

**Speech by the Mayor of Sleaford, Councillor Linda Edwards-Shea
Sleaford 1940s Day Event - Saturday 4th June 2022**

Thank you all for coming today to mark this very special event and a big thank you to our dedicated staff at Sleaford Town Hall for organising today's celebrations. On behalf of Sleaford Town Council, I especially want to thank Mr Tapley, the Governors and teachers, staff and children here at the William Alvey School for working with Sleaford Town Council to put on today's event. I very much hope our collaboration will continue in the future.

This weekend, our country and the Commonwealth are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Our Queen, Elizabeth the Second, has been on the throne for seventy years. The longevity of her reign is truly remarkable and I give thanks for it and wish her good health and happiness for the remaining years of her reign.

HM The Queen came to the throne in 1952 when her father George the Sixth died. She was only twenty-five years old, a young mum with two little children, Charles and Anne and married to her beloved husband Philip.

I am an Elizabethan. My sister was born the year our Queen acceded to the Throne in 1952 and she received a commemorative Coronation mug to mark the event. I was always very envious of my sister because I was born the following year, 1953, the year of the Queen's Coronation, but even so I did not receive a Coronation mug!

HM The Queen has been dedicated to public service for even longer than seventy years. Her father acceded to the throne in 1936, when her Uncle, Edward the Eighth abdicated, so Princess Elizabeth was only ten when unexpectedly she became Heir Presumptive.

Ever since then, she has shown her dedication to the British public and to members of the Commonwealth. Indeed, her first solo royal engagement was at the age of sixteen when she inspected the Grenadier Guards. During the war she trained as a mechanic and driver in the Auxiliary Territorial Service or ATS. Ever since she has been a model of probity, wisdom, hard work, dedication and public service.

Public service is something we can all aspire to. I was a pupil at the Girls High School here in Sleaford, our motto was 'Must Give Else Never Can Receive'.

The giving of our time, energy and commitment to public service is indeed very rewarding, not in a monetary sense but in the pleasure of seeing others benefit, of seeing our communities thrive and prosper. I think that is something we can all aspire to.

This weekend, all over the United Kingdom and in the countries of The Commonwealth, local community groups have organised celebrations to mark this remarkable anniversary and I know that as well as focussing on our celebrations and having fun, we will also raise a lot of money in charitable donations.

There's a wonderful programme of events here today at the William Alvey School. Please enjoy yourselves today and over the rest of the weekend.

Thank you.