

Mary-Clare Rodwell
The High Sheriff of Somerset



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Dear Volunteer,

I would like to introduce myself as the High Sheriff of Somerset. The High Sheriff is concerned about anything that has an impact on the wellbeing of the residents of Somerset. As the pandemic continues to rage through our county, so much distress is still being caused. The coronavirus outbreak has completely changed our lives. It has affected every single one of us but the least able to cope, have been the hardest hit.

I am contacting you because I know how much you care for your communities. I have learnt from Spark Somerset that your group is managing to find the strength and the determination to continue with your help through this, the third lockdown. You showed how much you valued your communities during those bright days of spring and again during the autumn of lockdown 2. It is so much more difficult in these dark, cold days of winter when we are all tired.

I want to give you and your volunteers my sincere and heartfelt thanks. It is the work of small groups like yours that have made such a difference to those in greatest need of help in Somerset. It is greatly appreciated. You have kept going during these repeated lockdowns and your work is going on despite the constantly changing rules and restrictions. You have pushed on. You have helped our community to survive.

I hope that one day I might be able to meet you, then I will thank you in person for all you have done. There may be a member of your team who has done really exceptional things during these ten months. Please tell me about them, I would like to hear.

Without your dedication and commitment, Somerset would be sadder place. You have brought light into the lives of so many people at this time of worry, loneliness, depression and despair. Thank you.

With my best wishes,

Mary Clare

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