

# **Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting** **8 December 2023**

## **Royal recognition for South Wye**

I attended the AGM of the South Wye Development Trust at the Kindle Centre and congratulated them on receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Kindle Centre was established as part of 106 agreement to the Asda development and opened in March 2007. It is the main asset of the Trust being a well-established, welcoming Health and Wellbeing community hub delivering many much needed preventative services to the local community. It plays a vital role in addressing the health inequalities in the South Wye and reducing the gap in life expectancies. Part of the building is sub-let to a GP practice and out of hours support.

Working in partnership with Herefordshire Council the centre has recently delivered English speaking classes to 19 different nationalities including Asylum seekers. The Kindle Centre has large support from local volunteers who help to put on numerous actives including community meals, big eats, food hampers, supporting vulnerable and isolated individuals and groups.

C.Ex of Trust Mandy Evans at lectern as we present awards to volunteers.



**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

**This year, in recognition of the tremendous contribution they have made to their community the South Wye Development Trust at The Kindle Centre was awarded The King's award for Voluntary Service ( the MBE for volunteer groups) .**

**Congratulations to all those involved in the work of the Trust and the centre for the important ongoing work they do for the community of South Wye.**

**If you are aware of a volunteer or community group in your ward who you think have delivered consistent and valued service to your local community consider putting their name forward. More details on website [kavs.dcms.gov.uk/](https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/) or contact our Lieutenantancy office.**



**The Garden of Remembrance at the Cathedral**

**The Vice Chair and I attended various services and events in the County to commemorate and remember those who lost their lives in defending our Country during early November.**

**Together with the Lord Lieutenant we planted a décor cedar tree received from HM The King at Queenswood to commemorate his coronation.**

**I joined Stonewater Housing and local developers Speller Metcalfe to open their new development of 38 sustainable and affordable houses at Ewyas Harold. The 24 rental and 14 shared ownership properties with ground source heating and solar PV panels are well designed and the project included local sub-contractors and apprentices.**

**Other events include two citizenship ceremonies, Shrieval service for the county judiciary, supporting various charities including the Herefordshire Young Farmers Federation, Masonic charity presentations evening, the Hereford Cider museum and meeting with Mayors and clerks.**

**I look forward to welcoming you and your partners to a reception on 14<sup>th</sup> December to award our freedom of the County to Lady Darnley and commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Herefordshire Council.**