

Queen's Man in Wiltshire Rewarded on Retirement

Report from the Wiltshire Times on Saturday 7th January 2012

Wiltshire's Lord Lieutenant John Bush has been honoured by the Queen for his seven years' service, on the eve of his retirement next month.

Mr Bush was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in the New Year's Honours list. The 74-year-old, who farms in Heywood with wife Pam, said he was honoured by the award, and to have served in the role.

"It is a lovely thing to be given, I am enormously proud," he said. "It is also a memento of seven years in this particularly fun and interesting role.

"It has been my aim to keep the royal family from seeming lofty and distant, and I have met many wonderful people doing so.

"My only regret is that I have not had time to meet everyone."

Mr Bush will travel to London in the spring to collect his honour, which acknowledges service provided to the monarch.

The modern Lord Lieutenant's duties involve arranging royal visits, presenting awards and medals on behalf of the Queen, and liaising with the armed forces and local dignitaries.

"It was a complete surprise to me when I found out I had been appointed," Mr Bush said.

"Your duty is to represent the Queen, and I have taken that to mean linking myself with as many of the people who are making a difference in the county as possible.

"I have to brief visiting royals as well, but they do a lot of research themselves. I have always been impressed with how professional they are.

"The Queen has only visited once in the time I have been in the post, but we are hoping she will visit next year."

Mr Bush, who has two children, Alexander, 46, and Carly, 43, was born in Marlborough and attended Monkton Coombe School and Oxford University. He has also been High Sheriff of the county and the chairman of Wiltshire magistrates Courts Committee, and was a magistrate for 25 years.

After his retirement on his 75th birthday next month, Mr Bush and his wife are planning a cruise.

The new Lord Lieutenant is Sarah Troughton, of Upper Wanborough, president of Community First/Youth Action Wiltshire and a trustee of the Community Foundation for Wiltshire.