminds me, it is never too early to renew membership subs. BACS transfer is strongly preferred as the bank charge for cheques! **[NACTSEW bank details are HSBC Bank, sort code 40-16-23, Account 11366769 - please reference with your name + City or Town]**

The jigsaw was completed perfectly when Jeanne Storrar offered to act as Secretary. I have learnt that this is a role Jeanne is very familiar with. Like others on the committee, Jeanne is an absolute pleasure to work with.



Jeanne Storrar

NACTSEW website relaunched with additional features

At the AGM in Chester I doubt there were few people more delighted than I was that Xena Dion (Poole) offered to revamp the NACTSEW website.

Members present were in agreement that new features would help us to interact more, for visitors to learn more about the ancient office, traditions and functions of the Sheriff and to promote the aims of NACTSEW.

Xena has been able to incorporate new functionality and what today succeeds in fulfilling the vision I had in mind during that discussion at the beginning of October in Chester. You may have noticed that I have provided links to the website in this Newsletter where further information is useful.

Below I have listed just some of the features that make the website an absolute joy to use.

- Complete lists of Sheriffs of each City and Town since 1985
- Information on each Sheriff chain and associated local traditions
- Review of Chester Conference weekend
- How Andrew Gravells had the idea to form the NACTSEW during his year as Sheriff in 1985
- NACTSEW documents, eg. Constitution, minutes of meetings, nomination form, agenda item request
- Comprehensive list of past NACTSEW Officers
- News of Sheriffs current and past
- History of the role of Sheriff
- Option to register for updates and newsletters
- Latest updates as we countdown to Berwick-upon-Tweed



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Xena Dion
(Website design
+ update control)

I am conscious that there are a few members who do not use the internet and I have provided my telephone number should they need help.

Inevitably, with all the hundreds and hundreds of details provided, there may be one or two corrections needed. Also this will always be a 'work-in-progress' and Xena is very keen for members to submit photographs and feature articles which may be of interest to others.

For whatever reason do please contact Xena.Dion@outlook.com. You may simply wish to congratulate Xena on the work she has done!