



# High Sheriff of Cheshire – Press Release

## New High Sheriff of Cheshire Appointed

29 March 2026

A Cheshire Deputy Lieutenant from Crowton, near Northwich, has been installed as the new High Sheriff of Cheshire at a special ceremony hosted at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens in Runcorn on Friday (27 March).

Lynn Pegler is a PR, media, communications specialist, chair of Norton Priory trustees, a board member of Halton Chamber of Commerce and former festival manager of the Weaver Words Literature Festival based in Frodsham.

The office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular office in the United Kingdom outside the monarchy, dating back more than 1,000 years to Saxon times. While now largely ceremonial, it remains an active and highly respected role. Each High Sheriff serves for one year and is appointed by His Majesty the King to support the Crown, the judiciary, law enforcement, emergency services, and voluntary and community organisations across the county.

Lynn is a passionate advocate for both Cheshire and Northwest England, having lived and/or worked in all its five counties. Born and raised in Blackpool, her first job after university was as a newspaper journalist on the Westmorland Gazette in Cumbria, before moving into Government regional press/PR roles, firstly for the British Army in Preston, which included service in the First Gulf War, visits to units in Gibraltar, Germany, Northern Ireland, and Jamaica with the Cheshire Regiment. And then later, Government ministerial PR work with the NW Central Office of Information in Manchester and Liverpool.

Lynn moved to Cheshire in 2000 to become a regional Communications Manager for British Waterways, based in Northwich, promoting the Northwest's canals and river navigations, including launching a newly restored Anderton Boat Lift in 2002.

Over the last couple of decades, she's established her own PR business Pegler Communications, organised seven Weaver Words Literature Festivals, published two poetry collections, written and staged three plays, including performing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She's also a violinist with Chester Philharmonic Orchestra and an award-winning director, writer and actor with Cheshire community theatre group, Kingsley Players.

Lynn said: “A year is such a short time to make a difference, but I am planning to hit the ground running. I want to focus on promoting arts and culture and our county’s wonderful waterways through the Canal & River Trust, as well as Crimebeat and the Cheshire Community Foundation, shining a light on the county’s incredible charities and voluntary groups.

“Rather than the traditional sword, I shall be wielding an official pen, crafted by a member of Cheshire Woodturners Guild – because, as we all know, the pen is mightier than the sword!

“I shall be working with the Literacy Trust as a Reading Champion to promote the National Year of Reading, supporting Chester’s Storyhouse and also using the power of drama to launch a new child digital safety campaign ‘Get Phone Smart’, delivered by Chester theatre-in-education group, 2Engage.

“We’ve already had some brilliant support from Cheshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dan Price, to get us up and running. The plan will be to work with the county’s school children and their parents to help youngsters avoid the darkest pitfalls of social media and the awful repercussions of sharing intimate images, sextortion and revenge porn.

“There’s been a 700% increase in online child safety issues reported in the last three years. It’s ruining young lives. Hopefully over the next year, we can help to make a real difference to the next generation – and their parents.”

Lynn is married to husband Clive Naish and has two grown-up children, three stepchildren, and is looking forward to becoming a granny for the first time in May!

More information at [www.highsheriffofcheshire.co.uk](http://www.highsheriffofcheshire.co.uk).

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In response to a High Sheriff’s most frequent question - “What does a High Sheriff do?” Lynn has written a new poem:

## **Don’t Shoot the Sheriff!**

In my shire, no more can I  
raise an army, the ‘hue and cry’  
to hunt down traitors, thieves and vagabonds  
with the military might  
of a ‘posse comitatus’.  
The only arms in my house

are attached to my legs!

A thousand years back, as a 'Shire Reeve',  
I would have issued writs,  
conjured up courts, tried prisoners,  
hosted judges, juries, sorted sentences,  
run county elections for two knights to Parliament,  
collected taxes from feudal lords  
and delivered Cheshire's dues to the Crown.

What a difference a millennium makes!

The pen is mightier than the sword  
and now I serve my King and my county  
with soft powers of persuasion,  
bright ideas and good connections -  
support the deliverers of peace,  
as a returning officer at some elections,  
and a right-hand woman to our lady Lord Lieutenant.

No more gentry bigwig  
or even a small wig (just two ostrich feathers) ....  
I work with police, probation,  
prison and emergency services,  
support judges, courts, crime-beating agents,  
promote caring good deeds,  
inspirational workers and devoted volunteers.

Wish me a year of shooting stars,  
as I take up the gauntlet  
of a challenging fight  
to do good work, celebrate success  
and bathe Cheshire's wonderful people  
In a blaze of glorious light.

**Note to Editors:**

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