



*Special Edition*

# WaterWords

Waterworks Museum News - Autumn 2022

## Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for volunteer groups)



*Mr. Edward Harley OBE, the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, presenting the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) to Jill Phillips on behalf of the Museum.*

Tuesday, 4 October 2022 was a special day at the Waterworks Museum when, in front of some 60 past and present volunteers and guests, Mr. Edward Harley OBE, the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, presented the Museum with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). The award comprised a QAVS plaque and a certificate signed by the late Queen Elizabeth II, which will take pride of place in the Museum's visitor centre.

The QAVS award was established in 2002 to celebrate the 50th Jubilee Anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. It recognises voluntary groups whose volunteer work and activity has significantly benefitted others and that is exceptional in nature. It is considered to be the 'MBE for Volunteer Groups'.

The Waterworks Museum is one of 244 local charities and volunteer groups across the UK to receive this prestigious award in 2022, and the only one this year in Herefordshire.

Importantly, the QAVS award is not just to recognise the efforts of volunteers at the Waterworks Museum today, but the efforts of all those who have freely given their time at the Museum since it was established in 1974.

As well as the Lord-Lieutenant and current and past volunteers, Trustees were delighted to invite special guests to join the QAVS celebration:

- The Dowager Countess of Darnley CVO - the recently retired Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire;
- Cllr. Sebastian Bowen - Chairman of Herefordshire Council;
- Cllr. Mark Dykes - the Mayor of Hereford;
- Cllr. Diana Toynbee - our local councillor;
- Paul Deneen, Will Lindesay, Tamsin Clive, Jo Hilditch and Lady Susanna McFarlane - each a Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire;
- Mrs Victoria Harley (the wife of the Lord-Lieutenant);
- Annie Smith, who attended to represent Welsh Water; and

Mrs Candia Compton, the daughter of Stephen Southall who established the Waterworks Museum in 1974 (seen below with Jill Phillips, Chair of Trustees).



# Speeches and presentations

## The formalities of the day

Making speeches forms an important part of any award ceremony and the event at the Waterworks Museum was no different.



Following the welcome and introduction from Jill Phillips, an excellent presentation of the history of the Museum was presented by our former Treasurer, Derek Duffett.

The Lord-Lieutenant then explained why the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was established 20 years ago and why, in the view of the QAVS Assessors, the

Waterworks Museum so ably met the criteria for award (see extracts from his speech below).

Following the formal presentation of the award (see picture on page 1) Jill Phillips proposed a toast to the award and to the Waterworks Museum and its volunteers.

This was a very exciting day for everyone involved, made more poignant by the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II after whom the award is named. To end the formal proceedings, Youth Trustee, Stan Lawler, delivered an eloquent vote of thanks on behalf of all the Volunteers at the Waterworks Museum (past and present).

## A gift for the Lord-Lieutenant



Edward Harley was delighted to receive a gift from Museum volunteers, made and presented to him by our resident blacksmith, Stan Lawler. The iron depiction of our Victorian water pumping station was mounted on wood recycled from the Museum site by fellow trustee and volunteer, Fred Snelgrove.

Flowers were also presented to Mrs. Victoria Harley and to Lady Darnley and a framed steampunk themed picture was presented to former Chairman, Richard Curtis.



(from left to right) Candia Compton, Stan Lawler, Derek Duffett, Cllr Bowen, Jill Phillips, Edward & Victoria Harley, Cllr Dykes, Tamsin Clive, Lady McFarlane and Paul Deneen

\*\*\*\*\*

In his speech the Lord-Lieutenant acknowledged that the Volunteers at the Waterworks Museum "provide a brilliant visitor attraction for Hereford which gives pleasure to a wide range of people including: visitors from far afield, Herefordshire residents, their children, enthusiasts and, indeed, volunteers. You also preserve important elements of our local and national heritage."

He went on to say that the Museum "educates across the spectrum - not just the story of water and engineering - it also deals with contemporary issues relating to the environment and sustainability". He concluded his speech by saying that the Waterworks Museum "has a superb reputation. It develops and shares its historical knowledge, experience, and also its understanding of industrial machinery – much of which is unique. It is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible; and its educational and community engagement is outstanding".

# How we came to be considered for an award

Our award was announced in June 2022, but for the Waterworks Museum this process started in 2019. This followed a royal visit to the Museum by HRH The Duke of Gloucester after which he asked Lady Darnley (then the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire) whether the Museum had been considered for a QAVS award.



Like an MBE, the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is an award for life. It is the UK's highest award for a voluntary group, and one for which you have to be nominated.

Once the nomination process had been initiated, the Chairman (Richard Curtis) provided preliminary information for the QAVS Assessors to consider. In December 2019, Paul

Deneen (the Chair of the Lieutenancy QAVS Panel) visited the Museum to meet with the Chairman and Derek Duffett, then our Acting Vice-Chairman. No one else was involved at this stage as the process was confidential.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic struck and everything came to a halt until June 2021 after which things moved quite quickly (but still confidentially). A Nomination Form was completed using information provided by the Chairman and Directors were delighted to learn that Graham Andrews (Chairman of Hinton FC) had agreed to formally nominate the Museum. This was backed up by letters of support from our local councillor, Diana Toynbee, the Chair of the Friends of Herefordshire Museums and Arts (David Marshall), and the Chairman of Broomy Hill Model Railway Society (Wally Sykes).

In November 2021, two members of the QAVS Assessment Panel (Lady McFarlane and Tamsin Clive) made a visit to the Museum where they met the Directors and Jill Phillips (then Vice-Chair of the Museum's Council of Management). The purpose of this visit was to seek evidence of the claims made in the Nomination Form and, thankfully, the Assessors went away very content with what they saw and heard. They then sought input from Lord Lisvane DL, before their final report and recommendation was signed off by the Lord-Lieutenant.

We learned of the success of our Nomination in the early Spring of this year but we could not share this joyous news until June. The Trustees and Volunteers are extremely grateful to Lady Darnley, to Paul Deneen (who mentored the Chairman through the process) and to everyone without whose support the receipt of a QAVS award would not have been possible.

Our QAVS award recognises the contribution of everyone who has been a volunteer at the Museum since it was founded in 1974. The Museum operates on the same volunteer ethos today as when established by Stephen Southall and later developed under Dr Noel Meeke's chairmanship. We would not be where we are today but for the efforts of all our volunteers, present and past, and not least the handful of volunteers who, on their own, kept the Museum alive in the late 1980's in probably the Museum's darkest days.

# Volunteers

All volunteers (current and past) will receive an enamel lapel badge to acknowledge their role as a volunteer at the Waterworks Museum.

Below we see our former Museum Administrator, Joan Hughes, receive her badge from Jill Phillips.



\*\*\*\*\*

Those present to witness the award of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service includes the following people:

Jill Phillips, Paul Allen, Neil Atkins, Les Birch, Mike Bond, Kathy Burrows, Diane Cammidge, Richard Curtis, Brian & Joyce Davies, Derek Duffett, Adrian Eyre, Carole Franklin, Mike & Annette Glover, Mike Harries, Alan Hartland, Richard Glasspoole, Peter & Pat Heaton, Sue Hickling, Bob Higgie, Joan Hughes, Pete Hollenberg, Sally King, Stan Lawler, Howard Lewis, Shane Meredith, Norma Mudge, Keith Munn, Henry Netherway, Graham Prosser, Ellen Saunders, Malcolm Taylor, Mark Wiles, Chris Alexander and Jane Webb.

Also present were: Kate Andrew (Museum Mentor), Janice Curtis, Ron Mudge, Derek Phillips and Margaret Netherway.

# Other aspects of the day

## Guests tour the Museum

Led by Trustee and visitor steward Keith Munn, after the presentation several of our guests took a tour of the Waterworks Museum, which they found of great interest.



*From left to right: Mike Glover (Chief Engineer), Victoria Harley, Will Lindesay, John Marshall, Cllr. Sebastian Bowen, Cllr. Mark Dykes and Keith Munn.*

## Wonderful entertainment

The Museum was delighted to be joined at the QAVS presentation by a quartet of the Orchestra of the Swan who entertained volunteers and guests wonderfully.



## A surprising coincidence

The heritage engineering firm Mather & Platt is a prominent name in the story of water pumping in the UK and across the world. So imagine our surprise on the day of the QAVS Award celebration to learn that the wife of the Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Victoria Harley, is the great-great granddaughter of William Mather who in 1836, with his brother, Colin, started a business as engineers, machine makers and millwrights. In 1845, John Platt leased part of his Salford Iron Works to the brothers leading to the formation of Mather & Platt in Newton Heath, Manchester.



Mrs Harley, who seeks out artefacts bearing the Mather & Platt name whenever she visits heritage sites or engineering museums, was delighted to learn that the Waterworks Museum has a fine example of a Mather & Platt pump.

The focus in our Rotherwas House is usually the Blackstone 5-cylinder diesel engine, but next to it sits the red Mather & Platt pump it once powered. It was originally installed in the Rotherwas munitions factory in Hereford at the beginning of World War II for fire fighting purposes.



### Contact us:

Waterworks Museum - Hereford, Broomy Hill, Hereford, HR4 0LJ

Telephone: 01432 342192

Website: [www.waterworksmuseum.org.uk](http://www.waterworksmuseum.org.uk)

Email: [info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk) / [volunteering@waterworksmuseum.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@waterworksmuseum.org.uk)

**Follow us:**   @WaterworkMuseum and subscribe to our  YouTube channel

