

CROWTON WI REPORT JUNE 2026

“A book is a place where you can go whenever you wish:

just open it up and step in!.....”

I was reminded of the opening lines of one of my favourite children’s poems by Clyde Watson, when we met our speaker for the evening, Lynn Pegler, a poet, amongst her many talents and a resident of Crowton who was installed as High Sheriff of Cheshire in March 2026 during a ceremony at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens in Runcorn, a venue she felt was fittingly steeped in history.

The appointment of the High Sheriff of Cheshire goes back more than 1,000 years to Saxon times, however women have only been appointed to the role since 2003 and although it is now largely ceremonial, the High Sheriff was in the past the King’s representative and was responsible for the courts, establishing law and order, hangings and taxes. Men in the role continue to wear 18th Century Court Dress, however Lynn was resplendent in the adaptation she had designed herself, which included the cut steel buttons and a hat sporting two incredible white ostrich feathers.

Lynn opened her book entitled ‘Around Cheshire in 100 Poems and Pictures’ and we stepped in!

The audience was both amused and delighted to hear poems Lynn had written with Cheshire at their heart.

Lynn reminded us that Cheshire was a vast County full of history. Her poems, which she read with expression and even a change of hat, reflected this. ‘That Sinking Feeling’ refers to the salt discovered by the Romans and mined in Northwich. The salt was washed out leaving chasms after the mines collapsed. ‘The Higgledy Piggeldy House’ is Little Moreton Hall. Historic landmarks including the Anderton Boat Lift and Jodrell Bank which inspired ‘Lucky Stars’ featured too alongside Alan Garner and Lewis Carroll. The latter added 200 new words to the Oxford dictionary some of which Lynn included in her poem ‘We’re all mad here! Her poem ‘What Can Possibly Go Wrong?’ reflects the creation of polythene by Eric Fawcett and Reginald Gibson. Who doesn’t connect with ‘Grumpy Teenager’ and references to Mr Darcy and Colin Firth at Lime Park? Even Oulton Park was included. The poem ‘Ringing the Changes’, reflects the bells in Crowton Church, Faith, Hope and Charity and their ‘cast iron chords’ which are a comforting sound on the hour.

On a more poignant note ‘Voices of the Norley Fallen’ commemorates the twelve soldiers killed or injured in the war. The final stanza is carved in stone and rests in the Norley Churchyard.

Lynn said it had been an honour and a privilege to have been appointed as High Sheriff and she has a busy year ahead. She left us with the poem ‘Ring of Bright Water’ celebrating the 97 mile boating route on the waterways of Cheshire and this thought, “Lucky are we who call Cheshire home.”

Diana, our President, thanked Lynn saying how much we had enjoyed her perspective of the County which she had expressed through her ability to find a poetic way to get into a place.

L Bailey