



Shrewsbury
Town Council



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Mayor of Shrewsbury Awards 2020



On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and Officers of Shrewsbury Town Council, I am delighted to welcome you to this, our eleventh Mayor's Awards Ceremony. Usually at this time we would be tucking into a nice glass of wine eating those wonderful savouries not to mention our favourite meringues but it is not to be. So Ladies and Gentlemen in the comfort of your own home kick off your shoes, get your carpet slippers on and sit down with a nice cup of tea or something stronger and welcome to this is our very first of Virtual Awards ceremonies. We are going live to the nation on t'internet streaming on Facebook so no naughty words or you will be deleted forthwith.

Tonight ladies and gentleman the Mayor & I are here to entertain you;

But before we get started just a few word from our Mayor, Councillor Phil Gillam.

[MAYOR] - Ladies and Gentlemen I am delighted to welcome you to my Awards Ceremony. This was supposed to take place in April but we were all in the throes of lockdown. The Town Clerk promised me if I continued as Mayor after May it will all be sorted by September and we will be able to have a live awards ceremony. But that wasn't to be.

So the next best thing. But regardless the calibre of awards is extremely high this year and selecting winners has been exceptionally hard. And this makes me really proud of our town and the people who make it great.

So without further ado lets proceed with the ceremony



As we have already mentioned this is our first virtual Awards Ceremony and we have run the awards over three nights. In September we held two events and we dealt with Built Heritage, Business, Tourism and Market Trader of the Years celebrating the economic heart and fabric of Shrewsbury on the first night. This was followed on the second night by celebrating community spirit, people and the environment. A tonight our final evening just days before the Mayor hands over his chains we celebrate the efforts of our Flood Heroes and Covid Heroes during this the most challenging of years. The Mayor will present his personal awards to those he has personally witnessed during his term of office and we will culminate in a new award, the Lifetime Achievement Award celebrating one individual who has stood out in his or her service to this town over many years.

So much to look forward to and to celebrate.



Flood Heroes



#MayorsAwards



First we begin with our Flood Heroes. In February this year we suffered not one but two flood episodes at the magnitude of being classed as one in a 100 year floods. The floods wreaked havoc on the town closing off key routes, cutting off the town centre, flooding homes and businesses and causing tens of thousands of pounds of damage. But through all this there were organisations and neighbourhood groups, businesses and individuals who rose to the challenge, safeguarding those who were vulnerable, giving those who were traumatized by the events a helping hand and helping the town get back on track.

Flood Heroes

Leighann Morgan



#MayorsAwards



Leighann Morgan is the owner of Opulent Travel in Coleham, a shop that was terribly badly hit by the February floods, then hit again by the Lockdown, now hit a third time by flooding caused by burst pipes. She is still hanging on despite everything and is a great example of determination and spirit in adversity.

Flood Heroes

Jim Eaton



#MayorsAwards



Jim Eaton – "Jim The Boatman" as he got to be called by the people of Coleham, ferrying people through the flood waters, he was there in his waterproofs for hours and days on end often waist deep pulling his boat along. He ferried carers and residents to and from Hazledine Court who were totally cut off, he took supplies to and from The Glam Studio. He enabled the owners to stay near their properties and keep an eye on things. To quote a Coleham business owner "he has been an absolute legend"

Flood Heroes

Lavender Blue Services



#MayorsAwards



Lavender Blue Services So touched by the flooding in the Coleham area this Much Wenlock firm drove to Shrewsbury and brought sandbags to the area on three separate occasions. They also offered to help with the clean up, taking rubbish away and did anything to help business get back on their feet and be in a position to open up as quickly as they could.

Flood Heroes

Coleham Businesses



#MayorsAwards



This award goes to all **Coleham Businesses**. Faced with fast rising flood waters, the all joined forces to support each other, creating temporary flood defences, filling sand bags and keeping a 24 hour vigil to ensure businesses remained safe. They have supported each other through recovery and continue to have that cohesive attitude in our current challenges.

Flood Heroes

Environment Agency Team



#MayorsAwards



Charged with the national management of flooding, this award goes to the local Shrewsbury Team of the **Environment Agency** who without fuss set up our flood defences and monitor rising flood levels, provide support to local organisations, business and residents. This year saw their resources stretched as all defences were required. But it us not just for the work they do during the floods; they continue to monitor Britain's longest river as it meanders through the town, ensuring fish stocks remain high, pollution is addressed and solutions are thought through to ensure that the things we witnessed in February do not become frequent.

COVID Heroes



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No soon as we had recovered from flooding we were greatly affected by the Coronavirus, a highly infectious disease that spread across the globe and continues to disrupt our everyday lives. These recipients were some of those individuals who took charge of circumstances and have helped some of our most vulnerable in society, helping to keep some sense of normality to a world that has turned upside down

COVID Heroes

Max Brown



#MayorsAwards



During COVID our parks and open spaces became hugely popular as we used many for our single daily forms of exercise, and then the only locations that we could meet and socialise. Whilst great benefits, there were challenges in keeping those areas clean and free from litter. Max Brown was one of those individuals who was regularly seen litter picking and tidying the park; one of those individuals we came to rely on to support our Council staff in what was often an unenviable task of keeping on top of tonnes of rubbish.

COVID Heroes

Karen Williams



#MayorsAwards



Coronavirus brought huge challenges to people as they found they were unable to access food be it through vulnerabilities and the need to socially distance or for many, it was the sudden realisation of losing their jobs or not being able to find work that meant they could not afford to eat. The Shrewsbury Foodbank has become a lifeline to many and this award reflects the professionalism by which its principal officer has kept the organisation functioning and meeting such an increase in demand.

COVID Heroes

Share Shrewsbury



#MayorsAwards



Share Shrewsbury, a new charity supporting not only those with alcohol and substance addition, but also their families and carers. COVID has brought huge challenges in people's coping mechanisms and providing activities where people could come together, engage and feel positive has been hugely beneficial. Aside from their crucial work, they also organised weekly litter picks in the Quarry, showing people the benefits of outside physical activity.

COVID Heroes

Jamie Russell



#MayorsAwards



COVID has seen the galvanisation of non-constituted community groups coming together to offer support to those in their communities who needed help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or even walking the dog. Jamie was one of those co-ordinators in the western part of the town who brought great support to the local community.

COVID Heroes

Keith & Amal Moore



#MayorsAwards



For those in the Meole Estate Keith & Amal Moore have been such a life line, supporting those in crisis, signposting them to support elsewhere, providing access to the Community Fridge & Freezer at the Meet Place and really championing this part of town

COVID Heroes

Catherine McCloy



#MayorsAwards



Catherine McCloy is the Head of Income Generation at Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and has been instrumental in raising funds for this local branch of the national charity to ensure that there is significant support to our aging population. And during COVID keeping in contact with these people has been crucial when people have felt more and more isolated.

COVID Heroes

Shay Corrigan



#MayorsAwards



Like Jamie, **Shay Corrigan** has been a Community Group Co-ordinator in the Bowbrook part of town, bringing together those volunteers with people who needed help and whilst we all hoped that their work was done, as we face a second lockdown we will rely on people like Shay to support those vulnerable people again.

COVID Heroes

Katy Anderson



#MayorsAwards



In September we celebrated the Shrewsbury Food Hub winning the Climate Emergency Award.

Shrewsbury Food Hub was founded 4 years ago to tackle food waste and address climate change. Food waste is on its own one of the biggest contributors of climate change gases. This is because 24% of our carbon footprint comes from our energy intensive food system, and because we waste a whopping one third of all the food that we produce. So food waste ON ITS OWN accounts for 8% of our carbon footprint. The Hub collects leftover food from supermarkets and other suppliers and shares it with community groups across the town.

In its first three years Shrewsbury Food Hub prevented 110 tonnes of food waste, preventing the 261 tonnes of Co2 - equivalent to driving around the world 56 times. This practical response to climate change is reducing the climate impact of Shrewsbury.

But this award goes to its founder **Katy Anderson** who has tirelessly fought to combat food waste in this town and during COVID was fundamental in bringing people together to make sure any food waste was directed to where it was needed the most.

COVID Heroes

Phoebe Morgan-Mialkowski



#MayorsAwards



Phoebe Morgan-Mialkowski – Eight year old daughter of Jules Morgan, Phoebe is the little girl who came up with the idea of creating a video to send good wishes and lots of love and support to the NHS at the beginning of Lockdown. The video featured a whole host of local people ...

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/health/coronavirus-covid19/2020/04/09/shrewsbury-girl-8-creates-video-featuring-famous-faces-to-spread-message-of-love-to-nhs-staff/>

Mayor's Special Awards



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And our final category are the Mayor's Special Awards. These are individuals and organisations that the Mayor has personally come in to contact with and who he has seen great dedication from either helping him during his Mayoral year or who has supported our community through exemplary service

Mayor's Special Awards

Eric Jones



#MayorsAwards



Eric Jones has been a member Shropshire Provincial Grand Lodge for many years and has devoted decades to fundraising for charities and serving Shrewsbury and Shropshire.

Mayor's Special Awards

Samaritans of Shrewsbury



#MayorsAwards



Samaritans of Shrewsbury was chosen by the Mayor as his nominated charity as he had been hugely impressed by the dedication of the charity in supporting people in crisis. He has witnessed their work at the Sanctuary and has been hugely impressed by the dedication of the volunteers in helping to turn people lives around.

Mayor's Special Awards

Shrewsbury Foodbank



#MayorsAwards



Based at the Barnabas Centre in Coleham, the Shrewsbury Foodbank has been supporting people in crisis for many years. We have already heard about the wonderful work that Karen Williams has done here, but their work extends beyond the Foodbank creating the necessary support mechanisms to cope with not just COVID but also flooding in this area. We were all delighted that this year they received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

Mayor's Special Awards

Shrewsbury Street Pastors



#MayorsAwards



Shrewsbury Street Pastors Have been past recipients of Mayoral Awards. The Mayor was invited to spend an evening shift with them as they helped to support the night-time economy. From giving out flip flops to girls who can no longer walk in their stilettos, to providing water and blankets to those who have become vulnerable due to a bit too much over exuberance to very challenging circumstances of coaxing people from bridges who see no other option but to end their lives, they have become a crucial, spiritual part of supporting the night-time economy.

Mayor's Special Awards

Robert Handley



#MayorsAwards



Robert Handley doesn't really need any introduction. As the Mayor or Shrewsbury's Officer both for the Town Council and Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council he has been the living bible for civic etiquette in Shrewsbury supporting the Mayoralty for over 30 years. This year, like in other years he has been he has been his constant companion this year – a consummate professional, always polite, considerate, friendly to everyone with whom he comes into contact, always smartly attired and elegant; a real asset to Shrewsbury Town Council. This year at 72 years young he decided to retire which has meant that he can get out on his bike and in his caravan so much more.

Mayor's Special Awards

Ade Plimmer



#MayorsAwards



Ade Plimmer received his award for tirelessly and with amazing enthusiasm and great good humour championing his beloved Shrewsbury Town Football Club through thick and thin. He writes about his club and talks about his club with passion but also with humility

Mayor's Special Awards

Mad Cow Productions



#MayorsAwards



Mad Cow Productions have brought amateur productions of the very highest standard to Shrewsbury over several years and like many past Mayors who have been invited to productions, the Mayor has been astounded by the professionalism of this very local production company. We all very much hope it wont be too long before we will all be seeing another production at Theatre Severn.

Mayor's Special Awards

Stan Sedman



#MayorsAwards



For many years **Stan Sedman** has been a Shrewsbury town guide – a well-loved expert on Shrewsbury, its history and its architecture. He champions the town through his wonderful town tours and also raises considerable funds for local charities.

Mayor's Special Awards

Maggie Love



#MayorsAwards



When you think about promoting the arts locally, there is always one person who heads up this list and that is **Maggie Love** who for decades has made an exceptional contribution to the cultural life of the town. She has been hugely involved in a wide variety of events in the town from celebrating Darwin, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, St Chad's, Town Guides and most recently the Town Ambassadors. Once we are free from COVID we will need people like Maggie to reinvigorate the arts.

Mayor's Special Awards

Tim King



#MayorsAwards



Tim King – Sadly this is a Posthumous Award for Tim King who passed away suddenly earlier on in the year. Tim was a great champion of the town and the county firstly as a tourism officer for the Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council but then Shropshire Council. He had exceptional enthusiasm, and later as a great organiser and contributor to public life he was key to the success of the Wilfred Owen 100 Festival and the Shrewsbury Cartoon Festival. He had a love of steam trains but it was for his highly infectious love of the Beatles that we will most recently remember him for. His and the Mayor's love of the Liverpool band whilst they organised last year's Shrewsbury Beatles Festival in aid of the Mayor's Charity, Samaritans of Shrewsbury was wonderful to see; like two boys in a sweet shop. Much loved and sadly missed.

Mayor's Special Awards

John Moore



#MayorsAwards



For many years **John Moore** was the Musical Director at Shrewsbury School until his recent retirement, but this award is given to a person who has enriched the cultural life of the town over many years.

Mayor's Special Awards

Dr Kevin Eardley



#MayorsAwards



Dr Kevin Eardley – presented “A Night in the Museum with Shropshire's William Farr & Florence Nightingale” and who is championing the pioneering work of local man Dr William Farr “who ought to be a household name alongside that of Florence Nightingale but who has virtually been forgotten”.

Mayor's Special Awards

Dave Mellor



#MayorsAwards



Dave Mellor has had a love of 2 wheels for decades and is regularly seen in his shop in Frankwell, but he has been instrumental in putting Shrewsbury on the cycling map with the many events he has organised at the Sports Village.

Mayor's Special Awards

Simon Morris



#MayorsAwards



For many years **Simon Morris** was the local police sergeant in the town centre, ensuring the town maintained its reputation as a safe place to come. With his good humour he worked with partners to support those vulnerable individuals who found themselves on the streets and it is fair to say, whilst a number of the homeless might not have liked him at time he was respected for his great understanding and compassion and services to the community here in Shrewsbury. Recently retired he still contributes greatly to local life in his new role at the College.

Mayor's Special Awards

Amanda Jones



#MayorsAwards



Amanda Jones really is one of Shrewsbury's unsung heroes, demonstrating great compassion and empathy for refugees who have fled from often appalling conditions in their own countries and who have now settled in Shropshire. She has championed their cause to ensure their transition into Shrewsbury life is as seamless as possible.

Mayor's Special Awards

Colin Clews



#MayorsAwards



Over his many years as a local musician, **Colin Clews** has helped bring an extra vitality to Shrewsbury's nightlife and entertainment scene. He also played an important part in the organisation of last year's Shrewsbury's Beatles Festival, a Mayoral event that raised much needed funds for the Shrewsbury Samaritans.

Mayor's Special Awards

Geoff Hardy



#MayorsAwards



Geoff Hardy has been a tireless champion for Shrewsbury's LGBT+ community. An organiser of events and campaigner for greater tolerance and understanding.

Mayor's Special Awards

Simon Bell



#MayorsAwards



Simon Bell is a Shrewsbury-based author, public speaker, educator and humanitarian who – with tremendous sensitivity and the utmost respect for all who have suffered – teaches young and old alike about some of the darkest periods in human history.

Mayor's Special Awards

Eric Smith



#MayorsAwards



Eric Smith is that person we all wake up to, the Veteran BBC Radio Shropshire presenter and stalwart of the ever-popular Shrewsbury Pantomime at Theatre Severn, Eric is much loved and respected by his colleagues and his audiences. He is known for his honesty, straight talking and gentle sense of humour. For many he is the voice of Shropshire.

Mayor's Special Awards

Alex Whiteley



#MayorsAwards



Alex Whiteley is the Creator of the Shrewsbury Biscuit podcast. He is one of our most enthusiastic and eloquent champions of the town, continually shining a light on Shrewsbury's history, heritage, and beauty, and also seeking out and interviewing the town's personalities including Mr Mayor.

Mayor's Special Awards

George Rook



#MayorsAwards



For many years now, George Rook has worked tirelessly to improve and enhance the lives of people living with dementia, both in Shrewsbury where he helped create The Riversiders social club, and across Shropshire as a whole. He is an inspirational campaigner and facilitator, shining a light on families affected by dementia and helping to empower them and make their lives better.

Mayor's Special Awards

Daryl & Dawn Lloyd Cross Foxes



#MayorsAwards



Daryl & Dawn are the landlord and landlady at the popular Cross Foxes pub in Longden Coleham and they never fail to pull out all the stops when it comes to keeping an eye on the wellbeing of their loyal customers. Kind and considerate, they've always done their best to make the pub an integral part of the community it serves, and they were especially supportive of their neighbours during the February floods. For many years now, Daryl and Dawn have treated their customers as old friends, and Daryl has even been known to walk customers safely home on cold, dark nights. "This is a real community pub," says Daryl, whose family have run the place since 1985

Mayor's Special Awards

Anna Sutton



#MayorsAwards



Until her recent retirement Professor Anna Sutton was the Provost of the University Centre Shrewsbury, championing higher education in Shrewsbury and the creation of a bespoke university that fits with the local economy and a real foundation for young people to want to live and work in Shrewsbury.

Mayor's Special Awards

Paul Kirkbright



#MayorsAwards



Since before the University Centre Shrewsbury was established, Paul Kirkbright, the Deputy Provost, set the foundations for a university, small in its beginnings to grow and expand. He also created a platform for the university to engage with community groups, sports clubs and business creating a place where town meets gown. He has since moved in to pastures new, but we thank him for the work he has done here in Shrewsbury.

Mayor's Special Awards

Peter Bettis



#MayorsAwards



Peter Bettis has been the consummate champion for business in Shrewsbury becoming a member of the Shrewsbury Business Chamber in 2000 under the late Graham Gallier and becoming its Chairman and most recently its President. He has been advocate for greater use of the River and the development of a round town bus to reduce traffic congestion. Peter recently retired as President and we wish him well.

Lifetime Achievement Award



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And now to the Lifetime Achievement Award. Given to one person annually who has shown such dedication to Shrewsbury over a long period of time, promoting the town's values as a wonderful place to live work and visit

David Trumper



#MayorsAwards



This award is given to Shrewsbury historian David Trumper who, across more than a quarter of a century, has done more than any other individual to carefully collect, preserve, research, catalogue and publish in a series of wonderful books, precious vintage photographs of this town and our county. David has so far published a total of 26 books of antique and classic images that tell us so much about the social history of our local communities, giving us important insights that simply cannot be found elsewhere. Of those 26 Shropshire titles, 13 are devoted specifically to Shrewsbury and not only does David publish these evocative pictures but he also sheds light on what is going on in them, giving us the names of local characters who lived at that time, explaining the background to the architecture and to local shops and businesses. David has also, over many years, given educational and entertaining illustrated talks on the history of his beloved town, imparting his extraordinary knowledge of its people, its architecture, its culture, and its development across the decades. His own private collection of local photographs, many of which have been donated to him over the years for safe-keeping, amounts to thousands of magical images. He then has the good grace to share them with us through his books and his talks. We are blessed to have a man like David Trumper in our midst.



[MAYOR] - I would like to say how absolutely delighted and proud I am being able to present these wonderful awards to you fantastic people. I am just so sorry that we couldn't do this in person. But it shows that we have such a wonderful town to be proud of and despite the difficult situation we find ourselves in you must take great pride in what you have achieved.

I offer you my heartfelt congratulations to you all and wish you all the very best as you continue to work hard and promote this great town.

I hope you have enjoyed this Virtual event as much as I have. Your certificates will be posted out to you and I do hope to catch up with many of you sometime soon.

Thank you for coming and thank you for those on our Facebook Feed who have tuned in to watch.

I wish you all a very good night and Stay Safe.