



Shrewsbury

Town Council

## Mayor's Christmas Message

As the festive season approaches and 2025 is just around the corner, it's a good time to look back and reflect on what has been a very eventful time for Shrewsbury.

In March this year we welcomed HM The Queen to the town and there was such excitement in the town centre with thousands of people turning out to see her, waving flags and cheering.

We have been successful in achieving many accolades this year, not least becoming Britain's Favourite Market for the second successive year, winning Heart of England in Bloom and being nominated to go through to Britain in Bloom in 2025 and most recently becoming the Academy of Urbanism's Great Town at their Awards Ceremony. I was very privileged to receive the Great Town's Award in London and speak to the judges who were exceptionally complementary about Shrewsbury, the people, its buildings and in particular the way that the Town Council was showing true leadership in the way it operated.

Most recently we achieved Town of Sanctuary status, recognising the way the town has welcomed refugees from across the world who have chosen to make their future home in Shrewsbury. I am so proud of our diversity, adaptability and flexibility as a town and the caring way we all wrap around people in crisis. This too has been shown by how the community comes to support those who suffer during times of flooding which sadly is becoming more and more frequent, and I very much hope that long-term solutions to our flooding problems can be achieved.

There is never a week that goes by when Shrewsbury isn't featured in the national press. Be it the best High Street, the best performing town for footfall or a great place to stay it shows that Shrewsbury offers a lot to many.

And who would have thought that a gravestone in St Chad's would have attracted not just national but international press. The vandalising of Scrooge's gravestone, used in the 1984 film A Christmas Carol is such a well-loved relic of our modern history and I would like to thank those who sorted out its repair as quickly as they did.

Finally, I just wanted to pay tribute to our Town Council staff who are visibly present in our town, cutting the grass, watering the plants, operating the market, supporting our young people and much much more. Then there are those who provide the administrative support and guidance to enable those on the ground to do their work. Not to be forgotten I would like to thank my fellow Town Councillors who make the decisions. We all take great pride in our work, and everyone makes a real contribution to the Town's success - all of us ready to face the challenges and opportunities which look likely to appear in 2025.

It leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and all the best for 2025.