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# Residents' royal recognition in the New Year Honours list

Dominic Robertson

SEVERAL local residents have been recognised for their work in the New Year's Honours List.

Lynne Bradley, from Ludlow, senior plant health and seeds inspector at the Animal and Plant Health Agency, will receive the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to plant health.

Other recipients of the MBE are sculptor Halima Jade Cassell, for services to art, and Michael Kirkpatrick of Bishop's Castle for services to folk music.

A former Mid Wales council clerk said he was "touched" to learn he had been recognised in the New Year's Honours list.

Robert Robinson, 70, will receive the MBE for public and voluntary service in Powys.

Mr Robinson, who lives in Llanfair Caereinion, served as clerk of Welshpool Town Council for 13 years. He has held a number of roles in other organisations across the county, including with the Scouts, the Montgomeryshire Music Society, and the Cambrian Railway Line Committee, amongst others. Mr Robinson has also been part of the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway since 2003, and is currently a trustee and director.

He also carries out a number of roles such as looking after volunteers, projects, checking emails and operating as a station manager.

Other Powys residents recognised include Anthony Knapp, who receives the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the arts in Powys.

## Work

Mrs Knapp set up the Mid Wales Art Centre in Caersŵs. The centre features the work of her late husband, the enamellist and sculptor Stefan Knapp, and has provided a showcase for artists to display their work. The centre also hosts workshops and live events.

Jeanne Olive Nuttall, of Llanidloes, who is head of Service for Nutrition and Dietetics at Powys Teaching Health Board, will also receive the BEM, in recognition of her services to dietetics and nutrition in Wales. Shrewsbury Town FC chairman Roland Wycherley has been recognised as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his services to the community in Shrewsbury. The same honours go to athlete Kelda Wood, who set up the charity Climbing Out after a life-changing leg injury. Jane Jervis, who has been recognised with the BEM, has a long history of fundrais-

ing efforts, which have amounted to many thousands of pounds, included a role as Marks Spencer's Charity Committee chairwoman raising events to raise money for the likes of Lingen Davies, Hope House and other good causes.

## Sculptor Halima tells of delight at MBE award



Halima Cassell has received an MBE in the New Year Honours list. Photo: Chris Smart

A NIMBLE-fingered sculptor from South Shropshire has spoken of her pride at being awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list.

Pakistan-born Halima Cassell received the commendation for her established style and outstanding contribution to the arts, fusing her Asian roots with a fascination for African pattern work.

The 45-year-old from Aston on Clun, near Craven Arms, works primarily in bronze and clay to create a range of geometric sculptures that can be seen at exhibitions, displays and galleries across the globe. With an ongoing project that moves to include clay and designs

from all parts of the world, Halima's work featured in a major exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery from 2019.

Her sculptures also feature at many public collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum and can be seen in Blackburn, the Forest of Bowland, the Ribble Valley, Nottingham, Hepworth Wakefield Gallery, Birmingham and Liverpool. "I've been carving clay for about 25 years and it's such an honour to receive this recognition," Halima said. "I feel so proud. I live in a little village and as I moved here I'm hoping this will help integrate my family and I into the community and show that we are contributing."

"I was born in Kashmir but I've lived most of my life in the north west of England. While building my career, Shropshire has become my home. It's where my kids and friends are and living here has been a very important stage of my career."

The MBE comes as Halima prepares to release a book of her work called Halima Cassell, 25 Years of Carving.

"I'm quite eager to find out who put me forward for this and how it's come about," Halima added.

"I don't know whom is responsible but it's wonderful all the same."

"I'm so delighted."

## 4 Police leading crackdown on modern slavery

POLICE officers in Dyfed-Powys are urging people to look out for signs that someone could be a victim of slavery after launching a campaign INTACT.

The campaign, which is being led by the Serious and Organised Crime Team, will focus on a different area of crime each month, starting with modern day slavery.

Temporary Detective Sergeant Rob Claypole at Dyfed-Powys Police explained that officers work on active intelligence about potential slavery victims as part of ongoing operations and investigations in the force area.

Potential victims are then spoken to away from their place of work or accommodation – and crucially, away from potential exploiters.

"You need to take potential victims away from the exploiters in order to gain their confidence and trust," said DS Claypole.

He said modern slavery was a global problem and an international crime, affecting millions of people worldwide, including the UK. "Men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds can fall victim to labour exploitation, being forced to work for little or no pay," he added.

Often in rural locations, labour exploitation can see people working for the exploiter but also living at the site.

The risk to the victim is that if they give up the work, they lose their accommodation.

"We also look out for vulnerability and coercion, which is where the exploiter would find a victim who is vulnerable in some way – for example through being homeless or having an addiction," said Mr Claypole.

"It can be very difficult for a victim to leave these sorts of situations as they fear they would lose the thing they need – be that somewhere to live, access to drugs, or their earnings."

As part of INTACT, officers are encouraging people to look out for signs that someone could be a victim of labour exploitation.

## + Coroner calls for changes after death

A CORONER has called for improvements to a fence at a Shropshire psychiatric clinic after a patient left the site and later died from a drug overdose.

Lee Davies, 35, scaled the fence at the Laurel ward at the Redwoods Centre, in Somerby Drive, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, on June 17, 2019. The next day he was found at an address in Church Street and taken to Royal Worcester Hospital. He died later that day.

Following the inquest in October 2020 the jury returned a narrative verdict that he died from a brain injury caused by the use of illicit drugs. The hearing was told his risk of absconding to obtain drugs was not adequately considered when deciding to reduce his observation levels on the morning of June 17. Shropshire Assistant Coroner Mrs Joanne Lees has now written to the centre's operators Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust under a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths over his care. In response, the trust executive said efforts were in hand to make changes to the fencing.

However, it stated that it was "satisfied that the garden is maintained in such a way that it is therapeutic to service users and balances the risk of being able to conceal objects as any objects hidden by service users would have to be brought through the ward first". It added: "This review found that the presence of the foliage impedes service user's access to the fence thus reducing the ability to scale it."

## Crews called to blaze at house

A HOUSE in a village in Shropshire has been damaged in a fire.

The fire was at a property in Oakfield Close, Brockton near Worthen in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Emergency services say that thankfully no-one was hurt in the blaze which broke out in the semi-detached home. The alarm was raised at 4.20am. Crews were mobilised from Bishop's Castle, Clun, Minsterley, Shrewsbury and Telford Central.

## Review of historical

A REVIEW of historical monuments and artefacts is being carried out in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests.

By Deborah Hardiman

A Welsh Government report listed Powis Castle near Welshpool and its past owners, the Clive family, as having links to the slave trade.

The report noted that Robert Clive, from Market Drayton, who made his fortune in India, has at least one street named after him in Glamorgan and that petitions were raised to remove his statues from Shrewsbury and London. Lord Clive's East India Company traded slaves and his wealth was spent on Powis Castle. The family along with Chirk Castle, owned by Thomas Myddleton, were among several with links to Mid Wales named in the review ordered by First Minister Mark Drakeford following the death of George Floyd in and the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol during a series of protests.

In a statement Powys County Council said: "We are currently reviewing our historical artefacts, monuments and archive collection in light of the Black Lives Matters Campaign advice regarding this has been sought from the National Archives, the National Library of Wales, the National Archives of Wales, the National Library of Wales, the National Library of Wales, the National Library of Wales."

"Officers are also engaged in debate with museums, archives and arts colleagues across the region."

## Residents' royals in the New Year

By Dominic Robertson

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Other recipients of the MBE are sculptor Halima Jade Cassell, for services to art, and John Michael Kirkpatrick of Bishop's Castle for services to folk music.

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## Thousands of EU nationals

MORE than 15,000 EU nationals have successfully applied to continue living in Shropshire after Brexit.

However, Oxford University's Migration Observatory and think tank British Future have warned that new immigration rules could hit social care and hospitality businesses in the UK.

Home Office figures reveal that by the end of September 2020, 5,980 people successfully applied to continue living in the Shropshire Council area after December 31, as well as 9,220 in

Telford & Wrekin. In Powys there were 1,770 successful applications.

European Union nationals wishing to continue living in the UK must apply under the EU Settlement Scheme by June 30, 2021.

Those who have lived in the UK for five years and meet the criteria can receive settled status and remain in the country indefinitely.

Those who have lived in the country for less time can receive pre-settled status, which allows them to remain for a further five years. They can later apply for settled status.