



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Receiver General of Canterbury Cathedral appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Kent

Three new Deputy Lieutenants of Kent have been appointed, honoured for their positive contributions to the County and the Nation, including Brigadier John Meardon, the Receiver General of the Cathedral. The others are Lady Clarke, of Stone-cum-Ebony, and the Rt Hon Sir John Mummery, a Lord Justice of Appeal.

John Meardon has been the Receiver General of Canterbury Cathedral – Chief Executive and the senior lay member of staff – since 1998. He retired from the Royal Marines after 34 years' service which included training as a helicopter pilot and parachutist. He ended his military life as the Director of Naval Security. As a member of the Cathedral Chapter he has participated in matters great and small affecting the life of the Cathedral including the Enthronement of the present Archbishop.

“I am delighted and honoured by this appointment” John Meardon said earlier today. “I look forward to helping Allan Willett and the rest of the Lieutenancy team with this long-established part of our heritage”.

Announcing the new appointments, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett CMG, The Queen's representative in the County, said: “We welcome these new Deputy Lieutenants whose great depth and variety of experience will be an asset to the Lieutenancy.

“They are joining a network of fine men and women whose role it is to support the Monarchy and celebrate Kent, its unique history and culture, serve its communities – and contribute positively to its future.”

He added: “These appointments are important because the modernised Lieutenancy plays a major role as a potent independent force for good in Kent. As the Monarchy does nationally, our aim is to provide a focus for County identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others.”

Fact File

- The Lieutenancy of Kent consists of the Lord Lieutenant, the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Viscount De L'Isle, and a maximum of 64 other Deputy Lieutenants, approximately one per 25,000 people.
- The office dates back to 1558 and was originally responsible for the County's local defence and maintenance of order. The role of the Lieutenancy is entirely non-political and unpaid.
- Deputy Lieutenants come from all walks of life and all parts of the County. Their local and specialist knowledge and experience is used to positive effect in key areas ranging from education to youth services, and from the Volunteer Reserve Forces to business and the rural economy.
- Duties include greeting and accompanying Royalty and Heads of State during official visits to the County, the presentation of honours and awards on behalf of the Crown, and participation in Citizenship ceremonies.
- They advise on events potentially warranting Royal visits, on how local people can put forward others suitable for honours or for invitations to Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, and on anniversaries warranting a message from The Queen. They also advise on how community organisations can gain recognition in The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Scheme.
- When attending official events, Deputy Lieutenants wear a diamond-shaped pendant badge of office, unique to Kent, featuring the County's rearing white horse emblem above the motto: Invicta. They are entitled to use the post-nominal letters: DL.

