



PRESS RELEASE

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Diary date/photocall

Going back 650 years to 1361

The magistracy in England has been in existence for 650 years almost to the day and the Magistrates' Association are marking the start of their celebrations to mark the 650th anniversary of the confirmation of the office of Justice of the Peace at 12.00 pm on 25 January 2011 in Ludlow, currently believed to be the oldest working magistrates' court. Shrewsbury town crier, Martin Wood, will announce the historic statute in the market square (weather permitting) before joining Shropshire magistrates for a celebration lunch in the court house.

Information on the roots of modern justice and a time line will be available to trace the magistracy from 1361 thought to the present day.

John Thornhill, chairman of the Magistrates' Association will be available for interview in Ludlow. Deputy Chairmen John Fassenfelt and Malcolm Richardson will also be available for telephone interviews.

It would be very helpful if you could indicate if you wish to attend.

January 2011

END

Further information: national media enquiries: Ann Flintham JP, Communications Director, Magistrates' Association 020 7387 6099/ 07812 038889

Local media enquiries: Peter Walters JP 01939 220302