



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



AGM Newsletter 2025



Dear Sheriff's Association Fellow Members

Welcome to the AGM 2025 Newsletter as we fast approach our National Association of City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales AGM Conference weekend in the City of Lichfield, and of course importantly, the celebration by all of us of our 40th Anniversary since the Association was founded in 1985 by our President Andrew Gravells. A remarkable achievement of which Andrew has kindly added a few words within this newsletter as a closing feature.

I am very honoured to be your Chair in our Anniversary year, and I am very much looking forward to the weekend, which will mark the completion of my first year in office already!

Before we talk further about the AGM weekend, I would like as always to bring you up to speed with NACTSEW business since the summer newsletter.

NACTSEW Business

This will cover the following:

- Executive Officers
- Membership and GDPR
- Financial Update
- AGM Motion and Report 2024
- 40th Anniversary Booklet
- Newcastle 2027
- NACTSEW Website

Executive Officers

Alongside myself as Chair, the Executive Officer team comprises:



Bob Rudd, Vice-Chair
bobrudd@hotmail.co.uk



Xena Dion, Secretary
and website admin
nactsewsecretary@gmail.com



Suzie Mercer, Treasurer
nactsewtreasurer@gmail.com

Membership and GDPR

The NACTSEW Membership and GDPR records are now nearing full compliance with the updated information, which is vitally important to enable us to be accurate, proportional and GDPR compliant.

All the attendees at the AGM Weekend have kindly now completed the forms, and we will be chasing the stragglers later this autumn!!

Finance Update

I am pleased to say all records from 2021 to 2025 have now been examined by our examiner Robbie Dalgleish and will be presented by our treasurer Suzie Mercer as part of her report at the AGM itself.

My thanks to Suzie and Robbie for all their hard work and it is a pleasure to now be in this position since the last accounts to be examined in 2019, pre-Covid.

We are now in a strong position going forward and are presently arranging the last of all the NACTSEW historical records to be transferred from Jan Lugg to the current executive in person at Lichfield.

AGM Motion Report 2024

As part of the six national recommendations in the report I can now confirm that 37 letters were sent in July to the Chief Executives, Council Leaders, Town Clerks etc. of all our Associated Cities and Towns, regarding the importance of Civic Office, Shrievalty both on a local and national, and the role of NACTSEW.

We have had replies or acknowledgement from the following Towns and Cities, with some very

supportive and encouraging replies:

- Berwick upon Tweed Town Council
- Carmarthen Town Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Gloucester City Council
- Poole (BCP Council)
- Southampton City Council
- York City Council

The inaugural Teams meeting with the incoming City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales also took place on Monday 14th of July.

Xena, Suzie and I were joined by the:

Sheriff of Berwick, Jo Lang

Sheriff of Lichfield, Ian Hayter

Sheriff of Norwich, Stuart Wright

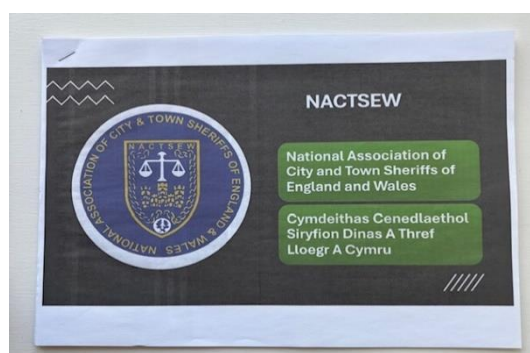
Sheriff of Poole, Karen Rampton.

Sheriff of Lincoln, Gary Daley

Apologies were received from the Sheriffs of Chester, Gloucester, and York.

The aim of the meeting was to highlight the role of NACTSEW, the role of Sheriff and the challenges faced, and to offer and explore the opportunity to have a base locally and nationally for advice and support in their year in office.

The meeting included a short power point presentation on NACTSEW by me, a discussion on the challenges faced and some “words of wisdom” from ourselves!



The meeting concluded with a mention of NACTSEW membership and our AGM Conference weekend in Lichfield.

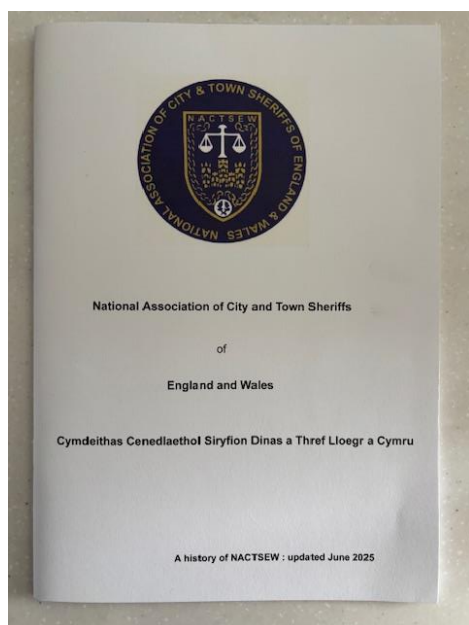
This was new ground for NACTSEW, but it proved a very worthwhile exercise and one that is now firmly in the calendar for next year.

With regard more formal online professional training courses, this as previously mentioned will be discussed at our AGM.

40th Anniversary Booklet

The revised up to date edition dated June 2025, has now been printed and copies will be available at Lichfield for collection by attending members on the Friday night when registering.

The booklet is also viewable on our website.



Each member is entitled to one copy each, and a limited number of extra copies may be purchased too at a cost of £5 per copy.

My thanks go to David Brown our former Chair for all his hard work and cooperation alongside Robert

Yardley for providing many of the images and to Suzie Mercer for proofreading.

Newcastle 2027

As the executive team start to look towards the planning of the AGM weekend in Newcastle upon Tyne in 2027, I can confirm that I have written to the Leader of the City Council in a bid to seek a meeting this Autumn to begin discussions regarding the City Council and Civic Office actively hosting and supporting the weekend.

I now await their response.

Other news

On a more sombre note, I was very sad to hear of the passing of former Berwick upon Tweed Borough Sheriff Jim Smith in June this year.



Jim was Sheriff of the former Borough of Berwick upon Tweed in 1994/95 and Mayor in 2003/04. He was also Chair of the Berwick Shrievalty Association.

Notably Jim was the NACTSEW accounts examiner between 2012 and 2020 and whom I was ever thankful for as my capacity as NACTSEW Treasurer then, of his support and beady eye.

Many will recall he always graciously received a bottle of wine as a thank you. Therefore, I was pleased to represent NACTSEW at his funeral and

of course on a personal note too.

Lichfield AGM and Conference Weekend

We now eagerly look forward to our AGM conference weekend and 40th celebrations which are nearly upon us.

This naturally has been a very popular conference coinciding with our Anniversary, and there are approximately 120 attendees, of which 9 are current Sheriffs of England or Wales.

Bookings are now closed.

It will be my first visit to the city and whilst it will be a wonderful weekend, I sincerely wish my former good friend, Sheriff of Lichfield and our former chair and Honorary Vice President Peter Barrett could be with us all to revel in the occasion, which I know he would have done.

My thoughts will be with Peter over the weekend, and the accompanying photograph is of the two of us a few years back at the Lincoln Shrievalty Dinner. Happy times



We will also be joined over the weekend by the Chair of the National Association of Civic Officers, Tracy Frisby, (below) who I welcome as our guest.



Regarding the AGM itself please find following attached papers:

- NACTSEW AGM 2025 Agenda
- NACTSEW Constitution
- NACTSEW AGM Minutes 2024
- NACTSEW Accounts 2021-2025 Summary and examiners' reports

A great deal of hard work goes into the planning and execution of these weekends, and my thanks must go to Robert Yardley, his wife Jane and Michael Mullarkey from Lichfield and to our treasurer Suzie Mercer who has handled the bookings and liaised with Lichfield in an exemplary manner in her first year in office.

A full weekend itinerary and additional information was circulated with the summer newsletter and AGM booking forms. Please refer to these for assistance initially. They are also on our website.

Please also find attached a summarised version which importantly includes the latest details on things such as parking, access to venues and timings etc.

There are always some new additions to the website particularly within the news pages. As always, members are encouraged to submit any stories from their towns and cities to our Secretary and Website Administrator, Xena Dion to add to the website. Photographs are very much welcomed. Please take a few moments to look at the website and use it to get an early insight in to arrangements for the next/upcoming AGMs.

The Website link:

<https://www.sheriffsofenglandandwales.org/>

May I also take this opportunity to thank the team behind me, Bob, Xena and Suzie for all their hard work and support in what has been a very busy first year in office for all of us and I look forward to reporting on this at the AGM shortly.

I shall leave you now with Andrew's closing thoughts on our AGM weekend and Anniversary

Safe journeys for those attending Lichfield

Kind regards,



Andy Swinburne

Chair NACTSEW

Email: andyswinburne322@btinternet.com

A Message from our President

Dear Member,

When I formed the
National Association
of Sheriffs of England
and Wales on

April 30th, 1985,
in Gloucester I

thought with a bit of luck

we might possibly keep the interest and momentum going for around ten years. But as we prepare for our fortieth A G M weekend, I'm sure everyone will be happy to mark this significant milestone. Our hard-working Committee and our colleagues in Lichfield have pulled out all the stops to ensure that we mark our 40th AGM weekend in a memorable and appropriate way. I look forward to the weekend and meeting you all. Safe journeys and an especially warm welcome to anyone who was present on April 30th, 1985!



Very best wishes, Andrew