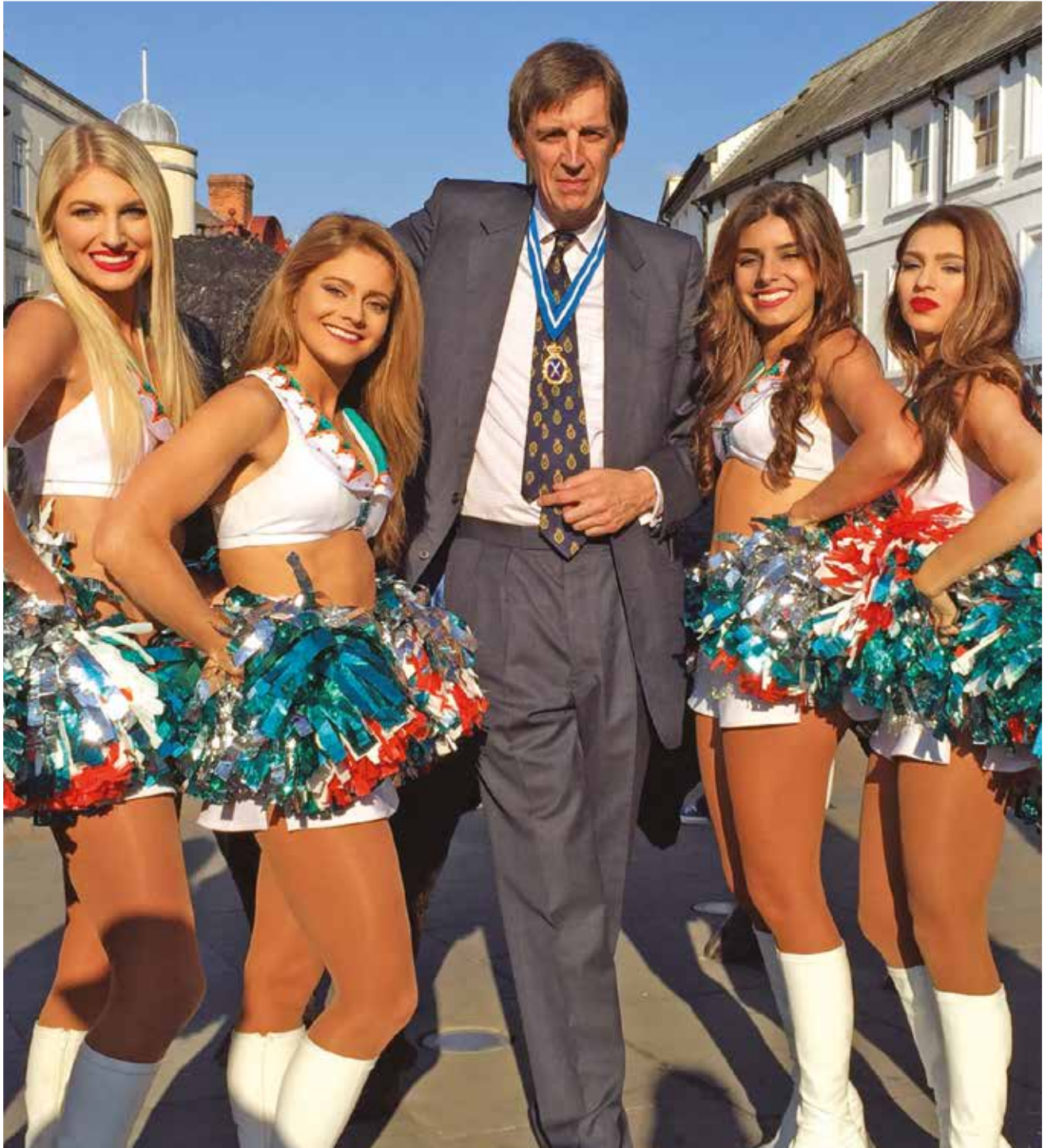




The High Sheriff

The Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England & Wales

SUMMER 2016

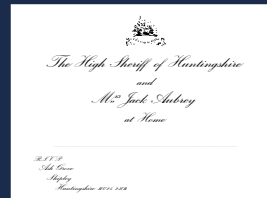


*Three cheers for the Shrievalty
also inside National Crimebeat Awards 2016*



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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

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The Association is not as a body responsible for the opinions expressed in *The High Sheriff* unless it is stated that an article or a letter officially represents the Council's views.

The Editor welcomes articles and news stories from High Sheriffs concerning their year in office.

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From the Editor

THIS IS *The High Sheriff* of end-of-term reports and we have had a bumper crop which I hope will amuse, inspire and encourage reflection. I am grateful to all who have written, both High Sheriffs who have recently stepped down and to others who have provided articles of special interest.

The range of activities undertaken is so diverse that it would be difficult and possibly undesirable to give individual issues of *The High Sheriff* a theme, but ‘prison’ seems to crop up again and again in this issue. We have informative and inspiring articles on the work of the Butler Trust and the Koestler Trust, and encouraging accounts of the reception of High Sheriff’s own awards to both prison officers and prisoners. I was fortunate to meet a long-term prisoner this year who said: ‘All I ever wanted to do was hide. I never thought anyone would recognise me, but all the training and educational opportunities are there if you only grasp them.’ He gained a maths degree and was awarded for helping his peers to grasp the same opportunities. With ever-rising prison populations and changing patterns of crime, successive governments are running to stand still. High Sheriffs’ involvement is invariably welcomed by governors trying to show that success can be achieved in their ‘Cinderella’ sector.

High Sheriffs’ support for groups attempting to nip crime in the bud is shown in the imaginative range of young people’s initiatives receiving National Crimebeat awards. Fourteen High Sheriffs submitted 39 projects this year – let’s aim for 39 High Sheriffs in 2016-17! As ever the Association is most grateful for the generous support of Richard and Alex Walduck in allowing the use of their Royal National Hotel for this event. The benefits of collective youth activities are emphasised again and again in these pages. The ‘Getting Court’ scheme fostered by High Sheriffs in three counties has clearly made a big impact on participants, not just to avoid getting caught but to steer them towards jobs in the wide law and order sector. An interesting youth group new to me is the Young Firefighters Association which operates in several counties and provides fun, responsibility and interest for teenagers.

Unwittingly contributors have been involved in crises and disasters about which they have written movingly – but there is always a brighter side even in the most dire situations when High Sheriffs have witnessed groups of people thrown together in mutual support to solve their problems. High Sheriffs have their lighter moments too, even bursting into verse from time to time, making the only cardboard shelter which doesn’t collapse and discovering what not to put into coffins.

Do publicise the Association’s website to general enquirers. The public area is full of information which answers many of the questions High Sheriffs receive about the job. Council intends the members’ area to be a first port of call, especially for those serving and in nomination, and Hugh Tollemache and Alan Parker are constantly adding to this. Please don’t hesitate to approach the Association’s Secretary or *The High Sheriff* if you have any unanswered questions, and for a forgotten password email webmaster@highsheriffs.com giving your year and county.

On behalf of Council I welcome new members of the Association listed on page 54 and wish all this year’s High Sheriffs well as they get into their stride.

Andrew Wells

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06



Diary 2016 of Forthcoming Events

JULY 2016 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2017 and 2018 Friday 1 July 2016

The 2016 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire, on Friday 1 July 2016. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will have been sent in mid-May 2016 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2017 and 2018.

NOVEMBER 2016 45th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon Wednesday 2 November 2016

The Association’s 45th AGM and luncheon will be held at Drapers’ Hall, Throgmorton Street, London EC2 2DQ. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2016.

names of the 2019 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend. The annual Lord Mayor’s Show will start in the morning on that day and the Association has made arrangements for light refreshments nearby after the Nomination Event and then for viewing the Show in a reserved pavement space near the Law Courts entrance.

OCTOBER 2016 The Red Mass Monday 3 October 2016

The annual Roman Catholic Mass will be held at 9.30 am at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the start of the legal year. There will be a ticket-only reception in the Throne Room after the Mass. To obtain tickets, contact Stephen Hart by email at: stephenhart@gmail.com.

The Nomination of future High Sheriffs Saturday 12 November 2016 at 10.00 am

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Saturday 12 November 2016 in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice’s Court) at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At this ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be read out in court. The Secretary will be writing in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2017 and for 2018 inviting them to attend. This function provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for a few 2019 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the

The Ladies’ Lunch Tuesday 4 October 2016

The annual Ladies’ Lunch will be held in London at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge. Full details will be sent shortly to those ladies who are in nomination. The organiser is Council Member Sally Bowie, whose email address is: sallyeabowie@aol.com.



Sharing varied experiences



❖ Deborah Inskip DL
High Sheriff of Bedfordshire 2013-14

BEDFORDSHIRE WAS once again the proud host of this year's Eastern Regional meeting for High Sheriffs in nomination. Colin Osborne (Bedfordshire 2014-15) and I organised the day at the very beautiful Luton Hoo Hotel. The original house was built in 1767 by Robert Adam for the 3rd Earl of Bute. Virtually destroyed by a fire in 1843, the mansion was rebuilt for the Leigh family by the Smirke brothers and remodelled in the early 20th century for Sir Julius Wernher (son Harold was High Sheriff in 1927); Capability Brown designed over 1,000 acres of glorious parkland. The day dawned bright and clear and we were delighted to welcome the High Sheriffs in nomination for the next three years, and their consorts, from the six counties in the Eastern Region. We were also joined by a number of Under Sheriffs.

“The police can benefit greatly from having well-informed High Sheriffs helping to spread and support their messages

All six serving High Sheriffs talked of their experiences with topics including: 'Preparation with hindsight', 'Managing your time in office' and 'Whether or not to have a theme'. Much note-taking suggested that the audience was gaining a great insight into the challenges and opportunities ahead. The detailed questions that followed gave the speakers an added opportunity to share their varied experiences of shrieval life.

We were also fortunate to have with us the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, Jon Boucher. He gave a valuable and very interesting insight into the co-ordination of the entire Eastern Region's response to counter-terrorism and serious and organised crime. It was very helpful for all present to hear how our police forces are coping with the ever-present threats of terror. The Chief Constable's background information should help High Sheriffs dispel people's worries and concerns when talking with members of the public. The police can benefit

greatly from having well-informed High Sheriffs helping to spread and support their messages.

The morning session concluded with a question-and-answer session which generated lots of interest and a very healthy discussion before lunch. Indeed, it proved quite difficult to get everyone's attention for a group photograph to be taken to record the historic gathering!

Around 40 of us sat down to a delicious lunch with faultless service from the team at Luton Hoo. Everyone enjoyed having a glimpse of this beautiful country house and the lovely large rooms with their far-reaching vistas were a great venue for the meeting.

The afternoon session kicked off with Jonathan Siegler, the new Head of Development for the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation. It was helpful to all those new to Community Foundations to know that the foundations across the Eastern Region work closely together and Jonathan was able to be relevant to all six counties. In many counties, the Community Foundations support the High Sheriff with their Awards Ceremony and help identify worthy recipients of a High Sheriff's Award.

We then enjoyed hearing from Anne Morgan, who is on the Council of the High Sheriffs' Association and is the new co-ordinator of the regional meetings. She gave very useful information about the High Sheriffs' Association, the Burghley seminar for those in nomination and National Crimebeat, the youth crime prevention charity of the High Sheriffs' Association. There is an annual National Crimebeat Awards Ceremony in London. Anne stressed that it is a relatively simple and a very enjoyable activity for a High Sheriff to nominate a project for an award and this can have a great impact on young people and their families. It is also an interesting topic for High Sheriffs to raise when visiting schools, universities and cadet organisations. It is important to appreciate that National Crimebeat awards are complementary to any award system that individual High Sheriffs have in place, rather than replacing these. Anne also encouraged those in nomination to look upon the High Sheriffs' Association as a useful advisory resource to help with queries they may have during their time in office.

It was a real pleasure to host the day and meet all those in nomination. From their very kind emails and lovely comments, it is great to know that they derived so much from the meeting. I think the Eastern Region is going to be in very safe shrieval hands over the coming years. I am delighted that Hertfordshire has offered to organise next year's regional meeting and we can all look forward to meeting there next year.

Upholding values

J Anthony Tal-Williams
MBE DL JP
*Regional Co-ordinator
Wales, High Sheriffs'
Association
High Sheriff of Mid
Glamorgan 2009-10*

THE 6th Annual Wales Conference took place at Llangoed, Powys on 26 November 2015, bringing together our largest number of attendees to date with all serving High Sheriffs attending along with those in nomination for 2016/17 and most in nomination for 2017/18, supported by family members, Under Sheriffs and guest speakers.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome the Chairman of our Association, Jeremy Burton, as our main speaker, delivering an informed and well-structured talk on the function of the High Sheriffs' Association and how it serves and supports its members, reminding us that High Sheriffs hold the oldest secular office in the land. He considered it the responsibility of the Association to uphold the values of the Office and support and prepare those in nomination for a fulfilling and successful year.

It was also illuminating to hear the address by Dr Elizabeth Andrews, present High Sheriff and Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gwynedd. She spoke

on the Shrievalty and Lieutenancy, bringing together an insight into how both Offices work side by side and emphasising the importance of High Sheriffs knowing and working with their Lord-Lieutenants. She addressed us on the details of the royal appointment of a Lord-Lieutenant. The consultation process involves the National Assembly for Wales, which, through the First Minister, advises HM The Queen on the appointment. There is no meeting held by Her Majesty in Council as in the case of the High Sheriffs' Pricking Ceremony.

We heard an interesting and very informative address by Mrs Jayne James, who recounted her involvement and shared experiences, giving a detailed account of her role in the first six months as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan.

My sincere thanks go to all who attended; to our guest speakers, Under Sheriffs and to the management and staff at Llangoed Hall. The next Wales Regional Meeting will be held on 24 November 2016.

“It was a particular pleasure to welcome the Chairman of our Association, Jeremy Burton, as our main speaker, delivering an informed and well-structured talk on the function of the High Sheriffs' Association

Below: Welsh shrieval gathering at Llangoed



Triennial luncheon

AMERRY AND delicious luncheon was enjoyed by all in March in the delightful setting of the library at Ridding Park Hotel, near Harrogate.

As well as sixteen past High Sheriffs of North Yorkshire and their consorts, also present were the Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mr Barry Dodd CBE, and the previous Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Crathorne KCVO, flanking to his left and right respectively the High Sheriff for 2015-16, Charlie Forbes Adam DL. Perhaps worthy of note is the Forbes Adam father and son combination, with Nigel Forbes Adam DL, High Sheriff in 1976-77, standing behind the Lord-Lieutenant.

Some traditions die hard in Yorkshire!



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National Crimebeat Awards 2016



❖ Deborah Inskip DL
Trustee, National Crimebeat;
Bedfordshire 2013-14

THE ANNUAL National Crimebeat Awards took place in the Galleon Suite at the Royal National Hotel on 16 March, very generously offered to us again by Alex and Richard (Hertfordshire 1997) Walduck who have kindly accepted our booking for 2017. The ceremony was most successful and much enjoyed by everyone.

In the A Category Awards (for those who start their own project and then develop it), there were three prizewinners. Their awards were made by the Chairman of the High

Sheriffs' Association, Jeremy Burton DL. Certificates and medals were given to the winners by two former High Sheriffs, both trustees of National Crimebeat, Deborah Inskip DL and Nicky Weston DL.

The winner of the £1,000 first prize was a team of 19 from Kent. This submission was completed by one of the young people involved in the project. The group of young people were 'sick of drugs and violence happening in our community and we wanted to tell others there is a better way to live'. They specifically mentioned the issues of drugs, alcohol and other abuses affecting their communities. With support of an action fund and the staff at the Quarter Deck Youth Club they created a music video to go with a song they wrote called Find a Solution. So far

they have shared the project with over 100 other very diverse young people including those in detention. The area around the youth club is clean, safe and well lit. The alleyway behind the football cages has been cleared and anti-social behaviour has been minimised. Young people who would otherwise engage in abuses now attend the youth club. They hope to get more funding to set up a peer-to-peer mentoring scheme to sustain the improved behaviour. The project has won numerous awards and the young people have performed at the V&A and the Turner Gallery. At the Award Ceremony, after introducing themselves and describing the problems they experienced and how much they wanted to change things, the team played their very powerful and moving music video. Online, to date, the film has had 2,735 views. The group will put their prize money towards helping it reach as many more young people as possible.

The second prize of £750 went to a team from Merseyside with a project called 'Don't be a victim'. The group which came up with this project is the committee within a youth club based in Knowsley. They wanted to create a peer education project that would benefit other members of the club. Following surveys and consultation they discovered that the issue most experienced or feared by young people was having something stolen. Armed with this information they devised a quiz to test young people's knowledge

Above left: The team from Kent with the High Sheriff of Kent, William Alexander (centre), and other supporters



of being a victim and also produced a card aimed at young people: '10 Tips on How to Stay Safe and not be a Victim of Crime'. In addition they challenged the perception of the word 'victim'. They initially gave out 400 cards and, following positive responses from young people who said that having information from peers was more meaningful, they conducted an evaluation. The cards were found to have had a significant impact and the CEO of the youth club agreed that they would be given out in induction packs for new members. Since April 2015, the '10 Top Tips' cards have been given to over 400 young people registering as new members. Two hundred cards have also been distributed to young people at community events across Knowsley.

The current team handed over the project over to a new committee this January who plan to expand the project.

A team from North Yorkshire were the happy recipients of the third prize of £500. Their project, entitled 'Community Safety Fun Day', was created by four young people from Eastfield who were members of the organisation Ourspace Hub. Following an attack on the local police station, these four young people wanted to do something to improve the area's reputation by making Eastfield a safe place to live. They organised a Community Safety Fun Day where their neighbours could not only enjoy themselves but also have access to different services and information for all age groups. They arranged the attendance of many attractions including a mobile police station for property marking, fire and rescue, RNLI for advice on water safety (Eastfield is by

the sea) and school nurses who gave healthy living advice. Businesses donated prizes and the team made posters advertising the day which was a huge success. The team form part of a new Youth Council and have recruited another six members who organised fundraising events before Christmas. One hundred people attended with 92 children visiting Father Christmas. They spent the £140 raised on gifts for sick children in hospital. This was all done on the initiative of the Youth Council with the family support worker describing the team as 'role models portraying the community in a positive light, changing stereotypical opinions of some people while gaining valuable experience'. In short creating safer communities.

In the Category B Awards (for those with projects started by others but



Above left: The team from Merseyside with the High Sheriff of Merseyside, Robert Owen JP DL and Jeremy Burton DL, Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association (centre right and left)

Above: The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, Charlie Forbes Adam DL (left), with the Eastfield team

Below: The team from Bedfordshire with the High Sheriff, the Countess of Erroll (centre right) and support team

developed, managed and delivered by the groups), the High Sheriff of Greater London, Lady Hameed, presented the cheques. There were joint first-prize winners from Bedfordshire and Warwickshire. The organisers were delighted that the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, the Countess of Erroll, had invited many guests to support the Police Cadets, including the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Fire Officer

of Bedfordfordshire, the Bishop of Bedford, former High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination. The winning Bedfordshire team were the Luton-based Police Cadets who had excelled locally in many projects supporting the diverse community. In particular, cadets had helped devise – and took part in – ‘Operation Vision’ duties. This operation has been run on many occasions and involves cadets going from door to door, answering residents’ questions and giving crime prevention advice, as well as helping with bike marking and number plate security. With the assistance of all the cadets nominated, Operation Vision has identified those who are vulnerable in the community and those with whom Bedfordshire police need to engage more frequently. This has all been achieved in addition to attendance at training periods and volunteering outside being a cadet. Two of the nominees led the cadets during the Operation Vision events; Katrice as Deputy Head Cadet and Daniel as a Cadet Instructor, the latter in addition to his paid job as a PCSO. Having volunteer Police Cadets involved in these crime prevention duties gives them a chance to experience the full spectrum of policing and make a valuable contribution to community and crime prevention events.

The joint first-prize winner was a team from Warwickshire. During March to August 2015 ten members of the SAFE Youth Club aged between 13 and 16 years took part in this project. Youth club members had been visiting a newly



Above: The SAFE Youth Club representatives from Warwickshire with (left to right) Kieran McGerty, Lady Hameed, the High Sheriff Janet Bell Smith and immediate past High Sheriff, Clare Hopkinson

opened community woodland, Foundry Wood, when two 14-year-old members started a fire without realising the potential consequences and burnt down the toilet block. Following restorative justice intervention the two young people agreed to clear the site and contributed ideas about the design of the replacement block. Other members of the club decided to spend their Easter holiday on site clearance. Following this they all helped with the replacement building, learning to follow plans and drawings, measure and saw timber and to drill holes. They constructed the handrails, floor, walls and steps before the composting toilet was installed. The construction of this community asset was featured in the local media and one of the young people went on to spend his work experience with a carpenter. The benefits of the project have been numerous but mainly it has taught club members the danger of fires and to give something back to the community.

The third-prize winners were a team from Powys who brought with them an amazing 14 supporters who were all very warmly welcomed to the ceremony. Their project was entitled ‘Illegalise Legal’ ighs’. Following two near-death incidents involving pupils at Crickhowell High School taking legal-high substances, pupils started to ask what they could do about

‘illegalising’ these substances in the minds of fellow pupils. Working with the Police Neighbourhood team twelve sixth-formers trained to become ambassadors within the school making themselves available for peer-to-peer advice sessions and directing to other support if needed. They are creating a school web page for other students to explore the issues, using the information they have obtained during their training which has involved speaking to former and recovering drug users. Although this project is still progressing there is potential to extend it to other vulnerable young people outside the school. Crickhowell is an affluent rural area where the crime rate is low and the two incidents referred to above rocked the community. The group from Powys gave an excellent presentation at the Awards Ceremony and won the Hugh Burnett Award for the best presentation, together with a cheque for £100 very kindly endowed by Hugh Burnett, Chairman 2011-13.

There were many more nominations of projects this year, 39 in total from just 14 High Sheriffs. The standard was so high that it became difficult to decide on the winners and the judges had to deliberate long and hard. After lunch all finalists had a very enjoyable trip round London in an open-topped bus followed by a ride on the London Eye. Warm congratulations to them all.

A Capable Sheriff

MEMBERS WILL know of this year’s 300th anniversary of the birth (or more strictly the baptism on 30 August 1716) of Lancelot Brown. The celebrated and prolific manipulator of landscapes which he deemed had ‘capability’ for improvement operated without a break from the 1740s until his death in 1783. He also designed or altered houses and ornamental buildings for which his parks, gardens and clumps of trees provided the setting. Among his greatest achievements is his work at Burghley, where his portrait by Nathaniel Dance hangs and where he was consulted by the 9th Earl of Exeter for over 20 years. Successive High Sheriffs in nomination attending Burghley seminars will have driven through his park, admired his lake and classical bridge, passed his stables on arrival and lunched in his orangery.

Less is known about Brown’s Shrievalty, for in 1770 he became High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, the two counties sharing a sheriff between 1155 and 1964 (except for 1636-42). In 1767 he acquired Fenstanton Manor, Huntingdonshire, from the 8th Earl of Northampton, his client at Castle Ashby, writing off some of the earl’s debt to him as part-payment for the estate. He thus fulfilled the essential qualification of owning property within his bailiwick.

How and by whom he was nominated is open to speculation since the procedure then was more fluid than it is now. Vested political interests in counties influenced the choice

of names and it was not a foregone conclusion that the other nominees would ever serve. *The London Gazette* of 11-14 November 1769 published Brown last in the list of nominees and neither Charles Bowles or Robert Bragge ahead of him ever served, nor was he nominated in the lists of 1768 or 1767, so he hardly had time to ‘hit the ground running’ as expected in the 21st century. The 4th Earl of Sandwich, of Hinchbrook near Huntingdon, claimed to control the nomination of the county’s sheriffs, but it may be that John Heathcote, of Conington Castle, Huntingdonshire and sheriff in 1767, had some influence too, seeking a Huntingdonshire man in line with the custom of rotating sheriffs between Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely within Cambridgeshire, and Huntingdonshire.

Judging by Brown’s engagement with over 20 new or continuing commissions in 1770, he worked throughout his shrieval year, his professional base being Wilderness House, Hampton Court which he and his family had occupied since his royal appointment as Master Gardener in 1764. Although his clients tended to be great territorial magnates, the majority of these were peers and excluded from the Shrievalty. He advised many smaller landowners, including at least eight sheriffs – one being Sir William Loraine of Kirkharle, Northumberland (sheriff 1774), grandson of Brown’s first employer in 1732. Brown’s eldest brother John was the Loraines’ agent and married their daughter Jane in 1743.

How much spare time he had for shrieval duties is not known, and most legal requirements were performed by the Under Sheriff. He did attend on



© Portrait of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, c.1770-75, by Richard Cosway (1742-1821)/Private Collection/Bridgeman Images

the Assize Judges, however, as we know from an anecdote reported by one of Brown’s greatest detractors, Uvedale Price in his *Essay on the Picturesque*, (p 245): ‘when Mr Brown was High-Sheriff, some facetious person observing his attendants straggling, called out to him, “Clump your javelin men”.’

♦ Andrew Wells

Kent 2005-06

The Sheriffs of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire: A brief history (2007) is a fascinating and scholarly account of the counties served by Capability Brown as High Sheriff. I am grateful for advice given by its author, Elizabeth Stazicker, former Head of Heritage, Cambridgeshire County Council. Ed.



Above: Hugh Burnett awarding Powys for the best presentation



Photo: Maureen O'Neill, Director of Development, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Getting Court

❖ **Tom Birch Reynardson**
High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2015-16

AT OUR first Getting Court hearing in Oxford, a young man was up before Judge Ross. He had burgled four pubs in order to fund his drug habit; he then overdosed and found himself in Stoke Mandeville Hospital where he proceeded to steal a nurse's handbag and car keys. He then crashed her new car. Judge Ross was not impressed and sent him down for 36 months. The children were astounded by how old he looked. Judge Ross told them that all his drug addict 'clients' looked much older than they actually were, and gave them a very down-to-earth view on the dangers of taking drugs and the importance of never stepping over the wrong side of the line. The view of the children was that Judge Ross should have given a harsher sentence!

The idea of setting up Getting Court in Oxfordshire germinated when I attended the Burghley seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination in 2014 and Hugh Tollemache (Gloucestershire 2013) described how in Gloucestershire the High Sheriffs had set up a programme to allow school children to visit the Crown Court in order to see justice being meted out. This struck a chord with me, and so I contacted Tom Frost, then High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, who invited me to Gloucester to see what Getting Court involved. I had an extremely interesting morning in the Crown Court (the first time I had been into a Crown Court despite practising as a solicitor for more years than I care to remember!) and came away resolved to set up a similar programme in Oxfordshire.

The idea is that schoolchildren aged about 14/15 (years 9 and 10) come to court to see how justice is done. Before they come we send their teachers a USB stick with teaching material on it

Above: High Sheriff with students and Lord Dyson, Master of the Rolls, after Lord Dyson gave the High Sheriff's Law Lecture at the Examination Schools in Oxford

Right: With some mock trial students

Below right: Hannah Prince (left), and her teacher Stephanie Clinch from Gosford Hill School, Kidlington with His Honour Judge Pringle QC, Honorary Recorder of Oxford and the High Sheriff

and hopefully the children are prepared for the visit before they come. The children arrive at about 9.30 and are briefed by our wonderful court clerk, Karen, who gives them an idea of who will be in court and what the procedure will be. She also gives them a firm steer to behave themselves! I then give them a talk about High Sheriffs, how we used to rule Oxfordshire with a rod of iron, what impression seeing 'live' cases has had on me, and I encourage them to ask the judge questions. I stress how important it is to respect all in the court, in particular the accused who is innocent until found guilty, and for whom the experience is most unpleasant.

I then collect the judge, and Judge Pringle, our senior judge, welcomes them and gives them some idea of the cases they will see. If necessary the court will 'vet' the cases beforehand so there is nothing too unsuitable in the list, but the children seem pretty resilient and I am sure this is not exclusive to Oxfordshire. Normally we attend a sentencing day (most courts have a day each week set aside for sentencing) and this gives the children the opportunity to see several cases. For a sentencing, they hear the competing arguments of the barristers, and then the judge's summing up and reasons for the sentence. If it is a prison sentence the prisoner is sent down, always a harrowing spectacle.

At about 12.30 the court rises, and this gives the children a chance to ask questions. Judge Pringle takes off his wig and after a bit the questions come thick and fast. This can be the most rewarding part of the morning, when the children show how engaged they have been with the process, demonstrate very interesting reactions to the various crimes they have heard about,



and usually show that their sentencing policy is considerably to the right of Attila the Hun!

In order for Getting Court to work it is important to have a judge who relates to the children and 'buys in' to the project. In Oxfordshire we are extremely lucky in having enthusiastic judges, and Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, where Getting Court is also up and running, have keen supporters in Judges Tabor and Juckes respectively.

Second, you must have a reasonably large courtroom so that the children do not get in the way.

Third, it is essential to have an administrator who will liaise with the schools to explain Getting Court to the teachers and to fix up the 'appointments' with the court. It is best if you can hire someone on a part-time basis. Teachers and court staff are very willing, but also very pressed for time.

Finally, it is important to have funding. I had a fundraiser at the beginning of the year when Andrew Roberts very kindly came to talk about Waterloo and the generous people of Oxfordshire dug deep into their pockets. This will keep the project going for a bit, but we will have to keep fundraising unless we are clever enough to persuade the County Council to support us or, as Gloucestershire have done, get generous funding from the police and crime commissioner.

My objectives in launching Getting Court in Oxfordshire were threefold. First, I wanted children to see for themselves how those who are upholding the law are serving our communities. A teacher told me how one of her more vulnerable charges felt 'empowered' by seeing how the justice system supported people like her.

Second, I wanted children to see the consequences of straying the wrong side of the line. The subliminal message is definitely 'don't do it'. Many of the cases, such as the young man I mentioned initially, make quite an impact and generate a lot of discussion afterwards.

Third, I want children to see that there is a career in those professions involved in the legal process. We have had children interested in becoming solicitors and probation workers, and even one who wanted to be a forensic scientist.

The project seems to have been a great success and we now have schools booked up until December. Although this is very much a project under the 'umbrella' of the High Sheriff, there is definitely no obligation on my successors to be involved at all, although I hope that they will enjoy attending court as I have done and will lend their support to it.

I have certainly found the whole experience very rewarding, and I highly recommend it to prospective High Sheriffs. I am of course very happy to talk to anyone who is interested in launching Getting Court in their county.

The Koestler Trust Journey: doing time with the arts

❖ Sally Taylor
Chief Executive, Koestler Trust
staylor@koestlertrust.org.uk

AS THE UK's best known prison arts charity, the Koestler Trust has spent 53 years acting as a catalyst for positive and creative journeys in the lives of offenders. We continue to work across the whole of the prison estate, including young offenders in secure settings, giving as many people as possible the opportunity to benefit from our work.

Through our awards, exhibitions, sales, mentoring, employment projects and feedback for creative work we aim to:

- **Equip individuals** in the criminal justice system with motivation, creativity and skills to turn their lives around and commit to the journey of rehabilitation
- **Inform the public** about the journeys offenders go on and give them opportunities to be active participants in their rehabilitation.

Over 3,000 people enter the Koestler Awards each year, with 8,500 works in 50 different art categories. Our annual UK exhibition is held at the Southbank Centre for two months in the autumn, and in 2016-17 we will also be in Glasgow and Birmingham. These exhibitions attract around 30,000 visitors per year.

We were delighted in 2015 when Jonnie Turpie, High Sheriff of West Midlands, chose the Trust as one his charities of the year, and also for the interest and enthusiasm for our work of Caroline and William Alexander, High Sheriff of Kent. We were very pleased to help them with a nomination for one of the High Sheriff's Awards for a prison art tutor in Kent.



KICK-STARTING THE JOURNEY

'Thank you for taking the time to visit HMP Gartree in November. It was a real privilege to meet you and to be presented with an award in the process. I know it gave everyone a real boost and I hope to make further contributions this year.' Koestler entrant

Across UK secure establishments art rooms are closing and art provision is being cut. More than ever there is a need for us to visit and connect face to face so that we can catalyse more creative journeys and recognise entrants who win our awards. Education staff also need our help to keep art on the prison learning agenda. The correlation between our visits and artistic productivity is clear: entries to our awards invariably increase from the secure establishments we have visited.

SUSTAINING MOTIVATION

We continue to support people beyond our initial contact, maintaining momentum so that they commit to the positive journey

Above: Through You, HM Prison Lowdham Grange, Bronze Award for Portraits, 2012

Below: Self Portrait, HM Prison Lindholme, Lady Adamson Highly Commended Award for Portraits, 2010



they have begun. Koestler Associates, our new membership scheme, makes this possible. We remain invested in offenders' journeys throughout the year, offering a range of services including guidance and response. We will be able to offer Associates guaranteed feedback on their artwork and opportunities to be involved in producing a Koestler magazine.

'It's really fantastic to hear someone else's comments and encouragement – prison so often is about put-downs and discouragement. When it's not, then it can sometimes be platitudes, but the Koestler Awards feel real. A big thank you to all the judges.' Koestler entrant

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The journey does not end post-release. Indeed, for many, this is the time when they are most in need of support. In response, we have developed opportunities for ex-offenders to continue their involvement with the arts.

Each year we recruit, train and support ex-offenders to host our UK exhibition at London's Southbank Centre. This transforms both the lives of those who are employed and the general public's understanding of who offenders are and what they can contribute. The roles act as an important step in the journey to resettlement and, more specifically, into employment. Last year five of our hosts were offered permanent posts at the Southbank Centre at the end of their time working with us.

We also offer unique, one-to-one arts mentoring to ex-offenders with creative enthusiasm and talent. We pair each mentee with a volunteer, professional

artist who we train to deliver tailored support and advice to help the mentee pursue an arts-led resettlement plan.

'[F]or a lot of people in jail, being accepted to do this [scheme] is probably the best thing in their life. It's probably the first time that someone has turned to them and said "You know what? Something you do is good." ...So the mere fact of them being in the programme is a major step in terms of looking at themselves differently.' Koestler mentee

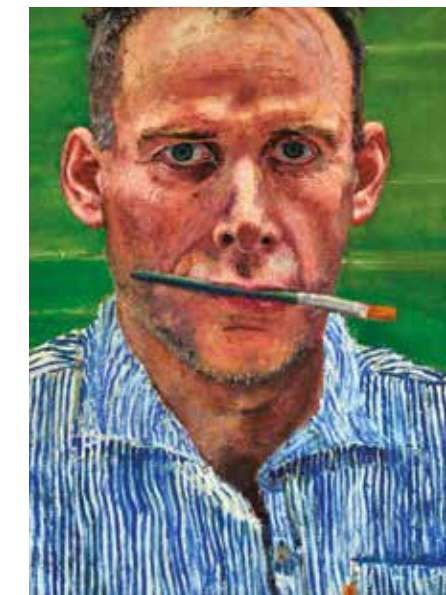
SUSTAINING NETWORKS

'It has given us hope for the future – we had no hope whatsoever and this is truly life-changing. Parents have a sentence too.' Family member after attending a family day

It's not just offenders who are on a turbulent journey – their families and friends are affected too. For many, having family in prison brings emotional hardship and can lead to stigma and exclusion. We want to support families during their journey, and for their relative's artistic achievement to give them strength and hope too.

Our family days give exhibited entrants the opportunity to invite relatives to a special viewing of the exhibition, during which they are given the rare opportunity to celebrate positive achievement and feel pride. We organise the day, pay for transport and lunch and, where needed, accommodation, without which many families could not afford to attend.

Below left: Criminal Education, HM Prison Highpoint, Margaret Wignall Highly Commended Award for Portraits, 2011. **Centre:** A 43 Year Old Man, HM Prison North Sea Camp, Silver Award for Portraits, 2013. **Below right:** Inverse, HM Prison Shotts, Toby Bushell Gold Award for Portraits, 2012



Above: The Pain I Cause, HM Prison Grendon, Gustave Courbet Highly Commended Award for Portraits, 2012

We are fortunate to be the only charity supported by the Ministry of Justice and Arts Council England, and of course have to fundraise for everything we achieve. I very much welcome the support of High Sheriffs, and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to our annual exhibition at the Southbank Centre on 2 November. In the meantime, if you feel able to support our work – and in particular our Family Days, which are so important for the rehabilitation of offenders – I would be delighted to talk to you about this. Do feel free to contact me directly.



Inspiring Stories from a Memorable Event

The Butler Trust Award Ceremony

IN MY capacity as President of the Association, I'm fortunate to attend many interesting occasions. However, wearing another hat – as a trustee and treasurer of the Butler Trust – I am also lucky enough to take part in a particularly inspiring event, its Annual Award Ceremony.

The Trust, named in honour of the reforming Home Secretary 'RAB' Butler, plays a vital role in an area of considerable interest to High Sheriffs, given our role in relation to both the Crown and the judiciary, as well as the support and encouragement we give to crime prevention agencies. I therefore

felt members of the Association might be interested to learn more about this remarkable charity – and the Award Ceremony, which is sometimes held at Buckingham Palace and on other occasions at the senior Palace of The Sovereign, St James's Palace, where this year's event took place on 10 March.

Each year, the Trust's Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, generously hosts the Ceremony at which around ten Awards and twenty Commendations are given to some of the best and brightest people working in the United Kingdom's correctional settings. Prison officers, probation workers, and

those employed in community and youth justice generally go unrecognised and unsung. Yet thousands of people are involved in dealing with some of society's most troubled people – and the Trust's work involves identifying, celebrating, and sharing the good practice of the best of these.

The Awards are the most prestigious in the sector, and the committed involvement of The Princess since the Trust's founding in 1985 extends beyond the Award Ceremony itself, to include visits to the places of work of Butler Trust winners. This year we glimpsed, in the stories of our winners, something of the outstanding and often pioneering work that quietly happens, with little fanfare, every day. We learnt of a commercially successful fly-fishing workshop run by an officer in HMP Exeter, and of the world's first gay prisoners' football team. One probation officer had stopped a prolific offender from stealing his way into providing his girlfriend with a birthday present by teaching him to bake a cake (he had never melted chocolate). Projects and programmes were

represented involving veterans in custody, deaf and disabled prisoners as well as an internationally renowned braille workshop based at HMP Garth.

As Her Royal Highness noted in her opening remarks, this event is a way of thanking people who rarely get the credit they deserve. The Princess went on to commend the work of many winners as offering great examples of the kind of really good practice that is well worth sharing across the country – as well as inspiring cases of resilience and creativity that characterise so much of the work taking place in our prisons, and in the community. As one member of the Trust's Awarding Panel put it, the event offered an important and timely reminder of the sheer levels of 'tenacity, strength, optimism and grit' that pervade the sector.

♦ Julian Avery DL

*President, High Sheriffs' Association;
East Sussex 2004*

Members can learn more about the Trust's work from its website, www.butlertrust.org.uk, which also contains detailed descriptions of the winners' work.



Above: Dr Kerensa Hocken receiving the 2016 Princess Royal's Prize for Outstanding Achievement (the highest Award) for her exceptional work at HMP Whatton as clinical lead for the treatment of prisoners convicted of a sexual offence

Opposite page: Some of the recipients of Awards and Commendations with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal



A celebration of partnership

Below: High Sheriff's Reception at Walton Hall, the Open University: John Skelton, Francesca Skelton, Peter Horrocks CBE, Vice-Chancellor of the Open University and his wife Rosemary Rogers Photograph: Frazer Waller

WHEN INVITED to accept the nomination for High Sheriff, my first words were 'But I haven't got a big house!'; 'Take them to the pub!' said the encouraging High Sheriff.

I was not 'of the land', but an incomer to Milton Keynes, the new town approaching its 50th birthday in 2017 which now constitutes a third of the population of our ancient, ceremonial county of Buckinghamshire.

Rather than rely on my local thatched pub for entertaining, I decided to embrace partnership and showcase important organisations in the county. My first partner was Milton Keynes College. Holding the offender learning contract for 28

prisons, they are passionate about prison education. Chief Executive Dr Julie Mills was immediately enthusiastic about jointly hosting a High Sheriff's Justice Dinner, to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the justice system in our county.

On a June evening an excellent dinner was prepared by the MK College students at the splendid Bletchley Park, thanks to the generosity of its Chief Executive Iain Standen. The speaker was Baroness Kennedy QC and the 100 guests included our Lord-Lieutenant, judges, magistrates, the bishop, police and crime commissioner, the chief constable and senior Thames Valley Police officers, governors of our four prisons and representatives



Photograph: Marion Mason



of probation, national offender management, business, universities and charities.

As I welcomed the guests, I playfully remarked that many in the room had stripped High Sheriffs of their ancient powers, but what we could now marshal was the power of ideas, connections and conversations. The feedback afterwards was enthusiastic, with immediate outcomes such as judges arranging visits to their local prisons, and magistrates inviting the head of offender learning to give a presentation.

For my second event I approached the Open University. With a new Vice-Chancellor, Peter Horrocks, joining in May, could the High Sheriff introduce him to the county of Buckinghamshire? This idea was embraced enthusiastically and my High Sheriff's Reception was held in July organised by the generous and committed OU team who

even sourced a talented young bugler to herald my arrival and short speech.

The partnership theme continued throughout the year including a High Sheriff's Reception at Willen Hospice and a High Sheriff's Afternoon Tea at the Art in the Park Festival held by Anouar Kassim and his MK Islamic Arts and Culture group. Both events offered opportunities to invite guests from across the county.

My final event was a Celebration of Partnership held in a splendid new building in the centre of Aylesbury. University Campus Aylesbury Vale is a partnership between Bucks New University and Aylesbury College, demonstrating an impressive commitment to the skills agenda. I partnered with UCAV, the two Community Foundations (Milton Keynes and the Heart of Bucks), and Aylesbury College students provided hospitality and catering. I was so pleased to introduce the wide range of guests to this new, transformative campus.

At all times these partnerships were about mutual benefit. The partners respected the Office of High Sheriff and valued the opportunities it brought them to nurture networks and showcase their contribution to our county. High Sheriffs may have lost their power to command in the name of the Sovereign, but what impressed me were the opportunities to provide a neutral, positive platform for people to share their challenges, achievements and ambitions. I have been struck by the commitment, energy, and engagement of all the people I have met. It has been a privilege, as it is now to hand the High Sheriff's baton to Milly Soames to continue the connections and conversations across our ceremonial county of Buckinghamshire.

♦ **Francesca Skelton DL**
High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2015-16

Top: Celebration of Partnership, Aylesbury: presentation of High Sheriff's Award to Jenny Street, Chairman of Bucks Federation of WIs

Above: High Sheriff's Justice Dinner, Bletchley Park: High Sheriff, Dr Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, Francis Habgood, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Baroness Kennedy.

Right: Handing over to Milly Soames at her Declaration



Photograph: Marion Mason



Fortitude in the face of adversity

'HIT THE ground running' was a clear message from Burghley and I made every effort to do just that – what good advice it was. I read past High Sheriffs' diaries, researched on the web, read local newspapers I didn't usually receive and met with as many organisations as I could. Having priorities planned was useful and I achieved many of them – such as visiting all 12 mountain rescue teams and all four lifeboat stations in Cumbria. I visited BAE Systems Nuclear Submarine building facility, was the returning officer at the general election and toured the plant that will be making the new £5 and £10 plastic bank notes. Most of those opportunities arose because as High Sheriff you can invite yourself into places you wouldn't otherwise gain access to.

Knowing in advance that this would be the 800th Anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta allowed me to connect with Cartmel Priory, which was one of only five venues on the official trail. Cartmel Priory was founded by William Marshall, one of the barons who persuaded King John to seal Magna Carta, who became Prince Regent to Henry III on John's death. It proved to be an exceptional weekend culminating in a son-et- lumière.

Probably the most memorable event was our charity dinner to raise money for the



Cumbria Crimebeat Fund, with our guest speaker Mary Berry. What a treat for our 320 guests to listen to her; it was a fantastic evening which raised a significant amount for the charity. We also had the pleasure of hosting Mary and her husband for dinner the night before at our home, where the students from the local catering college prepared and served a four-course dinner.

The end of 2015 proved extremely challenging with the floods at the beginning of December. However, the people of Cumbria have shown enormous

fortitude in the face of adversity. I am extremely proud of how the community came together and helped each other. There was a true sense of everyone wanting to do their 'bit' no matter how small. It was also staggering that the rest of the country sensed the need in Cumbria by sending vans and lorries from all corners bringing fresh water, food, clothes, bedding, furniture – in fact, anything you could think of. There is still a great deal to do, but the recovery process is progressing well.

The Cumbria Community Foundation runs a Winter Warmth Appeal every year to provide money towards heating primarily for older people and one of the events is a sponsored 'Big Sleep' night under the stars. This was held at the end of February with night temperatures getting to around minus 3 degrees!

My wife Judy and I have had the most amazing year. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the people in the Cumbria and we hope that in some small way we have been able to acknowledge and thank those 'unsung heroes' who work tirelessly for the good of others.

♦♦ Sam Rayner

High Sheriff of Cumbria 2015-16



Above: Revd Nick Devenish, Vicar for Cartmel Priory; Mrs Claire Hensman, Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria; Mark Gill, Executive Director Magna Carta 800th Committee; Lord Cavendish of Furness and the High Sheriff.

Right: Mary Berry with Sam Rayner

Savouring every moment

NOW THAT my shrieval year is over, many people say to me, 'Didn't your year go quickly?' I completely disagree! Instead, the constant flow of new experiences, of making new friends and of going to new places, made me feel that I was for ever setting out on a new adventure. It is a rare privilege to be High Sheriff and I never anticipated that the experience would be so far-reaching and so fulfilling. And, despite calling Derbyshire 'home' all my life, I found that there was much more for me to discover in the county than I had ever known about previously.

My wife Fiona and I embraced the traditional role of overseeing the welfare of judges in the county. Derbyshire has no High Court and I was advised not to expect any 'Red Judges' to visit; but this was incorrect! We were delighted that two passed through and hosting them at

dinner was a delight. Otherwise, visits to the Crown Court, to Magistrates and to the Coroner were all regular events and we were bowled over by the kind reception that we always received.

Links to law and order meant that I was invited to be a regular visitor to the constabulary, both at headquarters and also to the divisions. I was pleased to present bravery and achievement awards at four different ceremonies, and otherwise I spent time with personnel in public protection, dogs, drugs, forensics and the 999 room. For someone who had not known the police before, it was inspiring to see what happens in the county to keep us all safe, as well as bringing the perpetrators of crime to justice.

Visits to charities always made an impression on me, reminding me that some people's lives are not always as fortunate as others', their troubles often precipitated through no fault of their own. Mostly I was impressed by the smaller charities, driven to success through the selfless commitment of volunteers determined to do their best.

During the year I attended many concerts, ceremonies and pageants. The most significant of these was our Legal Service at Derby Cathedral. We hosted a lunch before it at the Art Gallery which is packed with incredible Joseph Wright paintings – it was a wonderful day shared with many judges, county and civic leaders, and neighbouring High Sheriffs.

I enjoyed acting as returning officer on election night. The count was painstakingly



Above: On stage at Buxton Opera House after *The Pirates of Penzance*, with Dianne Jeffrey Chairman of Age UK and the Duke of Devonshire Patron of Foundation Derbyshire

thorough and I declared the eventual result at 6.45 am. I have maintained contact with both the victor Patrick McLoughlin MP and the runner-up Cllr Andy Botham, whose regular employment is as a train driver for East Midlands Trains. This had a happy conclusion for me because Cllr Botham undertook to take us in his cab all the way to London in January – you will be reassured to know that I never touched any of the controls!

I am often asked what the highlight of my year was. Undoubtedly a unique moment was in October when I hosted a one-off performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* performed by the Derby Gilbert & Sullivan Company at beautiful Buxton Opera House, raising funds through the ticket sales for Age UK and for the community foundation, Foundation Derbyshire. Friends, colleagues and acquaintances from all over the county rallied to the cause, and many local companies helped even further by advertising in the programme. The show was a complete sell-out and we raised an astonishing £30,000. Some of the proceeds have already been distributed to deserving causes in Derbyshire through Foundation Derbyshire of which I am a trustee.

This has been a brilliant year and I could not be more grateful for the opportunity of being Derbyshire's High Sheriff. It did not go quickly at all. Perhaps it is about savouring every moment?

♦♦ Oliver Stephenson

High Sheriff of Derbyshire 2015-16



Below: Before the legal service with the Queen's Remembrancer Senior Master Fontaine, Hon Mrs Justice Andrews, Chief Constable, Bishop Humphrey Southern, neighbouring High Sheriffs, the Coroner and Circuit and District Judges



Parachuting in...

I HAD one of the less common starts to my shrieval year in that I was telephoned in the last week of February to ask if I could take on the role a year early. With so little lead-in it immediately threw up several problems – how to organise a Declaration Ceremony at such short notice, where to have it, how to get invitations printed and guests invited in time, and also the problem of acquiring court dress a year earlier than anticipated. By having the ceremony at home and with a combination of luck and perspiration everything went off very well and all those who came enjoyed the slightly less formal atmosphere.

As my charity I chose H.O.P.E., a small multiple sclerosis charity based locally. My hasty start meant that I was too late to tap the larger businesses in the area, but managed to raise over £9,000 from the generosity of many friends and acquaintances. To give a focus to this appeal I did a tandem parachute jump from 12,000 ft at Swansea Airport on 5 September (not in court dress I may say). An interesting experience.

One advantage of advancing a year was that I was able to exercise my right

to act as returning officer for the general election. I duly announced the result for the Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency – a very enjoyable experience apart from one galling moment when the girl serving coffee at two in the morning took one look at my attire and enquired if I was the town crier!

I imagine that every High Sheriff discovers how much goes on within their county about which they previously knew nothing. I was constantly amazed by the wonderful work done by a complete cross section of people. Attending Police as well as Fire and Rescue Service Long Service Awards brought home to me the dedication and bravery of members of the emergency services. One of the normally unseen projects that impressed me was the Fire and Rescue Service Phoenix initiative. This gives young people on the cusp of offending or being excluded from school a five-day course of drill and fire and rescue activities, at the end of which there is a passing-out parade and the award of certificates. This is having a very beneficial effect and gives the



Above: High Sheriff below!

Below left: Roland Lewis, Under Sheriff of Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire; the Hon Robin Lewis OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed; Jamie Lewis, High Sheriff of Dyfed; the Venerable Dennis Wight Archdeacon of St Davids, High Sheriff's Chaplain; David Ellis JP; Richard Morris, Under Sheriff of Ceredigion

participants encouragement and a sense of self-worth that most lack.

We had two very enjoyable garden parties at home in August on the two sunniest days of the summer

We had a visit from a High Court Judge to Pembrokeshire in the summer. This has not happened for many years and was a very unexpected, but enlightening, experience.

There have been so many interesting occasions during the year and so many people to thank for inviting me/us to their events that the list would go on for pages. Just let me say that without Judy, my wife, I would have sunk without trace.

Note to High Sheriffs in nomination: I had not been able to attend the Burghley Seminar two years before I was due to be High Sheriff and was then in office before the 2015 one. My resulting lack of information has often been a disadvantage. Don't miss Burghley!

♦♦ Jamie Lewis
High Sheriff Dyfed 2015-16

Saving lives in Sussex

HAVING STARTED my year in office deciding not to have a theme I have concluded it so immersed in one that it will continue long into the future: raising awareness and extending the availability of defibrillators.

It all began when I was introduced to a remarkable gentleman about whom I knew nothing but who lived in the same city as me. Yet talk to paramedics and they will state how much they are in awe of him, as shown recently when he received a standing ovation from a large international medical gathering. As long ago as 1970 Douglas Chamberlain took up the post of consultant cardiologist at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and it was the death of a patient early in his career at Brighton that inspired him to revolutionise pre-hospital care in Britain.



Above: Recipients of High Sheriff's Awards and Professor Douglas Chamberlain CBE receiving a standing ovation supported by Tim Fellows, Juliet Smith and the Reverend David Wallis



Above: Shaw Harley-Davidson acquiring their defibrillator

He was called to the home of a patient suffering a cardiac arrest. He immediately called for an ambulance, which arrived without a defibrillator. At that time the devices were cumbersome machines and approval had to be sought from the medical director before they could leave the hospital. The incident spurred Douglas Chamberlain into action and he began training ambulance crews to deal with cardiac arrests and other emergencies. It was the birth of the first paramedic service in the UK and the idea soon spread across Europe and, indeed, the world.

Now aged 84, Professor Chamberlain remains a tour de force in the world of emergency medicine. Yet for some years he had been frustrated by the slow take-up of defibrillators on his own doorstep. Paul Sutton, the chief executive of the South East Coast Ambulance Service, and his operating unit manager, Tim Fellows, arranged a meeting late in the summer. From then on shrieval networking skills came to the fore and in the autumn the Sussex newspaper, the *Argus*, agreed to launch the 'Save a Life' campaign, calling on all sectors of the community to install these devices.

Since then Professor Chamberlain, Tim Fellows and I have travelled far and

wide visiting schools, Rotary and Lions clubs, church halls and hotels, promoting the cause to great effect. We have heard many moving stories of lives being saved in post offices and town centres, on golf courses and in schools. In Bexhill the Lions and Community First Responders have joined forces and now the town has 14 defibrillators. Our most recent supporter is the Bishop of Chichester, who wants to see defibrillators in every church across the diocese; I have started the ball rolling by installing one at St Margaret's in Ditchling, the church of my phenomenal chaplain, the Reverend David Wallis. Once these devices are in situ members of the public need to know where they are located: church spires are highly visible, so follow the spire...

Now, at the conclusion of my year in office, I have been able to acknowledge at a High Sheriff's Awards ceremony not just many of the amazing unsung heroes from across the county in all walks of life, but also Professor Chamberlain himself, who once again, at the conclusion of his citation being read out, received a standing ovation.

♦♦ Juliet Smith JP
High Sheriff of East Sussex 2015-16



The totality of the experience

BORN AND bred in Essex, I have always been proud to call myself 'pure Essex' and there can be no doubt that Essex is a fascinating county of which to be High Sheriff. It is large at 1,420 square miles; has the longest coastline in the country at 363 miles; is populous with 1.75m inhabitants; diverse with 14 district and borough councils, 18 MPs, two cathedral towns and five other significant towns; has one of the largest economies outside London; is blessed with exceptionally beautiful countryside and outstanding churches; has a long cultural tradition; and is characterised by its vitality.

We have four Magistrates' Courts, two Crown Courts, one County Court, one Coroner's Court and one Military Court; and two prisons, one civil and one military, all of which I have had the privilege to visit. We have an active and highly regarded police force seen to be at the cutting edge of modern policing and leading many initiatives such as implementation of the Athena computer system now being introduced across the country. Essex Police have taken me on 27 separate visits to different units to give me a full picture of the complexities of

modern policing. So there is plenty for the High Sheriff to do in respect of the prime responsibility of law and order.

Our main employer is London and the City of London but in addition we have: three major ports, Tilbury, DP World and Harwich; two airports, Stansted and Southend; and two crack army formations, 16 Air Assault Brigade based at Colchester and 33 and 101 Engineer Regiments (bomb disposal) at Carver Barracks, all of which are leaders in their fields. And we have a thriving commercial sector with a few large companies but a host of entrepreneurial smaller companies selling quality products round the world.

We also have a very active voluntary sector with some 400,000 engaged in voluntary activities of some form. So there is no shortage of calls on the High Sheriff over and above the work on law and order.

I chose for my theme The Common Good because I was interested to see the interaction of these various streams of activity, particularly in a year dominated by change resulting from the economic cuts and compounded by structural and technology changes. Essex is no exception

in this regard but wherever I have gone I have been greatly impressed by the positive approach taken in the face of these difficulties. Essex's greatest strength is its determination and ability to find a way through.

It has been a great privilege to see the county from top to toe, warts and all, and for me the highlight has been the totality of this experience with my strongest memory being of the wonderful people working for the common good often in the most trying circumstances. The Justice Service encompassed all that is best in this endeavour.

❖ Vincent Thompson
High Sheriff of Essex 2015-16

Above: Declaration Ceremony in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford: His Honour Judge Owen-Jones, His Honour Judge Lodge, Rt Revd Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood, Chaplain to the High Sheriff 2015-16, Vincent Thompson, High Sheriff 2015-16, Cadet Sgt A Koutas, cadet to the Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Petre, Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Lorna Rolfe, High Sheriff 2016-17, Revd J Risby, Chaplain to the High Sheriff 2016-17, His Honour Judge Gratwicke, Her Honour Judge Lynch

Snug as a bug

THE SECOND half of my year proved every bit as enjoyable as the first. As well as my own Judges' Service I also attended services in Lancashire, Merseyside and Cheshire, each slightly different but all very impressive.

I held an inaugural golf day in aid of my Police Trust Fund on a glorious October day, attracting the maximum number of teams. With my husband Grahame I enjoyed the dinner afterwards and presented prizes with Sir Peter Fahy, then the Chief Constable.

I have attended several Greater Manchester Police events including passing out parades for Police Cadets, a conference celebrating 100 years of women in policing, a visit to the fascinating Police Museum, a day with the Mounted Police and Dog Unit and a Christmas concert where we were fabulously entertained by the wonderful GMP Band.

To celebrate International Women's Day I cruised around Salford Quays

aboard the *Emmeline Pankhurst*. After lunch I spoke about the improvements in women's equality since I started my career in the late 1960s. Still on a nautical theme I was delighted to name and launch a specially built sailing dinghy bought with funds raised by Rochdale East Rotary Club. The *Gracie* has been adapted for use by disabled sailors and will be used by over 1,000 people.

I attended the passing out parade for 22 newly qualified firefighters, the first for nearly eight years in Greater Manchester. Family, friends and guests were given demonstrations by the trainees, which included the use of a Cold Cut Systems ultra-high pressure lance that rapidly reduces the temperature of a fire to ensure conditions are cooler for firefighters who have to enter the blaze. Tactical ventilation is then used to remove fire gasses and smoke thus allowing the crew to rescue casualties faster than traditional techniques. Greater Manchester is the first Fire and Rescue Service in the country

to have this equipment on all its fire appliances.

Grahame and I were honoured to attend the 75th Anniversary of the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade and were greeted by the Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Lukasz Lutostanski. We were delighted to chat with a small number of veterans from that brigade – all of them now in their nineties – before unveiling a plaque to commemorate Major General Stanislaw Franciszek Sosabowski CBE who during the Second World War displayed great bravery and outstanding leadership skills. In 1941 he formed and led the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade which fought with distinction during Operation Market Garden in September 1944 and earned great respect from comrades in the British airborne forces.

Perhaps the most extraordinary event I took part in was the 'Manchester Sleepout', an event organised by the Booth Centre in November to raise awareness of the great difficulties facing homeless people. At 9.00 pm all those taking part went into the grounds of Manchester Cathedral to find a spot for the night. Together with the Mayor of Trafford we found some space and started to make ourselves as comfortable as possible. It was a lovely mild night until 4.00 am when the heavens opened and it continued to rain heavily for the rest of the Sleepout. Fortunately, I had a waterproof survival bag so was snug enough until I sat up and then got quite damp round the edges when rainwater flowed into my sleeping bag! I remained outside until 5.30 am when the urge for a hot drink got the better of me.

The Sleepout doesn't pretend to be an experience of what it's really like to be homeless, but what it does do is raise awareness of the issues faced by homeless people night after night. I am delighted to report that the event raised over £55,000.

❖ Sharman Birtles JP DL
High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2015-16

Clockwise from below: The High Sheriff with some of the Polish veterans. Preparing to settle down for the night! The winning team with the High Sheriff and Sir Peter Fahy.



Photo courtesy of Chris Oldham GMP



BEING COMMANDED by Her Majesty to take command of the County of Gwent at her pleasure on Tuesday 2 April 2015 seemed a daunting prospect, but it was an immensely fulfilling year – and a huge honour to be High Sheriff.

I work full-time in Parliament running the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK. By dint of much juggling and an intimate interaction with GWR train times, doing both jobs worked out. The international outreach work we undertake in Parliament greatly informed the shrieval objectives I had set myself. They covered equalities, diversity and inclusion, and young people.

With some 578,000 people Gwent is the most populous county in Wales. It has seven parliamentary constituencies, five local authorities, a broad spectrum of old and new communities, some with a range of cultural heritages – and many with the same type of challenges. It has its own

police force, a cathedral, eight mosques, a Buddhist temple, two reserve regiments, and the wide range of uniformed youth organisations – Gwent's Young Dragons – but no High Court. Gwent 'built the world' from its iron, coal and steel industries. Now, despite some excellent regeneration and investment, the county contains some of the most deprived parts of UK.

2015 was a great year to be High Sheriff. Highlights included Magna Carta, Agincourt and a general election. Magna Carta was not good for the revenue streams of the Sheriffs in 1215. En route to the British Library Association members came to Parliament where the Clerk of the Commons regaled us with a view of Magna Carta, High Sheriffs and Parliament. Henry V was born in Monmouth Castle in 1386, so the 600th anniversary of Agincourt was a major event in Monmouth. A competition to design a town flag was initiated. The winning duo

of young students was presented with a brand new Monmouth town flag.

As returning officer for the Newport East and West constituencies, I spent Thursday 7 May visiting the dedicated staff in the polling stations and in the evening observed the count before announcing each set of results. In Wales the results are declared first in English, then in Welsh. As a non-Welsh speaker I was determined to meet the challenge. After much practice, it worked on the night – a great experience.

Although I sat alongside judges in district and family courts, not having any High Courts in Gwent gave more opportunities to travel throughout the county, meeting communities, organisations and people in all three sectors, listening and learning. Occasionally there are opportunities to facilitate. It also was a great pleasure to give 38 High Sheriff's Awards to celebrate, recognise and thank those who go the extra mile to help others.

In Gwent there is an especially close relationship with the police and the police and crime commissioner (PCC). The Gwent High Sheriff's Community Fund (GHSCF) holds an annual grant-making event – 'Your Voice, Your Choice' – a partnership with the PCC and the Community Foundation in Wales. Ian Johnston QPM, Gwent's PCC, generously has given £25,000 annually to the fund. This year he also agreed to match-fund up to another £25K. With generous support from General Dynamics, Meritor, NAS Gilwern, Waitrose, the Waterloo Foundation and individuals, that figure was reached. A record 65 community groups bid for financial support. On Saturday morning 19 March, the short-listed 28



community groups gathered at Pontypool Leisure Centre to bid for up to £4,000 from the fund. Each group had two minutes to 'pitch' their project with the presentations then being scored by the other groups. The 23 projects assessed by their peers to be addressing the most pressing priorities shared in the grant pot of almost £75K.

Throughout the year I had the great privilege and fun of meeting the many committed volunteers and groups who work so hard to build safer and stronger communities across Gwent. They are a huge inspiration and the Awards event was a terrific culmination to what was a wonderful year. In Wales there are eight High Sheriffs and the 2015 posse was very close. I thank my fellow Welsh High Sheriffs for their friendship and support.

♦ Lieutenant Colonel
A S Tuggey DL
High Sheriff of Gwent 2015-16

Above: With Muslim community leaders in Newport

Below left: Visiting Newport Sea Cadets

Below: High Sheriff's Award to Tredgar Youth Café volunteers

Opposite page: High Sheriff's Award to Corporal Piper Meredith 275 (Nantyglo & Blaina) Squadron ATC. Her prompt first aid action saved her grandfather's life when he cut an artery





The Sheriff bird...

IT WAS a November night and I was running up the seemingly never-ending stairs of a multi-storey car park in the wake of two young police constables answering an emergency call. My heart was pounding and the ceremonial duties of a High Sheriff, clad in velvet and lace, had never seemed more distant. What an extraordinary role it is that links one with the justice system on so many levels – and what a privilege it has been to be part of it. I've felt moved and honoured when a youth worker – and former user – of a club that I visited tweeted that I was her 'new best friend'; I've been humbled and awed by the compassion and rigour of judges preparing to sentence. I have followed in the footsteps of a rich and valuable tradition as well as finding ways of doing things which, to me, felt more appropriate for the present day.

As part of my attempt to understand the shrieval role in the 21st century, I joined police on patrol on many occasions and marvelled at the extraordinary work they do. Young officers can be faced with suicide attempts, alleged rapes, domestic violence and heroin overdoses in one shift, yet still retain their composure and professionalism, reacting with humanity and respect. Thanks to being able to accompany them on a regular basis, I've seen the exceptional way in which they do their duty, day after day, night after night. For them, a 'routine patrol' is just that – however unusual the events and impressive their response.

I have found that making return visits has been key in forming relationships. It has been heart-warming to be welcomed back to youth projects by workers who had assumed my interest would only extend to one 'official' visit – and it has been a privilege to get to know some of the users and staff on a more informal, low-profile basis. It has really touched me how much it matters to them that they aren't just a 'one-off' entry in an official diary.

I have relished every second of my involvement with our courts of law and have been keen to show young people the excellence of our judicial system. I have regularly invited students to accompany me to court, to engage with the judicial process in a more immediate way than is possible from the public gallery, and to have the chance to talk to judges, magistrates and barristers. We are so fortunate in this country to have trials where each case is rigorously explored with erudition, fairness and compassion.

The work of prisons has also been an inspiration to me. I have been heartened to see prisoners developing literacy and numeracy skills and drawing strength from the quiet space of the chapel, despite the constraints of their environment. HMP/YOI Winchester's Restorative Justice project 'Inside or Out' is delivered by prisoners to young people on court referral orders and it has been encouraging to witness how effectively this demonstrates the harsh realities of life 'inside' and the consequences of crime. When I made awards to prison staff I was told by the governor that the prisoners who worked alongside the staff were as pleased as the officers were by recognition of their work on a project – said one: 'Tell that Sheriff bird I'm chuffed'.



Above: Out with Community Payback

Opposite page: On a police Raptor vehicle



Right: On 6 April, Mr Tom Floyd was sworn in as the new High Sheriff of Hampshire and Mrs Rachel Brooks was appointed as the Under Sheriff of Hampshire. Rachel is replacing Mr Jim Kennedy of Blake Morgan who has served as Under Sheriff of Hampshire for the last 28 years. At the end of the ceremony an engraved armada dish was presented to Jim Kennedy by Tom Floyd and the outgoing High Sheriff of Hampshire Lady (Louisa) Portal. This gift was provided by all the High Sheriffs of Hampshire in appreciation of the huge amount of support and service that Jim Kennedy has rendered.

My husband Jonathan and I were keen to use this year to enable organisations and individuals to connect with each other over shared interests. To this end, instead of one large, traditional party, we opted for several smaller gatherings, including

themed lunch parties. Two of these, on 'Reducing Reoffending' and 'Motivating Young People', included presentations by relevant organisations. The intimate scale of these occasions provided an opportunity for links to be forged, and I am delighted – and a little surprised – that local charities have been able to secure nearly £100,000, partly as a result of our more personal style of entertaining.

From the slow-stepping processions in the Law Sunday service to the race up those interminable stairs, my year as High Sheriff has certainly kept me on my toes! The Office is far more worthwhile than I could ever have dreamt: an opportunity to give support and encouragement, and, due to the independence of the role, to work without anyone attributing to me motives of publicity, career advancement or inspection. I was so grateful for the freedom to visit, learn from and engage with so many individuals and organisations. It has been a rare privilege to work at the interface between the highest traditions of the justice system and their applications in modern life.

♦ Louisa Portal MBE DL
High Sheriff of Hampshire 2015-16





From choirs to cheerleaders

I AM sure that most retiring High Sheriffs believe that 'their' year has been blessed with wonderful events and anniversaries that have uniquely contributed to a memorable and fulfilling year; I am no exception, events such as the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the general election have ensured this. There were also magnificent occasions connected to events such as VE day, the Battle of Britain and, particularly, Gallipoli, where the Herefordshire Regiment suffered such great losses; this was marked with a beating of the retreat at Suvla Barracks and a special service in the cathedral.

The Three Choirs Festival circulates between the three cathedrals of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester. It is the oldest choir festival in the world and I was very fortunate that its 300th anniversary fell in 2015, in Hereford. Tercentenary celebrations concluded with a dramatic concert at Buckingham Palace given by the Prince of Wales, President of the Festival. In an interesting and direct link with its

past, the last chorister who sung under Elgar in Hereford died during the year.

On a smaller scale, a 'Foundation Visit' by the Hereford Cathedral choir to my packed parish church at Brampton Bryan was one of my happiest memories.

I have tried to support the arts and the heritage in the county. This has involved several personal initiatives including a forum for local history societies (of which there are over 30 in Herefordshire); I am pleased that communication between the societies has subsequently improved. In addition, I organised a forum for Herefordshire museums and visitor attractions; this has helped to concentrate views on the future of such attractions in the county – and will be referred to in the submission to DCMS Select Committee.

Herefordshire is not a rich county, but the charitable sector is both vibrant and important. The High Sheriff sees many inspirational charities at first hand and it is an unenviable task to decide which should benefit from the grants from the High Sheriff's Fund at the end of the year. In the event, grants went to the Hope Foundation, the Hereford Street Pastors and Jamie's Farm, which has recently set up its second working farm for vulnerable children in the UK, in South Herefordshire.

Many of our institutions are long established such as The Royal National College for the Blind which hosted alumnus Lord Blunkett and a team from *Any Questions*. Others are evolving, for instance

Above left: Geraint Bowen, Director of Music, Hereford Cathedral, leads the cathedral choir on a Foundation Visit to Brampton Bryan

Above: The High Sheriff with cheerleaders from the Miami Dolphins

Below left: At the legal service at Hereford Cathedral: District Judge Sheldrake, His Honour Judge Jukes QC, Victoria Harley, Edward Harley, the Rt Hon Lord Justice McFarlane, His Honour Judge Pearce-Higgins QC, and His Honour Judge Hooper QC

the new university project which gained significant momentum over the year

A team of six wounded veterans from Walking with the Wounded passed through Herefordshire. The county not only raised more than any other, but the team was accompanied by 12 'scantily clad' cheerleaders from the Miami Dolphins which set a few pulses racing in High Town.

My final duty was appropriately poignant; it involved a small service in the cathedral to remember eight young girls who died in the Garrick Theatre fire in Hereford exactly 100 years earlier. Relatives of the girls gathered with aging sepia photographs to commemorate this tragic event.

I look back over my year with happy memories and with particular thanks to my wife, Victoria, and to all those dedicated people who make Herefordshire such an incomparable place. It has been an honour to serve the county.

♦♦ **Edward Harley DL**
High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2015-16

Positive PR for prisons

IT WAS a daunting experience to walk into a high security prison for the first time, albeit in the capacity of a visitor. Like most people, my knowledge of what happened inside prison walls was derived from press stories or television documentaries which were invariably negative – overcrowding, drugs, violence – so I was prepared for the worst.

Kent seems to have more than its fair share of prisons and my wife Caroline and I visited all seven of them. Having listened to accounts of the challenges faced by the prison service, I asked several governors: 'How can a High Sheriff help you?' Their response was clear: 'Anything you can do to elicit some positive publicity about our prisons would be really welcome.'

As soon as I saw for myself the work being done in education, skills training and rehabilitation, I knew it was a worthwhile cause and so achieving positive PR for Kent's prisons became the focus of my year.

Despite undeniable financial challenges, I was repeatedly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by governors, officers and staff to improve the life skills and future prospects of offenders. They were creating environments in which change was possible – setting standards, being role models, providing encouragement and slowly building self-esteem – all with the ultimate aim of reducing re-offending.

To spread the word more effectively, I facilitated access for my son Thomas, a professional photographer, to record not only classrooms and workshops but, importantly, prisoners developing new personal skills of concentration, teamwork and job satisfaction. The images are now used to showcase the potential employability of offenders as well as being a resource for the governors to use for purposes such as staff recruitment.

To understand the resettlement work of open prisons better, my wife provided seasonal employment on our farm for an offender on 'ROTL' (Release on Temporary Licence). She also helped develop a project whereby video interviews with prospective employers are used as the basis for discussion with prisoners about their own potential employability on release.

To achieve an ongoing network of contacts, I enabled visits into two open prisons by a group of influential county leaders, the Kent Ambassadors. Their experiences of tours and unrestricted conversations with offenders and prison officers over lunch mean they can now speak about the prisons from personal knowledge and, in some cases, offer advice and practical help.

The annual High Sheriff's Awards allowed me to recognise and thank individuals from organisations I encountered during my year. I was pleased to include those dedicated to prison work



Above: HMP East Sutton Park: assessment for trainee gym instructor qualification

in the areas of art, community service and education – and the event itself, in County Hall, generated enthusiastic networking and high-profile publicity.

Equally as valuable were the High Sheriff's Prison Awards, initiated by Andrew Wells, our editor (Kent 2005). Every year, staff nominate prisoners to be recognised for exceptional personal progress or contribution to their prison community. These awards were deeply appreciated – often being the first time recipients had been praised or recognised for their abilities.

High Sheriffs have privileged access to the prison system and there is much we can all do to support this challenging area of society.

♦♦ **William Alexander**
High Sheriff of Kent 2015-16



Above: HMP Rochester: bicycle recycling repairs workshop



Above: HMP Swaleside: business education class



Unforgettable experiences

LANCASHIRE IS diverse culturally, economically and geographically, and I wanted to involve as much of it as possible in my year. Ceremonial and official engagements were many including a visit in May by HM The Queen to Lancaster when we welcomed Her Majesty both as our Queen and as the Duke of Lancaster. In early June our annual service and shield hanging ceremony took place in the Shire Hall where I received permission from the Constable of Lancaster Castle to hang my shield alongside those of my 800 predecessors in the county.

I visited our six prisons and secure units and observed the focus on reducing re-offending and preparing prisoners for release. In the wake of cuts governors remain focused, optimistic and proud of their achievements. Our largest Category B prison houses a dedicated braille unit, translating books for charities across the world.

Each term a number of High Court Judges came to Preston where I joined them in court and for dinner at their lodgings. I hosted all of them at our home, inviting a wide range of guests and having some thoroughly congenial evenings. Without exception they were good company, always appreciative of being invited and curious about the role and year of the High Sheriff.

Visits to third sector organisations working with ex-offenders were fascinating. Some, such as Jobs, Friends & Houses in Blackpool, are ground-breaking in their ideas. This community interest company, run by a serving police officer, employs ex-offenders and recovering addicts in the building trade. They are trained, paid full wages and supported as they learn about life 'outside'.

Having a named charity and trying to raise huge amounts of money was not for me. Instead I supported charities by visiting, raising their profile and helping them to make connections. The passion, humility and dedication of the volunteers were ever evident, as was the pleasure at having their organisation recognised by the High Sheriff. The RNLI, fire, special police, search and rescue services are all volunteers working to protect us in our daily lives, as are those working with the most unfortunate in our society, and they were without exception delighted to share their experiences. This took me to some highly deprived areas of Lancashire, Skelmersdale being one of the most remarkable where fabulous work with the Community Safety Partnership reaps rewards.

Among December's many carol concerts I joined a group of people from NightSafe, raising awareness of the plight of the young homeless by sleeping out in Blackburn for a night. When



Above: Presentation of High Sheriff's Award to Sgt Steve Hodgkins and employees of Jobs, Friends & Houses in Blackpool

I volunteered for this it was a warm summer's day. As December neared I thought I might have been a bit rash so spent some time designing my cardboard shelter and was thankful for it. Among several visitors over the night the least welcome was Storm Desmond.

On 10 April 2015 I processed into the Council Chamber in County Hall, Preston, proud and slightly self-conscious in my uniform. Two weeks ago I repeated the walk still proud and with a year's unforgettable experiences upon which to reflect. Throughout the year my husband Robert has accompanied me and has enjoyed it as much as I have, and I am grateful for his support, patience and encouragement.

♦♦ **Amanda Parker JP**
High Sheriff of Lancashire 2015-16



Above: Outside Lancaster Castle before proceeding to the Shire Hall Photo by Denis Oates
Right: Early rising after a night sleeping on the streets of Blackburn in my special cardboard shelter

Aspiring to inter-faith harmony

WHEN I took office in April 2015, Leicestershire was bathed in the afterglow of international attention surrounding the re-interment of King Richard III and my first move was to present High Sheriff's Awards to teams that my wife Janet and I had worked with in preparing the Cathedral ceremonies. The King's tomb in Leicester Cathedral and the site of his original grave nearby continue to attract thousands of visitors from all over the world.

The other backdrop to my year was the astonishing turnaround in the fortunes of Leicester City Football Club. When my year began the Foxes were bottom of the Premier League but on handover on 8 April 2016 they led the League by seven points and during my year had gained an incredible 88 points and a huge international following. Some supporters have even adopted King Richard as the team's talisman.

Leicester's high profile and the city's burgeoning international reputation have encouraged civic pride among its diverse communities. Outside London, Leicester is Britain's most religiously diverse city, comprising substantial communities of various denominations of Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs and many other faiths besides; parts of the county are equally diverse. Leicester is often held up as a model of inter-faith harmony but not surprisingly there are tensions, not always hidden. As a trustee of the St Philip's Centre, a Christian organisation for the study of and engagement with other faiths, I had already completed a postgraduate diploma in Inter-religious Relations, so I planned to introduce the Shrievalty to different faith groups and to help soften some of the cultural and religious divides.

My wife Janet and I joined the Sikh Vaisakhi celebrations and I was interviewed by Vaisakhi radio; I also made presentations in the largest gurdwara in the East Midlands. We attended Leicester's Central Mosque in Ramadan to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre



Above: The High Sheriff speaking at the Jain Temple. **Below left:** The High Sheriff tucks in at the Mosque Summer Fete. **Below right:** Navratri Stick Dance



and to join the evening Iftar when the fast was broken. We were welcomed to other Sunni mosques (including a mosque summer fete) and to Leicester's only Shia mosque and we were very pleased to attend the formal opening of Leicester's only Ahmadi mosque. I accompanied Earl Howe, Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence with responsibility for community engagement, when he inspected building works at the 'Earl Howe' mosque in Earl Howe Street, Leicester. We visited the historic Orthodox Jewish synagogue and the less formal Progressive Jewish Congregation. Hindus welcomed us to celebrations for Ganesh, Navratri, Diwali and Holi and we were shown round the very modern

Swaminarayan temple and the Brahma Kumaris' equally modern centre; we also enjoyed excellent hospitality at the very ornate Jain temple. We also visited Sikh, Hindu and Muslim faith schools.

I held one Judges' Welcome Service in the Dominican church of Holy Cross and participated in numerous services in Leicester Cathedral, notably my Magna Carta Justice Service, which was well attended by many representatives of other faiths. Leicestershire's diversity is enriching and colourful – but as I write this the priority for all Leicestershire's citizens is to paint the League blue.

♦♦ **Gordon Arthur**
High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2015-16



Many-faceted Merseyside

BY THE time this article is published I will have entered the shadowy, twilight zone of the 'Has Beens'. Whatever it holds can't possibly match, for intensity and interest, the year I've just experienced or the one upon which my successor, Jim Davies, will have embarked. He will find, as did I, that the High Sheriff has remarkable and in some respects, unique, access to many facets of life here on Merseyside.

At my Declaration last year, I said that, for someone born and brought up in Liverpool, and who has never lived anywhere else, it was a huge honour and privilege to be asked to fulfil the role of High Sheriff and to play a part in the civic and ceremonial life of the county. Now, twelve months later, I wouldn't change a single word of that assertion.

The last year has, for me, been a constant flow of always interesting, frequently uplifting and occasionally inspirational events. It's not necessary to dig very deeply below the surface of Merseyside to discover the good work being carried out day in day out in many spheres of activity including commerce and education and in the public and voluntary sectors. Among the most impressive are the many youth organisations, run by dedicated volunteers, which provide a focus, a framework and a future for countless young people, some of whom, due to strained domestic circumstances and a lack of guidance, would be at risk of going off the rails. It was, therefore, particularly pleasing to attend the National Crimebeat Awards in London where a group of young people I had nominated from a Knowsley youth club won a prize of £750 for a project providing their peer group with information and advice on 'How to Stay Safe and not be a Victim of Crime'. The initiative is already proving to be very effective in the local community.

It has been an extraordinarily busy year but this is not the occasion to go into detail about literally hundreds of engagements which have filled the diary. Suffice to say that any role which encompasses attendance at six royal visits, observing at close quarters trainee firefighters tackling a blaze, announcing parliamentary election results live on TV at 4.00 in the morning, hosting 17 visiting High Court Judges at home, and acting

Opposite page:
The grandson of a local mayor aims to be the country's youngest High Sheriff!

Below: A convivial private dinner with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and the Mayors of Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral

as a judge myself, albeit, at a primary school Easter Bonnet competition, can, with some justification, be described as 'varied'.

There were, I suppose inevitably, a couple of low points. The funeral of PC David Phillips, held in Liverpool Cathedral, was a poignant and significant event not just on Merseyside but throughout the country. To those of us present, or to those who simply watched it on television, the overwhelming support offered by members of the public who stood in silent respect along the full length of the route taken by the cortege was the only modicum of good which could be discerned in an otherwise wholly tragic episode. There was also the sad loss of Sir Alan Waterworth, the immediate past Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside.

It's a cliché, but nevertheless true, that for me the last 12 months have flown by.

Apart from the two exceptions I have just mentioned, it has been a hugely enjoyable experience and I thank the Lord-Lieutenant, Dame Lorna Muirhead, and those who advised her, for giving me the opportunity to undertake the role.

The support of my wife, Patti, throughout the last 12 months has been unfailing. I would wish to record that it was a team effort and that she and I have wonderful joint memories to carry to what we both hope will be our distant dotage.

♣ **Robert Owen JP DL**
High Sheriff of Merseyside





Check your route, leave plenty of time

Right: Presenting cheque to mental health charity Gofal

Below: At a Welsh-themed evening hosting a second Court of Appeal Judges' Dinner

Below right: Attending a citizenship ceremony

OH WHAT a year it's been! My Declaration at St John's Church Porthcawl took place on a crisp, sunny day with Sir Wyn Williams, Wales' senior presiding judge kindly hearing my Declaration as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan. This was the start of a frenetic five days, with a large marquee to entertain guests from my Declaration remaining in situ for a Charity Ball two days later and a Fashion Show two days after that. The caterers fed and watered just over 600 people in a matter of five days, so it was a busy start to a non-stop year.

After a career in television, I have been involved with many charities and I decided to support a mental health charity called Gofal. After the Crystal Ball and the Fashion Show, £18,000 was presented to this charity and it was time to turn my full attention to the job, with a citizenship ceremony my first engagement. Using my car



satnav instructions to Merthyr Tydfil I quickly realised I was going to be late after ending up in Aldi supermarket car park. First lesson, check your route and leave plenty of time!

As High Sheriff for just one year, I felt that it was important to raise the profile of the Office and try to answer the much-asked question 'What do you actually do?' So as well as being asked to speak at various groups, I visited a number of schools in

“Part of my bucket list was to support our emergency services, so it was fascinating to follow a paramedic on a night shift and also enlightening to travel in a patrol car on a weekend evening shift at a busy town centre

the county wearing the full uniform. I explained about the role of the modern-day High Sheriff and promoted the Mid Glamorgan Community Youth Awards scheme, giving cash awards to young people who are doing outstanding work in the community.

Wales had an equal mix of male/female High Sheriffs in 2015-2016 and it was the turn of the four female Sheriffs to co-host the Court of Appeal Judges' Dinner at the Mansion House in Cardiff. Speeches to our honoured judges were well received and thank you letters were in praise of the warm, Welsh welcome.

Part of my bucket list was to support our emergency services, so it was fascinating to follow a paramedic on a night shift and also enlightening to travel in a patrol car on a weekend evening shift at a busy town centre. I also visited the mounted section of South Wales Police and hitched a ride!

I sat alongside High Court Judges on a range of cases from murder and child custody to clinical negligence. The seriousness and depth of their



work helped me understand why we as High Sheriffs can provide some light entertainment in the form of a dinner at home. My husband Rob and I hosted a number of judges' dinners at our farm and the stories told were full of humour and bonhomie; memorable times we will cherish and chuckle over.

My royal moments have been unforgettable. Our day at the Buckingham Palace garden party was eventful when one of our daughters fainted as Her Majesty The Queen passed us! HRH The Prince of Wales visited the county three times during my year and I managed to stay upright with no sign of being star-struck during those moments!

My year has come to a close and it will be one I will never forget – somehow the rest of 2016 will pale into insignificance as I flick through my diary for 2015.

♦♦ Mrs J A James
Mid Glamorgan 2015-16

Above: At the Court of Appeal Judges' Dinner at the Mansion House in Cardiff

Below left: Jayne James (mounted, centre) with the mounted section of South Wales Police

Below: Seven of the eight High Sheriffs in Wales at the Legal Service at Llandaff Cathedral in October 2015: Libby Evans (Gwynedd), Jayne James (Mid Glamorgan), Bob Redfern (West Glamorgan), Andrew Tuggey (Gwent), Heather Stevens (South Glamorgan), Janet Evans (Clwyd) and Jamie Lewis (Dyfed)





Throwing light on the North East

Below: At the launch of the Super Partnership with Adam Lopardo (Community Foundation), Vera Baird (Police and Crime Commissioner, Northumbria) and youngsters with Chris Conway from Choysez (which supports young people with an alternative to mainstream education), recipients of a £750 High Sheriff's Award.

WELL, THEY say two heads are better than one and when it comes to being High Sheriff I certainly found it helpful to have partners in crime – or should that be against crime!

My first 'partner against crime' was Vera Baird, Northumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner with whom I formed a new Super Partnership. Four additional Super awards of £1,000 were given out as special district prizes to recognise inspirational groups in north Northumberland, mid-Northumberland, west Northumberland and south-east Northumberland.

My second 'partner against crime' was Lucy Winskell, High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear with whom I've entertained judges, visited the police, ambulance service and armed forces, and been able to combine events including the special evensong held at Newcastle Cathedral on 8 October 2015.

This included the reading of the Letters Patent to mark the opening of the legal year. The procession was led by visiting High Court Judges, the city's Circuit and District Judges, barristers and solicitors and representatives of Her Majesty's Court Service. The service reminds us of the long association between the church and the law.

It also happened to be National Poetry Day and as the theme was 'light', and Lucy means light in Latin, we decided to combine and be bright, by providing some poetry to give insight into the life and some shared activities of the High Sheriffs of Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. So with more than a little nod to Rudyard Kipling I share our poem, which gives an overview of the amazing year I've had.

♦♦ **Lucy Carroll**
High Sheriff of Northumberland 2015-16



IF you can keep your head when all about you are inquisitively asking 'so what exactly *does* the High Sheriff *do*? And you can trust yourself to manage your time, **IF** you can start at dawn with an eager smile, and without a yawn And not make your opinions OR thoughts your master and think up a speech without any warning

IF you can meet with police, ambulance, prisons and fire, without getting bogged down in the official mire. **Embrace** the ethos of all our armed forces, those dependable work horses. And then the next day spend time with our valuable community groups, then again even more of our wonderful troops.

IF, in front of Prince Edward, you can co-ordinate A curtsy, a handshake, and saying your 'Royal Highness' while wearing your finest, Then hold your head high (pause), and utter a sigh; **IF** you can remain dignified while your ostrich feathered hat is whisked away by a North Sea squall And quickly thank the kind army cadet who boldly rescued it without a summons call.

IF you can remember, when invited on a ship to dine; to wear flat shoes and trousers, then all will be fine As climbing up a ladder, in high heels and a dress, could cause quite a stir, in the wardroom mess.

IF you are prepared to fundraise from scratch, And speak to Foundations and Charitable trusts Saying 'Please, oh please, please give us some cash' And then meet triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same.

IF you would like to peruse Magna Carta, then let us oblige you. Today, please have your own review, if you would like to. A law to treat each man the same each one judged by 12 knights true, one of 63 clauses that you can now view ... Creating it 800 years ago was such a breakthrough **IF** you can enjoy wining and dining High Court Judges, and not worry about etiquette over much, And talk with confidence fun and wit; then you'll have the common touch, and YES be a hit.

IF you can celebrate with all our young heroes, who are inspiring and focused and sadly often unnoticed. Jumping through hoops, and always protected by those caring people keeping them connected. **IF** you can receive five Remembrance Day invitations And remain diplomatic and keep good relations Attending one you can, without causing offence or any sensations

IF you can fill all your hours with work; And keep your long-suffering husband faithfully sweet Then there has to be a perk;



or perhaps even a treat **IF** you can fill every minute of your shrieval year Filling each day with fun come sun or high water, Yours will be the Counties of Northumberland 'and Tyne and Wear' And—what is more—you'll be a High Sheriff, my son, my daughter!

Lucy Carroll and Lucy Winskell

Above: Lucy Carroll (left) and her partner against crime, Lucy Winskell OBE, DL, High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear



From the serious to the hilarious

THERE IS no doubt that I and my wife Lorraine have just completed a hectic and fascinating year. No High Court Judges and no royal visits in Powys might have been marginally disappointing, but there have been so many serious and thought-provoking moments linked to church services, swearing-in ceremonies and the judiciary that there has been no time to dwell on what might have been. A morning in the Coroner's Court in Brecon was something I would not wish to repeat too often and has led me to great admiration for the grass roots of all aspects of our judiciary.

There have been lighter moments. In Knighton, a small town in Radnorshire,



Above: Primary school reserved seat card
Below: Crickhowell High School, third in Category B, National Crimebeat Awards



Ann Tudor, now High Sheriff of Powys, receives a decanter from the High Sheriff on leaving the magistracy



I opened the World Open International Draughts Competition (no laughter please) which included teams from Barbados, Ukraine and Turkmenistan. In the same town, in full uniform, I hung their award-winning eco-flag which fell off the wall. Light refreshments were six bottles of wine for eight people... say no more!

We went to three primary schools where the children watch a professional play. A police initiative, the children do all the PR, hosting and announcements. In a line-up before the beginning, they give their orders. A boy in Llanfaes Primary shouted 'If you have a child and it cries, TAKE IT OUT.' We need a bit more of that, perhaps. Lorraine's reserved seat card has to be seen to be believed... see picture.

Twelve-year-old Jack, although not named in my half-year report – the one who said 'Don't you feel embarrassed walking around looking like that?' – reappeared in the second half on a similar 'problem boys' training exercise run by the Fire and Rescue Service. A little figure

appeared from a smoke-filled Portakabin and said 'Hello Sir, don't you remember me?' I did, and have no doubt that one day he will make a good fireman or policeman himself.

And finally, the quote of the year was at the Powys Young Farmers Club carol service in the Plough Chapel, Brecon. In an interesting version of the Annunciation, at the point where Mary expresses concern at the potential for alarm from Joseph due to an unexpected pregnancy, was reassured by Archangel Gabriel, 'Don't worry, Mary, I'll sort Joseph out.'

Among others, the police, fire service and YFC do impressive work for young people in Powys.

At the other extreme, but equally amazing, was an event in Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, for the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Awards. Well organised with loud music, strobe lighting, glitz and pomp, it put a night at the Oscars to shame.

High points for Lorraine and I were endless, but I will never forget being the returning officer for Brecon and Radnorshire at the general election and the wonderful day out in London for the National Crimebeat awards in which Crickhowell High School, mentored by PC Pole and PCSO Dunne, came third in Category B. What a year!

♦ Lt Colonel M H L Lewis DL

High Sheriff of Powys 2015-16

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People make the world go round

Above: Interview with young journalist

Opposite page: Keeping my hand in

AS MY term of office draws to a close I can reflect on the great honour it has been to serve as Her Majesty's High Sheriff of Rutland. It has been one of the most wonderfully exciting, enjoyable and moving years of my life – over 250 events, the majority requiring court dress, and I urge those in nomination to wear your court dress until you wear it out. It is so important we maintain our English and Welsh traditions; prancing about the streets of Rutland in tights in the 21st century may seem bizarre, but if we lose these traditions we lose part of our national

identity. I for one will fight to keep that.

My aspiration to visit every school in Rutland was almost achieved, only missing the target by two. One of the highlights was being interviewed by the Young Journalists Association at a school in Kendrew Barracks. After a visit to one school where I mentioned I knew the father of two children, their father came home to two very excited offspring who, when asked what all the fuss was about, said, 'Dad, someone really famous knows you.' I usually hid in the staff room and then

appeared in the assembly to gasps from the boys about my sword. When the teacher introduced me as a special guest and invited the children to guess who I was, 'pirate' was the most usual answer.

If you can, try to get into the local press as often as possible. Local papers are good at publishing interesting pictures and articles and mine have been very helpful in raising the profile of what the Shrievalty can achieve. Someone even remarked that since they hadn't seen me in the paper the previous week they thought I had died, to which I replied that had I died I would have been in the paper's obituary column.

I have frequently asked to go into places most cannot access. I have been to every prison in Leicestershire and Rutland and even saw an inmate I knew. It's always nice to see a close relative in their natural environment! One of the more unusual trips was to a crematorium which was fascinating. The number of things one cannot put in a coffin is surprising, but the staff are always willing to show people round to allay some of the stigmas surrounding our ultimate destination. Don't be afraid to ask – they can only say no.

You may also get some strange requests. One of my last tasks was to play a game of crib with a

man travelling the country playing a hand in each of the ancient counties of England. I hadn't played for years but soon got back into it and gave him a good run for his money.

Please don't try to outdo your predecessor in the amount of money you raise or the size and number of parties you hold. I have raised a modest amount for my charities with my opera and comedy nights, but as Rutland is so small I think per capita I must be up there with the best.

At my Declaration I said that I loved my country and my county and would try to serve them both to the best of my ability. I hope I have achieved this and if I have made just one person's life a little better then it has been worthwhile. A quote I use frequently – 'We cannot all be stars but we can try not to be clouds' – is a really good philosophy. It is not oil or money which makes the world go around, it is people, and you will have the opportunity to meet some of the most selfless of them. To those of you looking forward to your year with nervous excitement, all I can say is, if you have half the fun I have had you'll have one of the best years of your life.

♦♦ **Andrew Brown**
High Sheriff of Rutland 2015-16

“At my Declaration I said that I loved my country and my county and would try to serve them both to the best of my ability. I hope I have achieved this and if I have made just one person's life a little better then it has been worthwhile”





Back to earth with a bump

MY SURPRISE at finding my wife Annabel and myself on the cover of *The High Sheriff* last summer was nothing compared to Annabel's. I had failed to mention that I had sent in a photo of the two of us in wet suits taken shortly after we had completed the Severn Mile Swim. I hadn't mentioned it because I thought that, in the unlikely event of the image being used at all, it would be the size of a postage stamp and we'd all have a bit of a laugh. With hindsight that was an error, but after a couple of nights sleeping on the sofa I was forgiven. It was not a flattering photo but it was widely agreed that I came out of it the worst (and in answer to your question, Richard in Shrewsbury – no I am not transitioning). For this edition I am only submitting pictures of us with clothes on.

I know the Sheriff's uniform doesn't really suit me either. Did I read somewhere that it was designed as court dress by Prince Albert? That seems unlikely because it was clearly inspired with Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen in mind and he wasn't alive then. I don't know whether Laurence does

good works in his county but if he does he should surely be nominated. I understand he lives in Gloucestershire.

The charity I've supported during my year has been Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin. They are independent of Age UK, whose reputation was damaged by the EON electricity supply scandal. While one can't condone what Age UK did, one can understand the temptation, but the consequence is that they've made it more difficult for local Age UK branches to fundraise. The story also diverted attention away from the excellent work that Age UK does providing information, researching issues and campaigning. I will continue to retain an interest in these issues and, with dementia in the family, am encouraged by some of the new approaches that are being researched for the treatment of Alzheimer's. Having watched Angela Rippon's TV programme *How to Stay Young*, I know what to ask for when my children ask me what I want for Christmas – 'a pint of your youthful blood'.

Above: Edward Harley (Herefordshire), David and Annabel Stacey, Jonnie Turpie (West Midlands), Janet Bell Smith (Warwickshire) and Sir Anthony Winnington Bt (Worcestershire)

Opposite page: The Shropshire Legal Service in Ludlow on 6 March 2016

Most counties have their Legal Services at the start of the legal year; in Shropshire we hold them at the end of the shrieval year. In most counties outgoing High Sheriffs give a talk at the Declaration ceremonies of their successors but in Shropshire new High Sheriffs give the address on that occasion, and then, as outgoing Sheriffs, reflect on their year at the Legal Services. It does make the Legal Service a more personal event.

My father was a clergyman and I happily whiled away many youthful hours playing pulpit cricket while he was preaching. It was strange for the roles to be reversed and for me to be in the pulpit. He seemed to be paying attention but I found out later that he couldn't hear me because his hearing aid wasn't working. It was lovely that my aged parents were able to be there as they probably won't make it to Shropshire again and they much enjoyed seeing me process with my sister, a Circuit Judge in Birmingham.

We were fortunate enough to have a good turnout of the county's judges and magistracy, including some senior judiciary who have made their homes in the area, and the Queen's Remembrancer came up from London. A few 'big wigs' do add to the theatre and sense of occasion. The stall holders and shoppers looked on admiringly – at least I think they were admiring – as we threaded our way from the castle through the Ludlow Sunday market to St Laurence's Church.

Three days out of office we attended the installation of Bill Jackson as the new High Sheriff of Herefordshire. There was reserved parking for VIPs. 'Are you VIPs?'; 'Of course'; 'Well, you're not on the list.' Back to earth with a bump.

♦♦ David Stacey
High Sheriff of Shropshire 2015-16





High Sheriff at high speed

IT HAS been a huge privilege to be linked so closely with all the law and order organisations in Surrey. Clearly this area links with the original role of the High Sheriff and I have appreciated the opportunity to visit prisons, courts, the police, probation and other support agencies. I went out with the Surrey Police in an unmarked car and became involved in a 140mph chase up the A3 to Wimbledon looking for a suspected burglar, whom we found. We followed our suspect into a side road where his path was blocked so my police driver had to do the arrest alone, but we knew that backup from the Met was only a minute behind. I had a front row seat in real cops and robbers! The whole experience demonstrated great team work and some of the difficulties presented, since I had not understood that the two police forces worked on different systems. The prisoner was taken back to Staines Police Station and I was subsequently told that he was interviewed for offences in Surrey, collected by Kent for seven suspected burglaries and there was a warrant out for his arrest in Croydon.

One of the highlights of my year was the annual Judicial Service which took

place on 2 October at Holy Trinity Church in Guildford. We processed from the Guildhall, up the High Street, to the church with trumpeters heralding us. I was very pleased to have my local primary school singing at the service and to base the service around my theme for the year: supporting rehabilitation of offenders, families and young people. I subsequently gave a dinner for all the Surrey judges and senior magistracy, using the Clink Charity outside events service. Two ex-prisoners working for the Clink spoke about their lives and the support and training they had received.

I have visited 20 of the projects supported by the High Sheriff's Youth Awards in Surrey this year. This small charity offers grants to projects for young people aged 9-18 and is aimed at making Surrey safer, so support is concentrated on areas of deprivation and need. Although Surrey has much wealth it also has pockets of deprivation hidden within affluent areas. The projects supported included help for youth clubs, providing mobile classrooms, and sporting and arts activities. Participation by the High Sheriff is not a requirement at a visit but is often encouraged: this led to my trying out one of the paddle boards we paid for



Above: Leatherhead Youth Project – presentation of the High Sheriff's Youth Award certificate for the Girls Blazers evening



Above: Opening Surrey and Sussex Care Showcase

at Godalming Canoe Club and, yes, you guessed it – I fell into the river!

We were particularly lucky to have so many royal visits and I've met most of the senior members of the Royal Family. Surrey would not function well as a community without its volunteers and I am delighted to have visited many inspiring voluntary and charitable organisations, as well as some great schools including special schools. Visiting Surrey University was a highlight, particularly to understand something of its leading research projects such as the 5G Innovation Centre (mobile and wireless communications research) and Surrey Satellites (weather forecasting and disaster monitoring).

Surrey is a great county to live in.

◆ Elizabeth Kennedy
High Sheriff of Surrey 2015-16



Joint ventures in the North East

LIKE POLICE officers, fire fighters seem to be getting younger! The photograph I have submitted with this article shows the fantastic young fire fighters at Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue who extinguished flames engulfing a large house with some speed and vigour during the training demonstrations on the night of the Fire Authority's Prize Giving. The 'real' fire fighters who received awards from me were a little older!

That particular event highlighted to me how much I have enjoyed meeting and working with the young people of Tyne and Wear. In the winter edition, I talked about the strong sense of community in this county, and the last six months have simply served to reinforce that sense of community.

No better example can be given than the evening of the Tyne and Wear High Sheriff's Awards Ceremony. Some years ago, an endowment fund was established by two of my predecessors and every year these funds are used to support volunteer-led groups in the county working with children and young people, many of whom

face very challenging circumstances at an early stage of their lives. I have been moved by the determination, dedication and warmth of so many of these volunteers, and the fantastic ways in which these young people are learning to play such a meaningful part in their communities.

Supported by a very able fundraising team around me, including a number of former High Sheriffs, we raised £46,000 to add to the fund, and this allowed me to distribute 62 awards to these organisations – a record! I shook the hands of over 120 young people, and I didn't stop smiling all evening. A fantastic way to end an exhilarating year.

Music has featured prominently in the course of the year – from the beautiful choirs of York Minster, Durham Cathedral and St Nicholas's Cathedral in Newcastle upon Tyne when we attended the various legal services in the North East, to marching military bands, and to my favourite – listening to voices of the group that won second prize at the Award Ceremony. This was a group of young people endeavouring to overcome some

Above: Lucy Winskell with the young fire fighters of Tyne and Wear Fire Authority

challenging mental health issues, and the courage they showed in performing on stage in front of such a large audience was remarkable, as was the fact that they had written their own music and lyrics.

I'm sure that in common with all other High Sheriffs who have come to the end of their term, my husband John and I will look back on this year as one of the most rewarding and interesting times of our lives. We have been overwhelmed by support from so many and have especially enjoyed joining forces with Lucy Carroll, High Sheriff of Northumberland, on many ventures – including our attempt at poetry on National Poetry Day which coincided with our Letters Patent event.

I should like to thank everyone who has supported me over the last year – John and I have appreciated it very much.

◆ Lucy Winskell OBE DL
High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2015-16



Above: Presentation of the High Sheriff's Youth Award certificate to Brockham Youth Café



I gained much, but not weight

I FELT a bit overwhelmed when starting to draft this article for *The High Sheriff* following the end of my year as High Sheriff of Warwickshire, as there are far too many examples of the wonderful times I had to list them all, so I have limited my comments to a few general observations.

The first two things that sprang to mind were totally personal achievements:

First, I have managed not to put on any weight throughout this gastronomic year – which, I can assure you, was a great feat bearing in mind everyone's generous hospitality. And second, thanks to a lovely official outfit designed by the Royal Shakespeare Company, which I have worn at least three times a week, I have saved a fortune on my clothes wardrobe!

On a more serious note, when I look back over the year I am struck by the fantastic opportunity I was given through being not 'Janet Bell Smith' but the 'High Sheriff'. I have been amazed how warm and welcoming people were all over the county even though they didn't know me at all. The most striking thing about so many of the people I



Kieran McGerty, youth worker, Chris White, MP for Warwick and Leamington and the High Sheriff with representatives of SAFE Youth Club

“The amount of time and effort contributed in the name of charity and volunteering – without fuss or publicity and with no expectation of any personal return – is exceptional”

met is their unstinting desire to help others. The amount of time and effort contributed in the name of charity and volunteering – without fuss or publicity and with no expectation of any personal return – is exceptional. I was thrilled to receive an email recently from one of the many charities based in Warwickshire, which said 'it is a wonderful feeling when people like yourself positively recognise the work we do, it somehow makes it all worthwhile.' He went on to explain that the raising of awareness of his organisation by the Shrievalty was of real benefit to its profile and had

led to funding from two new sources. The position of High Sheriff gives one a wonderful opportunity to highlight numerous deserving causes.

During this year my respect for the police, other emergency services and the prison service has dramatically increased. I feel we hear and read far too much negative press about them but my year gave me a deeper understanding of the complexity of their role, and the barriers and challenges they have to overcome to deliver a far safer environment for us to live in. It's not just their dealing with crime prevention and emergencies: it is

also how they relate to the community they serve, often in very difficult circumstances.

The grand finale to the year had to be the National Crimebeat Awards held in London in March at which Warwickshire were joint winners. I was so proud to be there to see three young men, who had never spoken in public before, get up and give a presentation, without notes, to an audience of nearly a hundred people.

I have only had a couple of disappointments during the year: first, that as a female High Sheriff I was not allowed to carry a sword at any event and second, that I did not buy a warmer pair of shoes!

Finally, I would say to any incoming High Sheriff – Do make the most of it, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

♦♦ Janet Bell Smith JP
High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2015-16

Wonderful West Midlands

WELL, MY shrieval year has concluded! After spending the first six months learning the royal, mayoral and judicial protocols I began to relax into the role. My apprentice PA Jimi and my partner Marian equally got to know the ropes and the diary became manageable and the changing arrangements all began to go smoothly.

My focus on arts, creativity and young people enabled me to support a wide range of talent and organisations. Our garden party was a great success with our seven mayors nominating young people for awards in recognition of their voluntary contributions. It was supported by the public and private sector with Birmingham City Council launching its Creative Future strategy and Selfridges seeking to support new talent.

This public/private creative theme continued over my year as I met and celebrated youth and creativity across the county from Coventry in the south to Wolverhampton in the north. A memorable day was when HRH the Duke of Cambridge travelled by helicopter to central Birmingham. Prince William unveiled commemorative stones recalling the valiant deeds of ten winners of the Victoria Cross who fell in the Second World War. Later we travelled to east Birmingham where the predominantly Muslim community was hosting a Football for Peace event of which the



With young filmmakers and Media Eye Films

Prince is patron. Also in attendance was United Nations Special Ambassador Wilfried Lemke. Later in the year we were honoured to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to open the redeveloped New Street Station incorporating Grand Central shopping area. A very special day for the county.

I decided to end the year with an exhibition of young people's work in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and requested arts and creative organisations to nominate outstanding young people who have achieved beyond their expectations. It was a wonderful night and we made 11 awards including the Court Award presented by the Recorder of Birmingham His Honour Judge Melbourne Inman QC to Dean Partridge for his courage. It was also an opportunity for guests to donate to the Koestler and John Feeney charities for

which I am hugely grateful. I ran a young people's 10-second film competition in conjunction with the Year of Arts & Young People – YAY – and Grand Central where the films were screened on the immense media eyes!

I was pleased to award Nansen Primary School the Selfridges Sustainability Globe Award for winning a competition promoting recycling. Adam Hockney, general manager of Selfridges, presented the award to the teachers and children. I also arranged to visit the school and give an assembly the following week. It was a great occasion followed by a Q&A session where the first question from a young boy was: 'Can I be a High Sheriff?' To which of course I replied 'Yes – if you work hard'. A few questions later a young British Asian girl asked: 'Can girls be Sheriffs?' I said 'yes' and pointed out that of the last four West Midlands Sheriffs, two were women. Now one last question please – a young girl popped her hand in the air and asked: 'Sir, what is it like to wear tights?' An abiding memory of a wonderful year.

♦♦ Jonnie Turpie MBE
High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2015-16

• See the High Sheriff's blog which is a unique record of the year:
<https://highsheriffwm15.uk>

Below: Nansen School, recipient of the High Sheriff's Award. Below right: HM The Queen opens Grand Central





Inspiration from tragedy

IT HAS been a year of joy, sorrow and privilege and one of the joys of being High Sheriff has been to recognise, encourage and reward the many examples of community spirit in West Sussex. The Shoreham air show crash was not an event that I had expected to have to face during my year in office, but it exemplifies brilliantly such a spirit.

I was attending the air show that day last August as a guest of the Royal Air Force Association for which the show has been its main fundraiser. It was a beautiful clear summer's day – a day to enjoy and be happy. I had taken the salute from the magnificent RAF Falcon Parachute Display Team that morning. During lunch, I excused myself to see the Hawker Hunter do its spectacular pass along the runway and begin the climb for its roll. I remember being excited and moved by its grace but concerned by the seemingly low altitude that initiated the manoeuvre. I must mention, at this point, that I have a Private Pilot's Licence and knew this particular aircraft well. In what

seemed, and still seems, in slow motion, I remember that something appeared drastically wrong and as the inevitable happened, nothing could have prepared any of us for the dreadful sight of that horrific fireball and the gradual, ghastly, realisation of all that this was going to mean to so many.

For the spectators, the rest of the afternoon was also in slow motion. Not so for the emergency services who were magnificent in the face of appalling horror.

That terrible week in the midst of truly torrential rain – would the torture never end? – I visited the crash site on the A27 bridge with the Lord-Lieutenant and the Chief Constable. And tragedy turned remarkably to inspiration. The police officers patiently shaking the trees and bushes for, well, frankly, bits as small as fingernails. The volunteers on the catering truck. St John Ambulance – again all volunteers working twelve hour shifts. The white-coated men and women cataloguing all the body parts at filing cabinets and desks standing upon the

white traffic lines along the tarmac of the A27. Strangely surreal, yet oh so active.

I watched them box up some remains and as the box was carried to the mortuary van to go to Brighton everyone stopped work to line the route in respect. This happened each time. For a box of pieces. And during all this, local ladies delivered cakes and Marks and Spencer and Tesco donated socks and food. There was a lovely moment too when some children gave one of the police search teams a box of Cadbury Heroes.

So, from this tragedy a community had come together. The fund – managed by the Sussex Community Foundation – has topped £190,000, with £90,000 already paid out so far to help the bereaved families. There continues to be help, care and protection for the most vulnerable for the good of all. Something I think that all High Sheriffs are proud to represent.

♦♦ Denise Patterson
High Sheriff of West Sussex 2015-16

Discovering hidden gems

THE SECOND half of my shrieval year continued to be very busy and included many memorable experiences. One of the great pleasures of the year has been the friendships forged between the four Yorkshire High Sheriffs and their wives. In addition to attending and processing at the various legal services in the counties, we have visited several places together. These included the Police National Treatment Centre in Harrogate, which is a rehabilitation facility for injured police officers; the state-of-the-art Police Training Centre near Wakefield where we were shown the range of facilities, including firearms training, driver training and riot control; and a number of joint visits to prisons.

The eight of us spent a day in Hull, first visiting the regional offices of the Border Force where we gained an insight into the important work of this government agency. This was followed by an afternoon sail on the Humber in the sailing boat owned by the charity Cat Zero which is led by Jim Dick, High Sheriff of the East Riding.

We also spent a day visiting two organisations in North Yorkshire that work tirelessly to help keep us all safe.

First we went to the little-known outpost of GCHQ near Scarborough which has operated in that location for over 100 years. They explained the important work they do in the areas of counter-terrorism and cybercrime, as well as addressing other issues including child sexual exploitation, people trafficking and smuggling. Later we visited RAF Fylingdales which was the site of the giant 'golf balls', once a prominent sight on the North Yorkshire landscape and now replaced by a single giant pyramid structure. It forms part of the worldwide chain of ballistic missile early-warning sensors and their radars provide early warning of a missile attack. They are also engaged in space surveillance, monitoring the movements of the tens of thousands of items orbiting in space, from objects a few inches long through to the international space station which is the size of two football pitches.

One of the great privileges of being High Sheriff is the opportunity to discover hidden gems in the county. The Wakefield area is the home of the 'rhubarb triangle', a nine-square-mile area which is famous for the forced growing of rhubarb, a cultivation

method that was developed in the early 1800s. Together with Charlie Forbes Adam, High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, and his wife Ros, my wife Heather and I were part of a group which visited a forced rhubarb growing shed and listened to an explanation of the growing technique from a third-generation rhubarb farmer. The rhubarb plants spend two years outside and are moved into heated sheds in November and kept in complete darkness until they are harvested by candlelight during February and March.

The shrieval year flew by, as I knew it would, but it has provided so many experiences that will stay with me forever.

♦♦ Ed Anderson
High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2015-16

Below left: Ed and Heather Anderson visit Oldroyds Rhubarb Farm, Carlton, Wakefield

Below: Yorkshire High Sheriffs and wives at RAF Fylingdales: Jim Dick (East Riding), Christine Dick, John Holt (South Yorkshire), Ros Forbes Adam, Ed Anderson (West Yorkshire), Lynn Holt, Heather Anderson, Charlie Forbes Adam (North Yorkshire), Station Commander Wing Commander Dave Keighley



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BERKSHIRE	Mrs V J Fishburn
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	The Hon Mrs C R Soames DL
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Sir David Arculus
CHESHIRE	Mrs K H Cowell OBE DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	Ms H M Wilde
CORNWALL	Mrs J Hartley
CUMBRIA	The Revd T R Lee
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs E J Fothergill CBE
DEVON	Mrs A M Gilbert
DORSET	Sir Philip Williams Bt JP DL
DURHAM	G C J Salvin Esq
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	T G Martin Esq
EAST SUSSEX	M J Foster Esq DL
ESSEX	Mrs L J Rolfe JP
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	The Rt Hon the Countess Bathurst
GREATER LONDON	Sir Nigel Knowles
GREATER MANCHESTER	The Lady Smith of Leigh DL
HAMPSHIRE	T H Floyd Esq
HEREFORDSHIRE	W J Jackson Esq
HERTFORDSHIRE	S H Stefanou Esq OBE DL
ISLE OF WIGHT	R V Courage Esq MBE
KENT	Mrs K F Smallwood
LANCASHIRE	J M Barnett Esq MBE DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	Professor S Sharma
LINCOLNSHIRE	Mrs J G A Hughes DL
MERSEYSIDE	J C M Davies Esq OBE DL
NORFOLK	Major General Sir William Cubitt KCVO CBE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	Mrs C C Brocklehurst
NORTHUMBERLAND	W Browne-Swinburne Esq
NORTH YORKSHIRE	J W Furness Esq
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Mrs J L Naake
OXFORDSHIRE	Mrs S J Taylor
RUTLAND	Dr S H Furness
SHROPSHIRE	Mrs C M Holmes JP
SOMERSET	E W G Bayntun-Coward Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Dr J MacDonald
STAFFORDSHIRE	Colonel D L Leigh TD DL
SUFFOLK	W B Kendall Esq DL
SURREY	R Whittington Esq
TYNE AND WEAR	J D Mowbray Esq OBE
WARWICKSHIRE	R M D Samuda Esq
WEST MIDLANDS	Dr K G Bradshaw DL
WEST SUSSEX	D M Spofforth Esq OBE
WEST YORKSHIRE	C J Brown Esq
WILTSHIRE	D K Hempleman-Adams Esq LVO OBE
WORCESTERSHIRE	Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt
Wales	
CLWYD	J P O’Toole Esq DL
DYFED	Professor M Hughes DL
GWENT	A J Clay Esq
GWYNEDD	Dr P G Harlech Jones
MID GLAMORGAN	G J George Esq
POWYS	Mrs A Tudor JP
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Professor J D Williams OBE
WEST GLAMORGAN	Professor D M Mead OBE

Only honours, awards and appointments emanating from the Crown and the office of DL have been included.

NEW MEMBERS
The Association welcomes the following
as new members

Name	County	Year of Office
Mrs N Alberry DL	Wiltshire	2018
Mrs S C Balsom	Dyfed	2017
G E Barker Esq	Berkshire	2018
S F M Berry Esq	Cumbria	2018
B R H Burrough Esq	Essex	2018
S M Davies Esq	Dyfed	2018
Dr N J England DL	Isle of Wight	2018
Mrs P J Gee DL	Staffordshire	2018
H M Gilbert Esq	West Glamorgan	2018
Mrs A H Hall	Derbyshire	2017
S A D Hall Esq MBE	Essex	2017
Lady Hanmer	Clwyd	2018
Dr A C Harter	Cambridgeshire	2018
Mrs S R Harvey	Hertfordshire	2018
T N Hone Esq DL	Herefordshire	2018
Dr J L Hudson OBE DL	West Midlands	2017
S Ingram Esq	South Yorkshire	2018
C R Jackson Esq MBE DL	West Yorkshire	2018
Mrs M S Jarron	Rutland	2018
B C Lakin Esq	South Glamorgan	2018
C J C Legard Esq	North Yorkshire	2018
Mrs S E L Linnard	Gwent	2018
The Revd the Lady Lisvane	Herefordshire	2017
C Martell Esq	Gloucestershire	2018
Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL	East Sussex	2018
R S Napier Esq CBE	Surrey	2018
Mrs C S Nicholls DL	West Sussex	2018
R G Opie Esq	City of Bristol	2018
M W Orde Esq	Northumberland	2018
Mrs L B Palmer	Derbyshire	2018
R F A Pemberton Esq	Cambridgeshire	2017
Mrs G T Phillips	Devon	2018
A J G Polhill Esq	Bedfordshire	2018
D R Price Esq	Powys	2018
G T C Probert Esq	Suffolk	2017
C B L L Roberts Esq	Worcestershire	2018
Mrs D J Rosenberg	East Riding of Yorkshire	2018
Mrs C A I Sawdon	Warwickshire	2018
C A E Spicer Esq	Greater London	2018
Mrs J A Swift DL	Dorset	2018
R M Swire Esq DL	Shropshire	2018
M E Thistlethwayte Esq	Hampshire	2018
Mrs D Thompson	Leicestershire	2018
R Venables Esq	Oxfordshire	2018
I H Walter Esq	Lincolnshire	2018
J S Watson Esq	Northamptonshire	2018
C J Watt Esq	Norfolk	2018

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

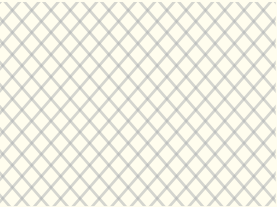
County	2017-18	2018-19
BEDFORDSHIRE	V B Tailor Esq DL	A J G Polhill Esq
BERKSHIRE	Mrs S P Scrope DL	G E Barker Esq
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	M G Clare Esq	Professor R S Farwell CBE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	R F A Pemberton Esq	Dr A C Harter
CHESHIRE	Mrs S A M Callander Beckett	Mrs A J Redmond MBE
CITY OF BRISTOL	A R E Brown Esq	R G Opie Esq
CUMBRIA	A G M Wannop Esq	S F M Berry Esq
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs A H Hall	Mrs L B Palmer
DEVON	Mrs H Lindsay-Fynn	Mrs G T Phillips
DORSET	S J Young Esq MC JP DL	Mrs J A Swift DL
DURHAM	Mrs C P Peacock	Dr S M Cronin
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	Mrs G E Drewry	Mrs D J Rosenberg
EAST SUSSEX	Mrs M J Chowen	Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL
ESSEX	S A D Hall Esq MBE	B R H Burrough Esq
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Lt Colonel A J Tabor JP	C Martell Esq
GREATER LONDON	W J Furber Esq	C A E Spicer Esq
HAMPSHIRE	The Hon Mrs M R Montagu-Scott	M E Thistlethwayte Esq
HEREFORDSHIRE	The Revd the Lady Lisvane	T N Hone Esq DL
HERTFORDSHIRE	W A Hobhouse Esq	Mrs S R Harvey
ISLE OF WIGHT	B M A S Rouse Esq	Dr N J England DL
KENT	G E Jessel Esq DL	The Hon N J Boscawen
LEICESTERSHIRE	T P Maxted Esq	Mrs D Thompson
LINCOLNSHIRE	A S Clark Esq DL	I H Walter Esq
NORFOLK	A J S Bagge Esq	C J Watt Esq
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	R Fordham Esq	J S Watson Esq
NORTHUMBERLAND	J R Dickinson Esq	M W Orde Esq
NORTH YORKSHIRE	S M Wrightson Esq	C J C Legard Esq
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Colonel D R Sneath TD DL	N R B Ebbs Esq
OXFORDSHIRE	Miss J E Cranston	R Venables Esq
RUTLAND	C L Mitchell Esq	Mrs M S Jarron
SHROPSHIRE	C E Lillis Esq	R M Swire Esq DL
SOMERSET	R S Hickmet Esq	D A S Burn Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	D Grey Esq MBE	S Ingram Esq
STAFFORDSHIRE	H D S Scott-Moncrieff Esq DL	Mrs P J Gee DL
SUFFOLK	G T C PROBERT ESQ	G M W VESTEY ESQ
SURREY	N J S Wood-Dow Esq DL	R S Napier Esq CBE
TYNE AND WEAR	Lt General R V Brims CB CBE DSO DL	P M Callaghan Esq
WARWICKSHIRE	M E T Davies Esq	Mrs C A I Sawdon
WEST MIDLANDS	Dr J L Hudson OBE DL	C T Loughran Esq
WEST SUSSEX	The Lady Emma Barnard	Mrs C S Nicholls DL
WEST YORKSHIRE	Dr T G Bramall CBE	C R Jackson Esq MBE DL
WILTSHIRE	The Lady Marland	Mrs N Alberry DL
WORCESTERSHIRE	S A Betts Esq	C B L L Roberts Esq

*Note: Names for nominees in Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside are only published shortly before the nominated High Sheriff assumes Office.

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

County	2017-18	2018-19
CLWYD	Mrs C H G Howard	Lady Hanmer
DYFED	Mrs S C Balsom	S M Davies Esq
GWENT	J K L Thomas Esq JP	Mrs S E L Linnard
GWYNEDD	Professor S Hope OBE	D G Morgan Esq
MID GLAMORGAN	D J Davies Esq JP	J H Wall Esq
POWYS	Mrs S E Thompson	D R Price Esq
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	G C Lloyd Esq	B C Lakin Esq
WEST GLAMORGAN	Mrs R L Fleet JP	H M Gilbert Esq

Only honours, awards and appointments emanating from the Crown and the office of DL have been included.



DEATHS
The Association has
learned with regret
of the deaths of the
following former High
Sheriffs and members:

S B J Z De Ferranti Esq
Date of death: 15/10/2015
Age: 88
County: Cheshire
Year of office: 1988

J A C Godfrey Esq CBE
Date of death: 01/12/2015
Age: 67
County: Lincolnshire
Year of office: 2010

**Wing Cmdr L F Ratcliff
DSO DFC* AFC AE**
Date of death: 01/04/2016
Age: 96
County: Essex
Year of office: 1988

Dr W J St E-G Rhys
Date of death: 09/06/2016
Age: 90
County: Dyfed
Year of office: 1979

J L Wood Esq JP DL
Date of death: 14/03/2016
Age: 80
County: Hertfordshire
Year of office: 1988



ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS



The High Sheriff's Badge
(for wearing round the neck) **£185.00**
41mm x 74mm



Tie (Navy blue, green or maroon in pure silk) **£32.00**



Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge
Single **£27.00**, 2+ **£20.00** each
(2 for preaching scarves)



Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse
Gilt for serving and retired High Sheriffs, silver for High Sheriff's spouses/escorts **£14.50 each** 15mm x 25mm



Enamel and gilt cufflinks
available with a chain or T-Bar fitting. Each pair comes in its own presentation box **£38**



Ladies Pure Silk Scarf
Navy blue, maroon or green. 14oz dye printed – pure silk twill with multiple copies of the Association's badge overprinted in gold. Size 140cm x 30cm (56" x 113/4") **£20.00**



The Lady High Sheriff's Badge
£185.00
45mm x 74mm



High Sheriff's Car Pennant
Complete with mast **£45.00**

High Sheriff's March
A CD of the March (playing time approximately 8½ minutes) **£7.00**

HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD CERTIFICATE

The High Sheriff's Award Certificate was introduced by the Association in 1992 to meet the request of High Sheriffs who wished for some means of recognising and rewarding the many 'unsung heroes' they encountered in their county during their year of office. The High Sheriff's Award Certificate over the years has provided High Sheriffs with a popular and practical method of achieving this goal.

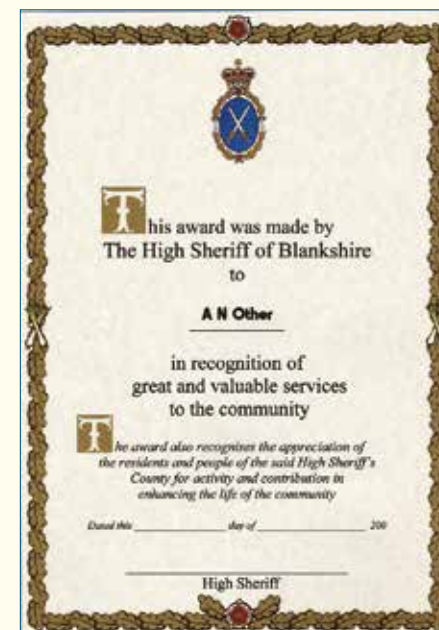
The certificate can be provided in two different styles:
STYLE 1 comes with the name of your county already printed on it and blanks in

which you insert the name of the recipient, the date details and then your signature.

STYLE 2 allows you, when placing your order, to supply the name of the recipient and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script before they are supplied to you.

The price for each certificate, which includes the cost of postage and packing, is:

Style 1: £4.00, Style 2: £5.00



CROWN COURT AWARD CERTIFICATE

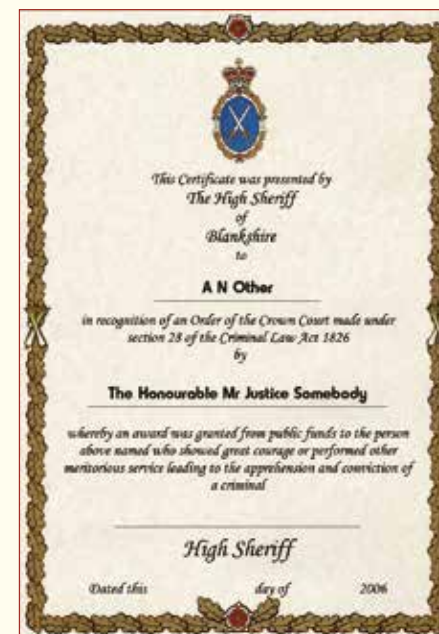
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

STYLE 1 comes with the name of the county already printed and blank spaces provided for the High Sheriff in which to enter the name of the recipient, the name of the Judge, or Recorder; and the date of presentation.

STYLE 2 lets the High Sheriff, at the time of placing an order, supply the name of the recipient; the name of the Judge or Recorder; and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script.

The price for each certificate, which includes the cost of postage and packing, is:

Style 1: £4.00, Style 2: £5.00



PUBLICATIONS



A Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

Produced and published by
The High Sheriffs' Association of England & Wales

Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

This 27-page guide, published in 2006, outlines the key elements of the role of High Sheriff in the 21st century and gives practical advice to those preparing to take Office **£2.00**



Back issues of the Association magazine The High Sheriff
£2.00



A History in Commemoration of The Sheriff's Millennium (1992)
£1.00



Notes on the Office of High Sheriff
(per pack of 50 folded cards) **£7.50**

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.
Cheques etc. payable to 'The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales'

Remittances with order please, to:
The Secretary
The High Sheriffs' Association
Heritage House, PO Box 21
Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH

Tel: 01462-896688 Fax: 01462-896677 E-mail: shrievalty@hall-mccartney.co.uk

Questions and Answers

Q Are we Sheriffs or High Sheriffs? I often see historical references to sheriffs, eg in Magna Carta and well into the 20th century.

A The adjective 'high' has been used for centuries in relation to the sheriffs of counties, to distinguish them from City sheriffs and to indicate that they are the Sovereign's sheriffs. Curiously it was only under the Local Government Act 1972 that the term High Sheriff was given the royal seal of approval. Section 219 (1) decreed that 'Sheriffs appointed for a county or Greater London shall be known as high sheriffs, and any reference in any enactment or instrument to a sheriff shall be construed accordingly in relation to sheriffs for a county or Greater London'. The Act took effect at midnight on 1 April 1974 so the superstitious need not worry that its provisions were an illusion. Colloquially the word 'sheriff' is often used of high sheriffs.

Q Can High Sheriffs' Chaplains be of any seniority in their religious denominations?

A Yes they can. It is probably best for both parties that the High Sheriff appoints a person he or she knows well – the local incumbent or licensed lay minister, or a close relation or friend. Geographical convenience should be a consideration. Chaplains can be of any denomination or faith appropriate to the High Sheriff.

The High Sheriff

The Editor welcomes articles and news stories from High Sheriffs concerning their year in office.

The next edition of The High Sheriff will be published in **December 2016**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 23 September 2016**

Items for inclusion should be sent to:

The Editor, *The High Sheriff* magazine
c/o Hall-McCartney Ltd,
PO Box 21 Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH
Email: editor@highsheriffs.com

To advertise in *The High Sheriff*

please contact Geoff Connelly

Tel: 01462 896688

Email: geoff@hall-mccartney.co.uk

www.hall-mccartney.co.uk

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