



The High Sheriff

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



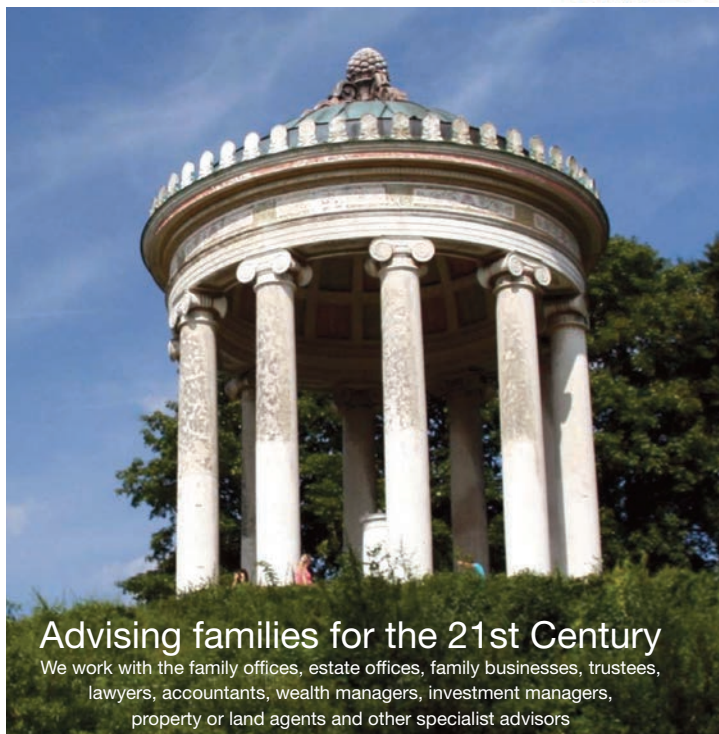
Young people creating safer communities
SUMMER 2017




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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.

The next edition of *The High Sheriff* will be published in December 2017. Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 22 September 2017**.

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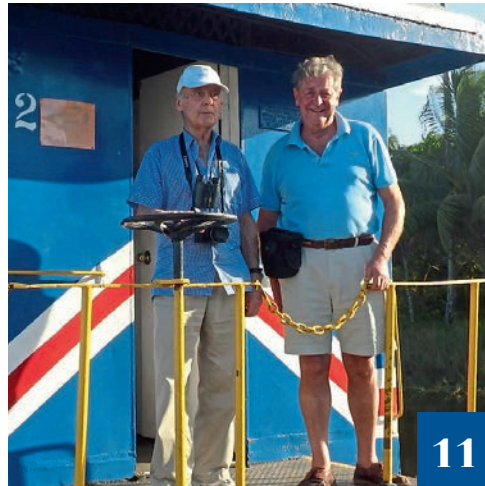
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for answers to your questions



From the Editor

Last year's High Sheriffs' 'end-of-term' reports cover a wide range of interesting topics and I am grateful to them for sending these to *The High Sheriff*. As one writer puts it, High Sheriffs are the 'cheerleaders' promoting the useful and often unpublicised work of their counties' volunteers. Several articles touch on shrieval initiatives to tackle domestic abuse and boost a sense of purpose in prisons; one prison even started a book club and a WI branch. High Sheriffs are certainly imaginative: one organised a vintage car hill climb; another climbed Kilimanjaro. An article encourages High Sheriffs to promote knowledge and pride in the history of their counties, and, as if they had read this, one instituted an annual 'county day' and another published a history of the county's Shrievalty. *Country Life*, yet again, serves sheriffs well in Kate Green's 'They keep the Cotswolds working' (3 May 2017). Countess Bathurst, immediate past High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and her successor, Colonel Andrew Tabor, feature prominently with well-deserved exposure of the work they are doing in their county. William Kendall's 'Don't shoot the sheriff' (24 May 2017) gives an entertaining and informative account of his recent non-stop year in Suffolk.

Many High Sheriffs will have performed their statutory duty of declaring the results of the poll in county constituencies at the recent general election. This emphasises the importance of the non-political nature of the appointment, one for which sheriffs are ideally suited, as are civic mayors and chairmen who don't take their party whip while in office. If any readers made declarations I hope they will send photographs to editor@highsheriffs.com.

Having attended two regional seminars for High Sheriffs in nomination and heard reports of other meetings, I am impressed by the breadth of shrieval information imparted and discussed, which all participants say are of immeasurable help. Your Association's Council hopes that members, especially new ones, find the topics and answers to questions published on the Association's website interesting and helpful. Many of these are listed on page 42 of this issue. Your Council, the honorary Secretary and this magazine are always happy to try to answer members' questions.

It is sad to report that Clare Elwes, an honorary member of the Association and widow of its founder Captain Jeremy Elwes (High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1969-70), died on 3 May. As readers know, the Association aims to promote and sustain the ancient Office of High Sheriff and its traditional responsibilities of supporting the judiciary and law enforcement and crime reduction. It represents the interests of High Sheriffs and encourages their increasing involvement with voluntary sector organisations. This would not have been achieved without the vision of Jeremy Elwes, who was anxious that the shrieval role would not be diminished when Crown Courts replaced the Assize and Quarter Sessions Courts in 1972. He also suggested that High Sheriffs should visit hospitals, schools and prisons to understand the social conditions in their counties and share this information with the relevant organisations.

I end by passing on Council's welcome to new members of the Association listed on page 38 and wishing all this year's High Sheriffs a fulfilling year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Andrew Wells'.

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06

Diary 2017

of Forthcoming Events

JULY 2017

Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2018 and 2019

Friday 7 July 2017

The 2017 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3JY, on Friday 7 July 2017. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will have been sent in mid-May 2017 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2018 and 2019.

OCTOBER 2017

The Red Mass

Monday 2 October 2017

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 Ladies' Lunch

Thursday 5 October 2017

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 Juliet Westoll, whose email address is: juliet@glinger.co.uk.

NOVEMBER 2017

46th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday 1 November 2017

The Association's 46th AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall. 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 2017. Our luncheon speaker will be Lord Neuberger, the newly retired President of the Supreme Court.

The nomination of future High Sheriffs

Monday 13 November 2017 probably at 2.00 pm

The ceremony of the nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Monday 13 November 2017 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 2018, 2019 and 2020 will be read out in court. Following the court ceremony, and for all those attending, the Association will hold a tea party nearby between 3.00pm and 4.30pm. The Secretary will write in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2018 and for 2019 inviting them to



attend. The tea party provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for a few 2020 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2020 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend.

RECENT EVENTS

Regional co-ordinators' meeting

Regional co-ordinators' meeting – 25 April 2017

✦ Anne Morgan MBE JP DL
Mid Glamorgan 2008-09 and Council Member

ONCE A year, all nine regional co-ordinators meet in London to exchange information about their regional meetings and pass on this information and advice to newly appointed co-ordinators. We are joined by others such as administrative helpers and this year for the first time it was good to welcome an Under Sheriff who will be helping to put together the meeting in his region.

It was especially pleasing that six members of Council could attend, including our President Julian Avery and Chairman Jeremy Burton as well as Elizabeth Hunter, the Council member who will be taking over from me as link to regions when I retire from Council after more than six happy and interesting years.

As I mentioned in my article 'Regional meetings are they of any use?' (*The High Sheriff*, winter 2016), all nine regions have their own format and time of year to hold meetings but always on the agenda are High Sheriffs who speak on specific topics and a Council member to give advice from Council.

One important subject that provoked discussion this year was the length of tenure for regional organisers. Some take on the role for a few years and others just for one year. The general consensus was that given the time and effort which goes into arranging these meetings it could be much easier for organisers to use the experience gained by serving for a minimum term of two to three years. I am sure this will be discussed at future regional meetings and it will be interesting to see the outcome.



It was pleasing to hear at our co-ordinators' meeting that partners of High Sheriffs in nomination are normally included where space allows at regional meetings and that Nomination Panels – using the guidelines set out by Council – are in place in counties. It appeared to be generally accepted that serving High Sheriffs should not be regional organisers in their year of office as they really have too much else to do.

The Association Council is very grateful indeed to those who take on regional organising responsibilities and after our morning of full and frank discussion everyone enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

A personal thank you from me to all the organisers I have met during my two years as link member. It has been such a pleasure to get to know you all and I am sure that Elizabeth, after she has recovered from two years organising Burghley, will also very much enjoy visiting the regions and meeting everyone.

Above: Regional co-ordinators and Council members after their meeting on 25 April 2017 at the Royal Thames Yacht Club

Wales: Annual regional conference for High Sheriffs in nomination, November 2016

✦ J Anthony Tal-Williams
MBE DL JP

High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2009-10

THE 2016 Wales regional conference welcomed the largest number of attendees to date confirming our belief that incoming High Sheriffs, those in nomination along with their partners and families, greatly benefited from the wealth of expertise and knowledge shared during the day.

Following the welcome and introductions, it was a pleasure to introduce Anne Morgan, High Sheriffs' Association Council member, whose address on the Shrievalty, its history and how it has adapted to the need to maintain its customs and status to fit into the 21st century, was of immeasurable value to the planning of a year in office.

We enjoyed an informative contribution from Gwyn George, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2016-17, on the importance of planning well in advance of your Declaration and following through on any commitment you accept during the year.

Roland Lewis, Under Sheriff of Dyfed and Gwynedd, gave a very detailed talk on the functions of his office and the important part it plays during the High Sheriff's year.

Elizabeth Hopkins, wife and consort to William Hopkins, High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2012, amused everyone with her account of her year in office as driver, navigator, timekeeper, dresser, hostess and

planner along with keeping house and entertaining. Her conclusion: 'I would not have wished to have missed this enjoyable and fulfilling experience'.

This has been my last year as co-ordinator of the High Sheriffs' Association regional conferences in Wales but I am delighted that William Hopkins has taken on the role. I wish him every success.

I offer my sincere thanks to all those who have supported these seminars during my term of office, along with my gratitude to Llangoed Hall for their hospitality.

Below: Llangoed Hall shrieval conference delegates



NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT AWARDS 2017

❖ **Jill Jacobs**
Trustee, National Crimebeat

WHERE WOULD you find zebras from Mid Glamorgan, ice warriors from North Yorkshire and purple fingers from Lancashire? Answer: the National Crimebeat Awards. Where else?

As I sat watching the presentations at the Royal National Hotel on 15 March 2017, my foremost thought was how lucky I was not to be one of the judges who had to choose the winners of the annual National Crimebeat Awards. Every year, those present are privileged to witness the best of the crime prevention ideas that have been devised and developed by young people across England and Wales. No one could fail to be impressed by the level of innovation, commitment and public spirit demonstrated by all those whose names and projects had been put forward by the High Sheriffs for their counties. And the level of confidence, too. Every presentation was carried off with such verve, enthusiasm and flair, they could have been professional presenters rather than teenagers brought to London to present their ideas, in competition with others, before a room of strangers. There were no losers here.

Though we had slightly fewer entries this year we were delighted that five counties which had not engaged in the past five years came on board. In all, 29 counties now give recognition to young people through National Crimebeat. The trustees take the view that this is just the tip of an iceberg. These were the projects that had come to the attention of the High Sheriffs. How many more projects are there which have not gained



any recognition, support or reward? That is an important thought, because the aim of the Awards is not just to recognise what has been done but to encourage youngsters in the future to develop their ideas by spreading the word that their achievements will not go unnoticed beyond those immediately affected.

Category A Awards

These are awards for those who start their own project and then deliver it.

The winner of the £1000 first prize went to the Gurnos Zebras from Mid Glamorgan, nominated by the High Sheriff Gwyn George. The Gurnos is a deprived estate and none of us could understand

Top: Category A winners Gurnos Zebras (Mid Glamorgan) with Gwyn George, High Sheriff

Above left: Category A second place Operation Cornmill (Derbyshire) with Liz Fothergill CBE, High Sheriff

Above: Category A third place Ice Warriors (North Yorkshire) with John Furness, High Sheriff

what that had to do with zebras, until the four representatives arrived in zebra attire and explained the significance of the zebra crossing. A group of 20 young people decided to improve the quality of life for those using a particular area notorious for its social problems. They developed a three-point plan to improve safety and discourage



crime and other anti-social behaviour: close a dangerous underpass, provide a zebra crossing and install extra lighting. They engaged with local police, politicians and local people and successfully applied for a grant. Importantly they also raised funds themselves. Crime at this location has just about been eradicated and road safety improved, to the extent that the local police superintendent described the impact of the project as 'hugely significant'. Their win has received much publicity in the local media.

The second prize in this category, and a cheque for £750, went to Operation Cornmill from Derbyshire, nominated by the High Sheriff Elizabeth Fothergill. The project arose from a talk given by two police cadets to the residents of Cornmill House, a residential home for the elderly. This was in response to thieves targeting the elderly, including gaining access to the home by posing as tradespeople. This talk was so successful that the cadets expanded it into an awareness and information day for the elderly and other vulnerable members of the local community. This was done after securing the support of emergency services, charities and local business. The outcome was judged so successful that it is being used as a model across the police division.

The third prize of £500 went to the Ice Warriors from North Yorkshire, nominated by the High Sheriff John Furness. Their project was to rejuvenate the Memorial Garden which was generally in a dangerous and vandalised state, littered with broken bottles and smashed bricks. They wrote letters to shops to help with equipment and plants and they organised a clean-up of the broken glass, rocks and rubbish.

Their efforts, to demonstrate their resolve against anti-social behaviour, resulted in breaking down barriers between the young and elderly and also created an attractive environment in which the whole community could meet and relax.

Category A Special Award

This is a Category A special prize. It was awarded to WASSUP (Women Against Sexual Exploitation and Violence Speak Up) from Suffolk, nominated by the High Sheriff William Kendall. This is a peer support group for young black and minority ethnic women in Ipswich. Many had experienced sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, trafficking or honour-based violence. The young women who formed the group came together through a referral scheme and quickly realised that they wanted to help others to avoid the sort of experiences they had had in their young lives. They devised interactive toolkits and ways of encouraging others to speak up and speak out, developing and delivering workshops and training packages for schools and professionals, with the aim of making their communities safer.

Category B Awards

These are awards for those with projects that were started by others but developed and managed and delivered by the group.

The winning group in this category was Lean on Me from Herefordshire, nominated by the High Sheriff Bill Jackson. The project is a safe space in the Hereford night-time economy and is situated at the heart of the city centre. It works closely with street pastors and emergency services to support the

Above left: Special Award – Bedfordshire Volunteer Police Cadets with Charles Whitbread, High Sheriff and Jon Boutcher QPM, Chief Constable

Above: Category B winners Lean on Me (Herefordshire) with John McEwing (Oldfield Partners), Bill Jackson, High Sheriff and Cllr Jim Kenyon, Mayor of Hereford

inebriated, injured and vulnerable. The project and team of young people is run by two recent university graduates. The centre is open on Saturday nights and bank holidays and the team takes responsibility for the daily management of the centre, development of the project and fundraising. The team gave an inspiring demonstration of transforming night-time economies based on the story of the Good Samaritan and encompassing police, door staff at clubs and taxi drivers. When the street pastors are alerted, they bring vulnerable people to a place of safety, where an assessment is made and the family contacted. Their work has not only saved youngsters from harmful situations, it has saved resources for other services such as A&E departments. In total,



Above: Category B joint second – Radio Competition (Cheshire) with Association Chairman Jeremy Burton

NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT

Young people creating safer communities



Above: Special Award winners WASSUP (Suffolk) on the Big Bus

they have helped 222 people, mostly aged between 18 and 25. The judges recognise that many towns and cities have such centres but this one is run by young people for young people. We were delighted that John McEwing of Oldfield Partners was able to attend to present the first prize of £1000, which was sponsored by his firm. This team also won the Hugh Burnett award for the best presentation together with a cash prize of £100.

The quality of entries, this year, was so high that the judges decided to award three joint seconds and make a presentation of £500 each.

Cheshire Crime Prevention Radio Competition was the joint winner, nominated by the High Sheriff Kathy Cowell. It was set up in early 2016 and offers 750 schools the chance to participate at no cost. The schools were invited to create a 60-second radio broadcast highlighting one of a range of

Below: Category B joint second *Is it OK?* (Cumbria) with Revd Richard Lee, High Sheriff

Below right: Category B joint second *Purple4Polio* (Lancashire) with John Barnett, High Sheriff and Michelle Barnett

issues around child sexual health, healthy relationships, sexting, use of social media and psychoactive substances. Four primary and four secondary schools were shortlisted for professional assistance and recording, before being the subject of a public vote. The winning primary and secondary school messages were then shared among thousands through social media and it was the subject of a Channel 4 news item.

Is it OK? was the winner from Cumbria, nominated by the High Sheriff the Revd Richard Lee. This project supports people with learning disabilities to understand and report sexual abuse. The project recognised that there is a lack of understanding among young people with learning disabilities of what sexual abuse/exploitation is or who to speak to. A group of seven young learning disabled filmmakers conducted the interviews, created the art work, filmed and edited the final product. The result was an educational DVD on sexual abuse and exploitation that is promoted through the Royal Mencap Society and is available to the police and any organisation working with people with learning disabilities.

Purple for Polio was the winner from Lancashire, nominated by the High Sheriff John Barnett. This is a joint project between Bleasdale special school and Carnforth Rotary Club. Such were the disabilities of the four young people that they were sadly unable to attend the ceremony but they had put together a video explaining what they did. They set out on a social action project to break down barriers associated with diversity. This was done by planting purple crocus bulbs in the area to raise funds to eradicate polio, purple being the colour of the dye used on the finger to show

a vaccination had been given. Two and a half thousand bulbs were planted in partnership with local people, serving to raise awareness of individual needs and engage the community spirit far beyond that expected when the project started, building relationships between young and old, and making a positive impact on the environment and strengthening community cohesion.

Another Special Award

Not content with announcing one Special Award, Barbara Wilding, National Crimebeat Chairman, read a citation for a Special Award to the Bedfordshire Police for the inspirational projects working with their volunteer cadets to reach out to other young people. This award – covering both categories – was presented in recognition of the many such outstanding projects submitted over recent years, involving cadets aged between 13 and 18. This award was presented by the Julian Avery, President of the High Sheriffs' Association.

A very special thank you was made to our Hon President Richard Walduck and his son Alex for their continuing generosity in providing the hotel, refreshments and the lunch for all attendees. They also funded the London Eye trip yet again.

And finally...

With the winners announced and the prizes awarded, it was time for the photos, lunch and to board the Big Bus, and then for a ride on the London Eye. This year a video was also taken which will be edited and sent out as a ten-minute DVD to every High Sheriff to demonstrate the opportunities for their county to participate.



Cheshire Crimebeat celebrates 1000 projects



IN THE mid 1990s High Sheriffs were encouraged to launch Crimebeat in their respective counties to highlight work that they do in their communities and to give another 'handle' to their year of office.

Cheshire Crimebeat was formally launched in November 1998 as a result of positive discussions with the county council, constabulary, probation service and other agencies from April of that year and with their valuable support. The formal launch of Cheshire Crimebeat was attended by the then Home Office Minister, Mr Paul Boateng. This was on the front cover of *The Shrievalty News* in June 1999.

Our founding co-ordinator, Frank Harding, took us through the first 14 years, retiring in December 2013 having assessed our first 548 projects. This was duly reported in *The High Sheriff*.

A retired police inspector, Mark Watson, took on the co-ordinator's role in early 2014 and has already served four Cheshire High Sheriffs. He has developed strong links with the constabulary and unitary authorities as well as the numerous agencies supporting young people, together with invaluable support from the Safer School and Young Persons Partnership. So successful has he been that Cheshire Crimebeat celebrated the launch of its 1000th project at constabulary HQ on 25 January 2017. South Cheshire

Amateur Boxing Club were the recipients of this landmark award.

South Cheshire Boxing Club is a facility in the heart of the community which opens its doors to everyone. It currently has members of all ages, nationalities and social backgrounds. It is a non-profit organisation and is run by qualified volunteer coaches. On limited resources it boasts its own welfare system and works closely with local schools helping to address anti-social behaviour issues among young people. The boxing coach also visits primary schools, teaching respect and discipline in a fun and active way.

The evening was a great milestone at which our current High Sheriff Kathy Cowell OBE DL officiated alongside the Lord-Lieutenant, David Briggs MBE (also a past High Sheriff), and the Chief Constable Simon Byrne QPM.

One hundred and forty people attended the event including a number of primary and secondary school children who presented four projects to demonstrate to sponsors and supporters what Crimebeat can achieve within the community. Some of these schemes were submitted to the National Crimebeat Awards with one being shortlisted.

In the early days, youngsters were running projects on how to prevent vandalism, graffiti, under-age drinking and also general community safety. We now have schemes which tackle cyber crime including identity theft, cyber bullying and sexting, as well as highlighting the dangers of 'legal highs'.

Few of these problems were known about in 1998 and we have had to move with the times.

Our celebration evening included a pack for everyone that included our latest *Crimebeat Reporter* (Issue No.17), a summary of all our schemes, where and when they were installed and the number of youngsters involved. Since 1998 we have contributed £241,000 to projects throughout the county and involved 98,000 youngsters directly (and around 300,000 indirectly).

I wish to thank Kathy Cowell our High Sheriff and figurehead this year for her support and, of course, all past Cheshire High Sheriffs since 1999. In particular, Mark Watson is to be congratulated for his energy and for achieving over 400 projects since he took up office. A remarkable tally!

I also wish to record our thanks to the Chief Constable of Cheshire for his enthusiastic backing directed through our co-ordinator, his office facilities and also access to funding through the Police Property Fund.

♦♦ **Michael Trevor-Barnston**
Chairman, Cheshire Crimebeat
High Sheriff of Cheshire 1998-1999



Top left: Michael Trevor-Barnston (Chairman), Susan Sellers (Trustee), Mark Watson (Co-ordinator)

Right: Robin Murray-Phillipson OBE DL (Leicestershire & Rutland 1993) and Michael Trevor-Barnston MBE JP DL (Cheshire 1998); the two past High Sheriffs met by chance in February 2017 on the train at Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, both having set up the shrieval Crimebeat initiative in their respective counties during their year of office.



The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition

A GIRL sat trembling in the dock at Reading Crown Court. She had just listened to her counsel making an impassioned argument as to why she was innocent of stealing her neighbour's PlayStation. Then, with every word of his summing-up, the prosecution barrister demolished the defence. The judge asked her to stand for the verdict and, in ringing tones, found her guilty. She turned pink and burst into tears as she was led down to the cells.

This was not an ordinary day in Reading Crown Court. All the participants in the case were 13-year-old school students but such is the enthusiasm with which they play their roles, it all seemed horribly real for the young girl.

The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition is run by the Citizenship Foundation nationally. The High Sheriff is Patron which brilliantly connects the Shrievalty with the judges, magistrates and courts which are at the heart of the Office of High Sheriff. They encourage their individual counties and metropolitan areas to organise the heats locally, a job which falls on the magistrates. The lack of a Crown Court is no bar to the competition taking place.

In the Royal County of Berkshire, we are proud of the way in which High Sheriffs, past, present and future, support this competition both financially and with their presence at the heats. The commitment of over 40 of our magistrates makes all the difference. This year, 26 schools entered. 'Berkshire does run the largest heat in the competition – with the most schools,' writes Ruth Dwight from the Citizenship Foundation.

Students learn about all aspects of the criminal justice system and court procedures. They appreciate what it

means to be an active citizen and gain a good knowledge of the legal system, greater than many members of society. Through public speaking, debate and working as a team, they develop confidence and skills. One student was inspired to enter the legal profession: she is now studying Law at Oxford.

In Berkshire last year I invited the winning school of our regional final to the Crown Court judicial service in Reading Minster. The whole team came, with one reading the prayers jointly with the vicar of the Minster. The confidence of this 13-year-old girl in speaking to a congregation of over 600 people was remarked upon by all. Half of the collection – £1,000 – went to the Mock Trial Competition.

The event costs between £4,000 and £4,500 a year to run and funds are held by the Berkshire Community Foundation. We offer up to £300 to each school to cover travel costs when the national finals are a long distance away as they are this year in Nottingham. Past High Sheriffs and Deputy Lieutenants support most of the costs of the competition.

As Ruth Dwight writes: 'the Citizenship Foundation is tremendously grateful to the High Sheriffs who have been supporting the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition across many areas of England and Wales for over 20 years. With their support – and the great efforts of the magistracy – we are able to provide a unique and valuable experience to over 6,000 young people each year. We look forward to working with more High Sheriffs as we increase the reach and quality of public legal education across England and Wales.' For more information please visit www.smartlaw.org.uk.

❖ **Victoria Fishburn**
High Sheriff of Berkshire 2016-17



Top: Charlotte Rice from The Holt School at Reading Minster for the judicial service

Centre: 2015 national final at the Victoria Law Courts in Birmingham: St Peter's Catholic High School, Wythenshawe, Manchester v The Folkestone School for Girls, Kent (Photo credit: Paul Clarke)

Above: Victoria Fishburn with the winners of the 2016 regional final from The Holt School, Wokingham, Berkshire at Reading Crown Court



A fresh perspective on the county



WHERE HAS the year gone? It doesn't seem five minutes since I was making my Declaration at Eaton Park, Chester, the service led by my wonderful chaplain the Revd Stella Cole and witnessed by the Honourable Mr Justice William Davis and John Arnold the Under Sheriff. I'm not sure who was more nervous, me or John, who was presiding over the Declaration for the first time. However, we had a wonderful day that set the tone for the year ahead.

I decided to use my year to focus on volunteering; ordinary people doing extraordinary things – in many ways the glue that holds our communities together and makes them successful and sustainable.

During the year, I have criss-crossed the county, attending a variety of events, from the large and well organised to the small and intimate gatherings. I have been welcomed wherever I have been. I thought I knew Cheshire well but I have become much better acquainted with it during my year: towns such as Nantwich and the amazing volunteers who arrange an incredible variety of events that not only bring the community together but attract many visitors; Frodsham where the mayor works tirelessly to bring the community together; Winsford, busy regenerating the public realm; Middlewich with its great sense of history. The theme that runs through all the

events I've attended is the sense of pride and community.

It has been a huge honour to get to know and to attend many Scouting and Guiding events, not one of which would run without the dedicated volunteers. I've had the opportunity to sit in court and get to know the High Court Judges and many magistrates and I was particularly pleased to attend the swearing-in of new magistrates in the Crown Court in December. I have spent a great many hours in our beautiful cathedral, the work of which is at the heart of our county. The start of the Legal Year service in the cathedral in November was very well supported by the judiciary and High Sheriffs from surrounding counties.

A great joy has been working with Cheshire Crimebeat. We submitted two schemes for the National Crimebeat Awards and were delighted to have our schools' Radio Competition shortlisted – a project highlighting issues around children's sexual health and relationships. Representatives from the schools attended the finals in March in London and were thrilled to come joint second. We were also very pleased that 'Crossroads', a programme with Styal Prison, was recognised as 'Highly Commended' by the judging panel.

I met so many remarkable volunteers during my term in office that I decided to bring them together in a celebration and



Above left: At the High Sheriff's Awards evening; East Cheshire hospice Christmas tree collection raised over £800,000 over seven years

Above top: At the High Sheriff's Awards evening; members of Cheshire scouts who helped organise a trip to Japan

Above: At the Legal Service with fellow High Sheriffs: Colonel David Leigh TD DL (Staffordshire), Kathrine Cowell OBE DL (Cheshire), Christine Holmes JP (Shropshire), Jim O'Toole DL (Clwyd) and Lady (Joy) Smith DL (Greater Manchester)

'Thank You' as the final event of my year. I gathered 80 volunteers from across the county to supper in the delightful setting of Churchill House at Chester University. It was a very special evening where I was able to recognise the commitment and dedication of so many people who give their time and care so selflessly by presenting them with the High Sheriff's Award in recognition of great and valuable services to the community. Without them our county would be so much poorer; meeting them was both enriching and humbling. I have always thought my county a very special place but my year as High Sheriff has helped me appreciate the wonderful people who always put others before their own needs.

♦ **Kathrine Cowell OBE DL**
High Sheriff of Cheshire 2016-17



Left: A view worth climbing for

Below: At Stella point – 5,375m



Aiming high for charity

FOR MY term as High Sheriff of Clwyd I chose to support three charities, one being the Blind Veterans UK centre at Llandudno. To raise funds for them I decided to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Kilimanjaro is an extinct volcano and the highest mountain in Africa standing at 5,896 metres (19,343ft.).

On 5 October last year I arrived at Kilimanjaro airport and travelled to the town of Arusha to meet my climbing companions John and Debbie Grass from Colorado. The next morning we set off for Londorosi Gate in the Kilimanjaro National Park where we registered our climb and met our 18 porters and two guides; it takes that many to carry the tents, food, kitchen sink and even the loo, all essential supplies to sustain 23 people for an eight-day climb. Once registered, we trekked to Shira 1 camp (3,550m) for our first night under canvas, followed by another seven camp stops.

The daytime temperature was around 28°, decreasing as we gained altitude; at night it was -5° and below. The Shira route includes a challenging sheer 200m rockface climb at Karanga Valley but most days we trekked for 7/8 hours at a slow pace over rough and dusty terrain; the guides would tell us to 'Poly-Poly' (Slowly-Slowly).

Around 3,500m elevation the decreasing levels of oxygen cause most people to experience altitude sickness. Reducing altitude as quickly as possible is the only remedy otherwise the consequences can be fatal. About 30 per cent of climbers fail to reach the summit because of altitude sickness; fortunately our group all fared well.

Summit night base camp was at Barafu (4,680m); the night-time temperature was minus 11°. After an early dinner we tried to sleep but couldn't because of the high winds, at one stage I thought my tent was going to take off and I'd kite up the mountain! At 10.30pm using head torches we set off with our guides (the porters remain at the base camp) for Stella Point, an altitude gain of 1,135m taking seven hours. On this section of mountain the terrain is dusty volcanic scree trekked along switchbacks, tough ascending but even tougher descending because of the loose ground and tiredness.

At 6.20am we reached the crater rim at Stella Point at 5,375m, had a breakfast of chocolate and coffee then continued up to the summit at Uhuru Peak (5,896m/19,343 ft) which we reached about 7.30am. By then oxygen was about half that of sea-level

making our movement sluggish, but the panoramic views and the sunlit glaciers were spectacular, enough to make the eight-day climb worthwhile.

The descent back to base camp at Barafu took five hours, a quick meal and then a four-hour trek to Millennium Camp to tent up for the night. By that time we had been on our feet for more than 18 hours so a hasty dinner and straight into our sleeping bags.

The final day started at 6am with the porters holding a traditional tip-giving ceremony (they have a tariff!) then an 11-mile trek to Mweka Gate to sign out and be given our certificates.

The food on the trek was reasonable but limited, mostly pasta, rice and tinned soup, so by the time I got back to Arusha I was famished. Fortunately the hotel served great hamburgers and good beers!

My target for Blind Veterans UK was £8,000 and I was delighted to have raised over £8,500. I would therefore like to thank everyone who donated and helped achieve the target. I know the blind veterans will be very grateful for your generous support.

♣ **Jim O'Toole DL**
High Sheriff of Clwyd 2016-17



To serve, not to be served

EVERY HIGH Sheriff is unique and the shrieval community is strengthened and enriched by the annual handover. Our continuity is maintained by the abiding faithful service of Under Sheriffs and the support of the High Sheriffs' Association in close co-operation with the judiciary. Having served as a chaplain in the Royal Air Force for 29 years, I had followed the branch's core value of service before self. The Chaplains' branch coat of arms bears the motto, 'Ministrare Non Ministrari'; (Latin for 'to serve, not to be served'). Upon becoming High Sheriff, I felt this was a most appropriate model for my year of service. However, this assumption was quickly overwhelmed by experience. I encountered a wonderful community – or rather a collection of communities and individuals – who were giving themselves quite selflessly to the welfare of groups or individuals in their villages, towns or wider areas of activity.

Here perhaps was the key? It's not what you bring, it's what these communities bring. On appointment, there is a definite anxiety about what one can bring to the role. This is natural as the role does seem quite daunting in itself; then in addition, one's predecessors are often successful people and bring all their talent and drive to their role as High Sheriff. How do you 'follow that'?



The Association's advice is quite firm – do not try to emulate or follow your predecessor, be yourself. That is why you were asked to consider being High Sheriff!

I discovered that the secret for me was to be open to what the voluntary community could bring, not what I could achieve for them. The High Sheriff's role is not about the individual; rather it is all about the community the Sheriff is called to serve. Many doors are opened and the Sheriff is invited to share in the life of the voluntary community. Youth workers; mountain rescue volunteers; scouting; guiding; community support volunteers; those who work with those coping with addiction, PTSD, homelessness, domestic violence, criminality recovery, abuse and other related traumas. In addition, the Sheriff is there to support the judiciary and the professional policing and emergency support. High points for me were meeting keen volunteers doing what they could for others because it was the right thing to do – they did not seek reward or gain and would have been quite embarrassed to be singled out. Here was the essential quality of the Sheriff; to visit discreetly but nevertheless representing the Crown's deep commitment to voluntary duty and service to county and country. One official role that was exceptionally moving was as returning officer in Copeland, a truly historic night.

Of course, there was the honour of sitting in court and witnessing the integrity and professionalism of our judiciary – allied to the deeply committed voluntary service of magistrates; one can reflect that



despite its well-recognised challenges, the nation is well served by its judiciary and related legal office holders and court staffs.

Having been advised by the Association that I was not the first cleric to become Sheriff, Cumbria did have some firsts: the first full-time stipendiary cleric to become a High Sheriff; the first retired RAF chaplain to do so and perhaps the first Sheriff to preach at his own annual Judges' Service and certainly the first Sheriff to become his successor's chaplain?!

Over my year, I could not have achieved anything without the vital work of my Under Sheriff, Tim Cartmel, and my voluntary PA Judith Holdsworth, who enabled me to commit to the needs of others but retain control of my diary and my own wellbeing! A year of formal service to others has opened my eyes to the magnificent ongoing voluntary and professional service of others to their communities – I really need to thank them for what they have taught me.

♦ The Rev'd (Group Captain) Richard Lee

*Team Rector of Egremont
High Sheriff of Cumbria 2016-17*

Left: With young and old(er) at the Colour Run

Top left: Rachel More from Askham receiving a bravery award from the High Sheriff and His Honour Judge Peter Hughes QC for standing up to two men in a knife-point laptop theft

Photo credit: The Cumberland News

Top right: With Cameron Moralee and Riley Brown (Team Cool Kids), first in the chariot race



Action-packed

WHAT AN enormous privilege and honour this year has been, meeting so many people around the county doing extraordinary things for their communities, and linking organisations together for their mutual benefit.

I followed four distinguished men in the role and felt like a pioneer... the usual opening remark was... 'Oh a Lady High Sheriff, and where is your sword?' I have sat on the bench and protected (with little more than a handbag) High Court Judges on ten occasions.

It was an honour giving out seven Court Awards with High Sheriff's certificates to some brave individuals and visiting Dartmoor prison was an eye-opener. Work there includes books being translated into Braille, and a working call centre. All three prisons in Devon face huge challenges, namely smuggled mobile phones, drugs and hooch as well as staff shortages. Drones which had delivered drugs – including 'Spice' to individual cells – are now blocked over Dartmoor, but at Channings Wood drugs come in sprayed or soaked on books.

I was lucky enough to be present at a monthly independent prisoner review where the judge took six hours to process 42 inmates' sentences. I learnt that hooch is made on the cell radiators and takes four days to mature.

It was a privilege to visit many police departments. I even took my police cadet to the seventh week of the officers' firearms training, where a mock criminal was extracted from a car and placed face down in seconds. We both tried out the G36 rifle on the range and thankfully hit the target!

Supporting the emergency services, I joined the local resilience practice 'Exercise Night Hawk' at Exeter Airport which involved all the emergency services, airport staff and a crashed aircraft, and included removing the injured passengers, who were willing college students complete with fake blood.

The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service invited me to ascend their one-hundred-foot platform in preparation for their crew's help with

Below: With recipients of Devon Community Awards





News from and about members

Right: On the Dutch naval frigate *Evertsen* with my Police Cadet Oliver Priestly, far left

Centre: With Margaret Thomas at the Community Awards at Compton Castle

Bottom: Abseiling down Compton Castle with the help of local firefighters



my charity abseil down the front of our home, Compton Castle. It was also fascinating joining an ambulance crew for an 11-hour shift; this involved white-knuckle rides all day and incidents including a passenger who had fallen onto a steam train track – complete with steam train.

In supporting young people, the Devon ACF training camp supplied much-needed ear plugs for a mock capture of a pilot, and in North Devon the Sea Cadets cooked a Trafalgar Night black tie dinner for 70 as part of their training. Third-year university students were on interesting work experience at Paignton Zoo and one was testing octopi's memory with locked feeding tubes!

I found the Ten Tors inspirational and humbling – this takes place on Dartmoor and incorporates both the Ten Tors Challenge and the Jubilee Challenge, the latter specifically for young people with special needs, both physical and educational. I joined a few others in a Merlin helicopter and we landed twice in a gale to encourage volunteers manning the checkpoints.

Another highlight was handing out 10 High Sheriff's Community Awards to unsung volunteer heroes I had met from all round the county. I had a memorable experience standing among 24 Tomahawk cruise missiles on a Royal Navy nuclear submarine and later went on a seven-hour trip to sea with the Dutch Navy as part of weekly NATO training exercises.

This has been a totally unforgettable and privileged year.

♦♦ **Angela Gilbert**
High Sheriff of Devon 2016-17



Celebrating the champions of our communities

I AM delighted to contribute an article to this edition of *The High Sheriff* as it has afforded the opportunity for me to reflect on an exceptional year as the High Sheriff of Dyfed. I feel very privileged to have served the Shrievalty of Dyfed, which represents the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire and is a region where the medieval laws of Wales were first brought together by Hywel Dda.

My Declaration was held on the 24 March 2016 in the Chapel of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Carmarthen campus. It was a great honour to welcome the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, to preside over the proceedings.

As I took on the role of High Sheriff, I noted that I would support law enforcement agencies, the emergency services and encourage more volunteering within the three counties. I soon discovered that volunteering is alive and well in the old county of Dyfed! My wife Fiona and I were privileged to meet so many outstanding people who are doing remarkable work in order to make a difference to the lives of others and to their communities. I established the Shrievalty of Dyfed Awards to acknowledge and celebrate the distinctive contribution made by such individuals and local charities. Some 800 people representing a hundred organisations attended a series of events to receive certificates. In addition, I was pleased to welcome eight recipients of the High Sheriff of Dyfed Young Persons Charitable Trust financial awards, established by Colonel Dai Davies in his year of office.

In July, I welcomed HRH The Prince of Wales to the University's Lampeter

campus to take part in a special ceremony celebrating the Prince's commitment to sustainability and harmony and which included an exhibition of excerpts of his inspirational speeches and articles.

Other highlights included the Concert of Remembrance, held at Carmarthen's Christ Church in November, which featured the premiere of *In Memoriam* composed by Eilir Owen Griffiths. I was also delighted to attend the consecration and enthronement of Wales's first female Bishop, Revd Canon Jo Penberthy, as the new Bishop of St David's.

My final event was the 'Blue Lights Service' which brought members of the emergency services together to reflect and to give thanks. My thanks to the Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths, High Sheriff's Chaplain, Revd Tom Evans of Dyfed Powys Police and Revd Canon Illtyd Protheroe of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service for officiating.

I am grateful for the many invitations that I have received to represent the Shrievalty of Dyfed at events across the region and to meet so many inspirational



Above: HRH The Prince of Wales, Royal Patron of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and Professor Medwin Hughes DL, Vice-Chancellor

Bottom: Back row: Mr Gwyndaf Tobias, Cllr Barry Williams, Mayor of Carmarthen, District Judge John Lloyd Davies, Cllr Wyn Thomas, Deputy Mayor of Carmarthen, Randolph Thomas, Mr Richard Morris, Under Sheriff, Mr Roland Lewis, Under Sheriff

Front row: Mr David Parry Williams JP, Dr Brinley Jones CBE, Professor Catrin Thomas, Mr James Lewis, High Sheriff 2015-16, Ms Sara Edwards, Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed, Professor Medwin Hughes DL, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Rt Revd Wyn Evans, Bishop of St David's, the Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths

people who are true champions of their communities. I am also grateful for the support of Mr Roland Lewis and Mr Richard John Morris the Under Sheriffs of Dyfed and Mrs Eirwen Nicholls.

◆ **Professor Medwin Hughes DL**

High Sheriff of Dyfed 2016-17





A 'tight' call

DESPITE THE long notice (with the caveat that nothing can be done until after the November nomination ceremony naming) I still felt somewhat unprepared as I took the oath of office.

The Declaration at the Lewes Crown Court before a former colleague of mine, Mr Justice Cranston, was a grand affair with a licence granted so that I could legally wear my sword on the street.

I was pleased that in East Sussex we have the Grissell family to thank for a historic sword passed down to the High Sheriffs for some decades. The court dress was purchased from Oxford via the magazine's advertisement page and with a few alterations looked as good as new.

I soon realised that almost everyone wants the new High Sheriff to wear the uniform so we occasionally have to rely on our engagement forms which carry the condition that 'the High Sheriff will be guided by protocol'. Having said that I think I have probably worn the uniform as often as would be respectable, maybe a score of times.

Of course the uniform is particularly interesting to young people. One lad recently asked, pointing to the ceremonial sword, 'Have you ever killed anyone with that?' 'Not yet,' I ominously replied. I hope I didn't frighten him too much!

For those who are not used to



Below: The High Sheriff, the Hon Mrs Justice Theis DBE and the Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field at Battle Abbey on the day of the Judicial Service

Bottom left: At the Second World War landing commemorations with civic leaders from East Sussex and Dieppe

regularly wearing stockings or tights (I appreciate around 50 per cent of the nation already do so) it has been a challenge to time the process of dressing and I would be interested to know how others succeed.

One of my recent engagements (and a very special one) was to attend the Second

World War landing commemorations in Dieppe along with council leaders, mayors and chairmen. Over a two-day period there were five separate events all solemn and moving but mostly followed by champagne and canapés (tea and biscuits are not the French style). When I arrived in Dieppe I was informed by the French driver that the first uniformed event would take place in 15 minutes. I rushed to my hotel room and re-appeared in 8.5 minutes flat. It is still my record but I would be interested to know if it is worth submitting to the Guinness Book of Records!

One of the most interesting roles is an invitation to 100th birthdays and the like and of course a small gift is appropriate. To that end I have come up with a printed sticky-backed shrieval label which, when fixed to a box of chocolates, makes a memorable and not too expensive gift.

♣ **Michael Foster DL**
High Sheriff of East Sussex 2016-17



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

News from and about members



Every day was special

ON 2 APRIL I handed over as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire to Lt Colonel Andrew Tabor and I did so with enormous pride. The county is amazing in its diversity, its inclusiveness, its variety and its generosity.

One of the wonderful things about accepting the role of High Sheriff is you can do as little, or as much, as you like in your own style, and either at break-neck speed or at a gentler pace. I deliberately chose the former – a year sounds like a long time, but it rattles by at an alarming rate and I had so much I wanted to achieve.

Throughout my year I attended the commemoration of the death of one monarch (King John at Worcester Cathedral), witnessed the coronation of another (Henry III at Gloucester Cathedral), both events happening 800 years ago, and of course we celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday.

I sat with judges of all levels; I oversaw a historic election of Her Majesty's Verderer to the spectacular Forest of Dean; I flew owls and sat in the cockpit of Concorde; I entered the boxing ring; I launched lifeboats – and crewed them; I named a building and planted trees; I danced with gay abandon – and I visited a huge number of wonderful charities and projects that inspired me. I also presented handsome awards to so many deserving members of our communities. The list is quite literally endless and it's impossible

to choose a highlight, because every day was special.

When I became High Sheriff, there were several things I wanted to achieve and I'm extremely privileged to have had the opportunity to do so.

Her Majesty's prison for women, HMP Eastwood Park, now has an active book club where the ladies regularly engage with literature and all it has to offer; there is now a branch of the Women's Institute in the same prison and to have helped facilitate it with money from the High Sheriff's Fund gives me enormous pride. In addition this spring students from the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester volunteered to start a market garden project within Eastwood Park, giving the prisoners the opportunity to grow their own produce and benefit not only from the nutrition that will provide, but also to learn about where our food comes from.

My other wish was to raise the profile of the role of the High Sheriff, to reflect on its relevance and reassure people of this in today's modern world. I should like to think this has been reasonably successful, most evident since I have been asked less and less the eternal question: 'What does a High Sheriff actually DO?'

And finally, I wanted to acknowledge and celebrate the work of our police officers and staff. I have been privileged to spend a great deal of time with the Gloucestershire Constabulary, on

Top left: Accompanied by senior officers of Gloucestershire Constabulary, the High Sheriff presents certificates of Commendation to Special Officers

Top right: The High Sheriff joined a delivery run with volunteers from Age Concern's Meal On Wheels delivery team in the Forest of Dean

Above: The High Sheriff and her husband the Earl Bathurst (in wheelchair) taken at a royal visit to Salters Hill Charity where she is president

every level, and have been consistently impressed by the commitment and dedication shown by every section of policing in our county. All too often the police are unappreciated, for whatever reason, and it slightly frustrates me they're only shown the respect they fully deserve when a tragedy such as the recent Westminster attack brings home to the whole country just how often they put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

And so now, after over 420 engagements and 27,000 miles on the clock, I have handed over to my successor and I know he too will have an amazing year in this our home county of wonderful Gloucestershire.

♦♦ **The Countess Bathurst**
High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 2016-17



A thousand years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire

FOR ME it was a great honour to be nominated as High Sheriff of Herefordshire. The highlight of my Declaration in April 2016 in Court No 1 of the Shire Hall in Hereford was going into the private box that has a large sign saying 'High Sheriff' beside a special seat next to the judge, and also a bench to the side for the High Sheriff's Chaplain. The significance of this was that the Shire Hall was completed in 1817 and is now celebrating its 200th anniversary.

Fascinated, I started investigating the history of High Sheriffs according to ancient documents at the new £8m Archive Centre at Rotherwas, going back to Saxon times. The manuscripts were in Old English and were difficult to decipher so I decided after the civic service in October – where I was on parade again after 50 years with my platoon sergeant – to investigate not only the last 50 years of the High Sheriffs or even 200, but to try and complete a history over the last 1,000 years. First, I had to get a team of experts together. Katherine Andrew FMA PACR, a friend over many years who had been the curator at the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum and Hereford Museum, but now being an independent consultant, was the obvious choice, and she brought on board Dr Sylvia Pinches.

The brief was quite simple: using the new facilities at the Archive Centre to carry out research to try and identify the earliest known documented High Sheriff of Herefordshire and any other factual historical information. That is how the booklet, *A Thousand Years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire* began its life. An exciting discovery was the High Sheriff Aelfnoth, killed in battle by Gruffydd ap Llewelyn, King of Wales on 6 June 1056

at Glasbury, on the River Wye. Also killed that day was Leofgar, Bishop of Hereford. Gruffydd was the ally and son-in-law of Aelfgar, son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia and Lady Godiva. Aelfgar had been deprived of his lands as Earl of East Anglia when Harold Godwinson (later King Harold) became Earl of East Anglia. Gruffydd had sacked Hereford the previous October and destroyed its castle.

The other exciting piece of history to be discovered related to the High Sheriff of Herefordshire and the Civil War in a petition to the House of Commons in 1642. The British Library Collection contains a copy of the petition in the form of a printed handbill. It was presented by Isaac Seward, High

Sheriff of Hereford and a group of unnamed individuals, to the House of Commons on 4 May 1642. At first sight, the document seems to be a rather sycophantic piece of flattery linked to a complaint about cheap imports of wool. Delving deeper, this single sheet of paper reveals a turbulent back story of politics, religious tensions and the rapid pace of events on the very eve of the English Civil War, 375 years ago. As a matter of interest, the reason why this document had not been discovered before was that it had been filed under Hertfordshire and not Herefordshire.

Anyone wanting a copy of *A Thousand Years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire* can contact Bill Jackson's office, 45 Bridge Street, Hereford, HR4 9DG. Tel: 01432 344779 or email bill@jiprop.com. There is no charge but on the back page you will see that any donations to the High Sheriffs' Fund would be welcomed.

♦ Bill Jackson

High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2016-17

Right: On parade again after 50 years: the High Sheriff, a lieutenant and former platoon commander in D Company, the Herefordshire Light Infantry, with the Sergeant at Arms of Leominster Town Council, Mick Meredith, his former platoon sergeant

Below: The judge's coach outside the Shire Hall in April 1978, following restoration, taking Mr Justice Slynn to the shrieval service in Hereford Cathedral. Photograph courtesy of Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service





Working together to break the cycle

I WAS honoured to be nominated as High Sheriff of Hertfordshire. I was born in Egypt, to Greek Cypriot parents with British nationality, in an American car being driven at speed along the Suez Canal road en route to a French hospital. It is a wonderful feature of British society, that someone with my background was given the privilege of occupying this ancient Office.

I took up the post with pride and a determination to place domestic abuse and its effect on babies high up on the county's priorities and to encourage links between charities, public bodies and business.

This county is where my wife Susie calls home, where I have lived for most of my adult life and where I grew my business. Hertfordshire residents enjoy a generally high quality of life, along with comparatively low crime rates and high levels of public confidence in the police.

With all this good fortune, however, we must never be blind to those who remain suffering.

In 2008, I set up a philanthropic organisation *The Stefanou Foundation*. Philanthropy, co-operating alongside public and voluntary services, can be a catalyst to bring about meaningful improvements for vulnerable people. Our foundation created and is now running the *Healthy Relationships: Healthy Baby* programme, working with expectant parents to break the cycle of domestic abuse and give babies the best start in life.

My shrieval year began when the Radio 4 programme *The Archers* had reached a climax in one of its most devastatingly compelling storylines to date – the coercive control and abuse of Helen Titchener. The storyline echoed the situation in which many victims of domestic abuse find themselves trapped. The show portrayed the nuance of abuse, the cycles of control and the patterns

*“Money cannot create a good soul, but a good soul can turn money and everything else in private life and public life, into a good thing for people”
(Socrates)*





News from and about members

of power so accurately that many struggled to listen. Given *The Stefanou Foundation's* work and research, my thoughts turned to the young child and unborn baby and the trauma they'd experienced.

The NSPCC estimates that one in five children is touched by domestic abuse nationwide. These early experiences have a lifelong impact on a child's brain development and mental health. Such children are less likely to form secure attachments, succeed at school, or maintain employment or closeness with a life partner. They are also more likely to go on to experience or perpetrate abuse themselves.

It was a perfect fit to make domestic abuse the main theme for my year, especially given the timely publication of Hertfordshire's excellent new Domestic Abuse Strategy (2016-19). The strategy called for stronger partnership between the public and voluntary sectors and the courts, and committed the county to an ambitious action plan to combat domestic abuse. More broadly, I recognised that the creativity and innovation within Hertfordshire was best harnessed when people, organisations, services and disciplines came together in partnership. I therefore wanted to encourage and support partnership working between a wide range of organisations. I visited many inspiring domestic abuse services and used my Christmas cards to raise money for Hertfordshire's Domestic Abuse Helpline. My garden party included an exhibition of local domestic abuse services and I was glad to include prayers about combatting domestic abuse in my Justice Service, which in turn had motifs of justice and mercy. Our High Sheriff's Awards were particularly inspiring, as they generated 44 excellent case studies about partnership working. We are working with local government and the voluntary sector to publish these as an online resource to highlight good practice.

One of my proudest achievements was a seized opportunity for partnership working to identify tangible actions that reinforced Hertfordshire's Domestic Abuse Strategy. It is traditional for a Hertfordshire High Sheriff to be invited to attend a series of lunches by the resident judge at St Albans Crown Court. With his support, we turned these lunches into round-table discussions to identify opportunities to break the cycle of domestic abuse. We brought together Crown and Family Court Judges, Magistrates and senior leaders in criminal justice, policing and the public and voluntary sectors. We discussed making better use of technology, bodycam evidence and improving the court experience for witnesses. We considered



combining accountability and behaviour change support for those acting abusively. We examined the needs of those experiencing abuse and their children, particularly considering the latest understanding of coercive control. These discussions proved highly valuable in advancing understanding and trust between organisations and individuals. Without the Office of High Sheriff, such a productive discussion may not have been facilitated. This crucial work will be continued despite my year coming to an end.

The role of High Sheriff has changed, but it has by no means become redundant. A High Sheriff can be a signpost, a bridge for forging stronger relationships and an ambassador for innovation. My shrieval year has taught me to try to make even the smallest encounter, event or discussion meaningful.

My themes have brought me closer to great work being done by so many and also highlighted potential routes for improvement. There is more to be done to understand and respond effectively to the complex dynamics of domestic abuse. We must continue developing the landscape of domestic abuse services, and make holistic services widely available that succeed in breaking the cycle for good. If we fail to do this, then no matter what the outcome of the scenario in *The Archers*, real adults, children and babies will continue to be put at risk.

❖ **Stelio Stefanou OBE DL**

High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2016 - 17

Above: With the Lord-Lieutenant, councillors, shrieval representatives and senior leaders in criminal justice and policing

Opposite page: Welwyn Hatfield Domestic Abuse Forum at the High Sheriff's Awards 2017 for Partnership Working

“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst” (Aristotle)

ISLE OF WIGHT

News from and about members



Waving the flag

I BATTLED long and hard during my years as High Sheriff in nomination to come up with a way that I could, during my year in office, not only raise the profile of the Shrievalty on the Island, but hopefully leave a lasting legacy of my year in office. Not an easy task!

What is so wonderful about this idyllic little island (pop: 140,000) just five miles off the coast of Hampshire is its very special, but very disparate community, which makes it such a unique place to live. It means, however, that our community of talented souls, who are all so proud to call themselves 'Islanders', rarely come together as one. I decided that I would like to try and change this and so I instigated one day

each year when the whole population of the Island would be encouraged to come together to celebrate all that is great about this special place. I created Isle of Wight Day.

In order to do this I needed the support of all the leaders of the community, so together with the Lord-Lieutenant I formed a steering group comprising the leaders of the county council, the chamber of commerce, the tourist board, the local media and other influential members of the community, assisted by the police and transport services. I announced this at my Declaration ceremony, which I held at Osborne House (the first time that HM Queen Victoria's beloved home had been used for this occasion) in April

Below: Declaration ceremony held at Osborne House: Chairman of the Bench, Chris Holmes, outgoing High Sheriff Ron Holland, Under Sheriff John Matthews, His Honour Judge Rawls, myself, Lord-Lieutenant Maj Gen Martin White, my grandson and sword carrier Finnian





News from and about members

and nominated Saturday 24 September to be the inaugural Isle of Wight Day.

I created a logo depicting celebratory bunting and persuaded our three cross-Solent ferry companies to come together (something that they would not normally ever do) and provide me with the funds to enable me to purchase 75 miles of colourful bunting which we then distributed free of charge throughout the whole Island and asked everyone to deck out their homes and places of business to 'Wave the flag for Isle of Wight Day'!

We organised a massive People's Parade involving several marching bands, dancers, carnival floats, vintage vehicles, and contingents of marchers from the military, the police, fire service, scouts and girl guides to name just a few. I was given the honour of leading the parade through the streets of Newport, our county town, atop an open top bus – it was like winning the FA Cup! We also organised a yachting relay through the length of the Solent involving all 16 of the sailing clubs on the Island and all the Island churches came together to mount a spectacular *Songs of Praise* concert led by the Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra and choir, and attended by 1,000 in Cowes.

The enthusiasm of the whole county was tangible and not only was the Island covered in celebratory bunting but everyone entered into the spirit of the day by organising hundreds of events, including street parties, concerts, food fairs, tea parties and a host of other community activities involving all the schools and the whole Island community, which raised considerable sums for deserving local causes. It was also a commercial success for many Island companies and by selecting this date in September for our annual day of celebration the Island's tourist business is able to extend its crucial summer season.

As I step down after a busy but wonderful year in office, I will continue to organise this new day on our Island's calendar – our county's very own Red Nose Day – and I am happy to report that the Shrievalty is very much alive and in rude health on the Isle of Wight.

◆ Robin Courage MBE

High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight 2016-17



Top Right: At the opening of the Chelsea Garden at the Earl Mountbatten Hospice with former Isle of Wight High Sheriff Alan Titchmarsh

Right: Aboard the open top bus and waving the flag on the first Isle of Wight Day



I do like to be... beside the seaside

IT DOESN'T seem two minutes since I was standing in County Hall, Preston, accepting the honour of being the High Sheriff of Lancashire... and what an honour it has been.

Danielle and I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 12 months and, as we live in Blackpool, I feel entitled to use the phrase 'it's been a rollercoaster of both emotions and experiences'.

I can honestly say that Lancashire is thriving... the work we have seen in all corners of the county has been truly breathtaking.

I saw at first-hand the hard work that the judiciary carry out in Lancashire to ensure justice is done.

I was impressed with the volunteers at the Fleetwood lifeboat station who give up their time and put their lives at risk every time the boat is launched to save others.

There is great work going on in Lancashire to help people who find themselves homeless. I spent the night with the Street Pastors in Preston, providing help and support when needed.

One of the big projects of the year happened at the Carers Centre in Blackpool where both Danielle and I are patrons. Nick Knowles and the BBC's *DIY SOS* team



Above: Welcoming HRH The Prince of Wales to the BAE Systems 'Academy for Skills & Knowledge' at Samlesbury

Below: At the Blackpool Tower Ballroom

arranged the volunteer services of hundreds of people to turn a run-down building into a world-class facility for young carers. It was estimated to be worth a million pounds! There is no way that the charity would ever have been able to pay for work like that. But it re-affirmed my belief that if we all do a little in life, a lot can be achieved.

However, it wasn't just the community sector that impressed us.

At the BAE Systems facility in Samlesbury we were able to see how pioneering technology is leading the world and had the honour of welcoming HRH The Prince of Wales.

The universities in Lancashire are also doing splendid work. I am especially grateful to UCLan for sponsoring this year's High Sheriff's Young Citizens Awards at Lancashire Police headquarters and to witness the inauguration of the new chancellors.

We were also delighted and honoured to represent Lancashire at this year's National Crimebeat Awards. It was wonderful to be able to give something back to the outstanding young people we have in Lancashire.

I have met some incredible people this year; they are all working hard in their field to make Lancashire a dynamic, forward-thinking and thriving place:

- Police officers keeping us safe
- The armed forces
- The teachers and lecturers at colleges and universities
- Firefighters and ambulance staff
- All those who work in prisons
- Council staff

I'm now proud to be known as a past High Sheriff and honoured that so many of Lancashire's past High Sheriffs were able to join Danielle and me at the world-famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom where the Wurlitzer played 'I do like to be... beside the seaside!'

It has been a privilege and an honour to have Danielle at my side throughout my year as the High Sheriff of Lancashire, and I hope that we were able to make a difference in people's lives.

♣ **John Barnett MBE DL**
High Sheriff of Lancashire 2016-17





A shared society – alive and well on Merseyside

IT IS hard to believe that over 12 months have gone by since I made my Declaration as High Sheriff of Merseyside at Liverpool Cathedral and I will never forget the year that followed for me and my wife Shirley.

It has been such an honour to represent our county and there have been so many highlights and so many memories for us that I cannot possibly relate them all in this short article. However, I have recalled just some of the moments below and I hope they give a flavour of the impact the year has had.

Welcoming Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to the official opening of Alder Hey Hospital in June was, for me and my family, a particularly poignant and emotional occasion, having been closely involved with the hospital for over 30 years.

Sitting with the judges in four murder trials reminded me of the great challenges still being faced in society, not least as a result of the curse of our time – drugs. Going out with the police and responding to a ‘blue light’ call brought home so starkly how brave our magnificent police men and women are.

Standing in the garden of Liverpool Parish Church, Our Lady and St Nicholas, at 7.30 in the morning on the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme and hearing a whistle blow, which was the signal for the men to go over the top. We can never forget or repay the sacrifices of our brave service men and women.

My respect for the judiciary, the police and all the emergency services, for members of our armed forces, included the cadet forces, for the lord mayor and the mayors, for our doctors

and nurses, for our teachers – it has never been higher.

I will never forget the people I have met every day. To use a popular phrase of the moment: ‘ordinary people doing extraordinary things’.

Right up there must be the Herculean efforts of our voluntary sector. Time and again, I was to meet people who saw a wrong to be put right, a struggling person to be supported or a need to be met. Daily these people were improving lives, changing lives and in so many cases, saving lives. And so often at the top of these small neighbourhood charities was a wonderful true Merseysider, whose passion, belief and tenacity, when faced with almost impossible odds, meant that they completely refused to take no for an answer. Not for them to remain quiet or to walk on the other side. Not for them strategy reports, psychometric tests or appraisals. They just get on with what needs to be done to make life-changing differences and I salute them all. Their directness is famous. I found they would never use three words when two would do! This goes to the heart of what makes our county of Merseyside great – its people. Brave, outspoken, generous, especially of themselves. Funny, hardworking and, yes, challenging at times, but challenging for the right reasons. If there is a better group of people I do not know them.

I have been both honoured and humbled during my year as High Sheriff of Merseyside, and now, more than ever, feel that we are truly blessed to work and live here.

♦ Jim Davies OBE DL
High Sheriff of Merseyside 2016-17



Left: Her Majesty The Queen opening Alder Hey Hospital, June 2016

NORTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members



On the beat at 140 mph

AS WELL as providing numerous exciting excursions – including time spent in a nuclear bunker or in a tunnel 10 miles out under the North Sea – my year in the shrievalty highlighted the enormous amount of good work the people of North Yorkshire do in support of charities. The High Sheriff's Awards allowed me to recognise a few, from local independent charities such as Take Heart Support Group Teesside, to international efforts such as the RNLI.

I was particularly impressed to meet Ken Horner, 84, from Follifoot near Harrogate who has been volunteering for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance for over 15 years. The retired joiner and wheelwright has now raised in excess of £50,000 since he started fundraising in the early 2000s. It was an honour to recognise his dedication with an award presented in conjunction with the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Charity at a presentation at the YAA's Northern Airbase at Topcliffe near Thirsk. The majority of the funds he has raised have come from the hand-made



Top: With the team at Redcar lifeboat station Above: With the Sheriff Hutton Jumbles



walking sticks and shepherds crooks he carves himself using materials he collects. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance is operational seven days a week, all year round.

Another charity which was of particular interest to me was the Redcar Sea Cadets as my family were shipbuilders in Hartlepool. The core purpose of the charity is to celebrate Britain's maritime heritage and contribute to its future development by supporting young people. It is an essential part of the community of Redcar and Cleveland. Unfortunately, a recent break-in meant that a lot of essential equipment has been stolen. I want to commend the local community for its efforts to come together and raise funds to replace it.

I presented other High Sheriff's Awards to deserving causes: the Sheriff Hutton Jumblies started in 1986 and have raised over £250,000, many of their jumble sales making over £2,000; Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band celebrated its bi-centenary last year and now has over 120 players across five bands. As the town band they are an integral part of the community, and play for events such as the Christmas carolling and Armistice parade; Applefields School is a community, co-educational, special day school near York for secondary aged children with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties; Friends of York Cemetery was established in 1988 to provide for the public benefit the preservation, care and improvement of York Cemetery as a burial ground and as a place of historic interest and beauty; York Against Cancer is a small, independent, local charity and has raised more than £14 million to make a difference to the lives of local people affected by cancer; FirstLight Trust (Redcar) is a charity for armed forces with a difference. They help the 'hard to reach' veterans and provide them with whatever it takes to make that tiny difference between life and suicide.

It wasn't all visiting local charities of course. I fulfilled a life-long ambition of getting up to 140mph on the A1. Luckily this wasn't because my wife Grania was rushing home to feed the horses, but because I was 'on the beat' with the North Yorkshire Police who do a fantastic job. I have visited many businesses in North Yorkshire from Wensleydale cheese to the Nestlé chocolate factory and PD Ports. I also had the pleasure of reading alongside the Archbishop of York, at York Minister's wonderful Christmas carol concert.

♦♦ **John Furness**

High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2016-17



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One High Sheriff and her motorcycle



Above:
Celebrating
my 75th blood
donation in almost
full uniform

IT IS such a privilege to be High Sheriff. So many doors normally closed are open and the welcomes I have received everywhere have been tremendous. But what has made my year in office special? In short, the answer is the people.

I chose to celebrate the county of Shropshire with its rich communities and also to champion volunteering in all its forms. I have sought to be an accessible High Sheriff, seeking out smaller community-based events in addition to the larger ones. I had no idea how intoxicating these themes would prove to be or the joy of meeting people who never dreamed they would be talking to a High Sheriff.

Perhaps unusually for a lady High Sheriff I hold a full motorcycle licence and, with my husband, often go touring. It was great fun to turn up to some events on a motorcycle, in particular any with a motoring or vintage theme. This is another way in which I have sought to be accessible to good effect, although our police and crime commissioner was on the point of ejecting us from a police station car park before he recognised us with a degree of surprise and embarrassment!

Celebrating HM The Queen's 90th birthday provided a brilliant opportunity for parties. One organiser decided to invite the High Sheriff to a party at the village hall in remote Bucknell. She was astonished and delighted in equal measure when I said yes. The villagers did Her Majesty proud with a feast that was excellent in all respects: home baked cakes, pastries and sandwiches all to die for. But the icing on the cake was the people themselves: a vibrant community enjoying a day together with all age groups represented. Everyone was involved and contributing. Brilliant!

Shropshire is a big rural county, the largest inland county in England. Providing a fire and rescue service giving good response times is a challenge largely met through part-time or 'retained' firefighters. We have only three fire stations where full-time shift working is employed. Elsewhere there are 20 stations all staffed by part-time personnel. For this to work there is great reliance on the community and local employers being willing to release staff at a moment's notice for emergency call-outs. I had the privilege of being asked to rededicate the refurbished retained station



With Shropshire Young
Enterprise winners
'Global Gourmet' of Holy
Trinity Academy, Telford



News from and about members



Above: With Shropshire ACF cadets at summer camp in Crowborough

Below: About to set off by motorcycle to open gardens for charity in Cleobury Mortimer

at Baschurch and the camaraderie and dedication of the people I met blew me away.

Getting to know the military activity in the county has been most enjoyable. But the real delight has been the cadets from all three armed services. I had thought that they were simply a means of recruiting. How wrong I was. Although a minority of cadets progress to military careers there is no pressure placed on them to do. The cadets are brilliant youth organisations helping

to provide life skills for young people using a military setting. I came across so many stories of youngsters, some from challenging backgrounds, whose lives had been transformed by joining the cadets. The excellence of the volunteer leaders, the military discipline operated entirely fairly and the opportunity to develop skills and friendships, were all factors in the successes that I saw.

I have sought out volunteers in action across the county, often giving support services to the elderly, the sick and the disabled. I have been touched by what is going on under our noses but unseen and often unsung. Highlights include a young carer aged seven who was responsible for checking his disabled, diabetic ex-military father's blood sugar levels daily. He did not see it as anything out of the ordinary. I have also seen so many volunteers driven by personal experience to help others: Parkinson's support groups, the autism hub, and hearing- and sight-loss workers. Finally, support groups and provision for the elderly, in particular those with cruel debilitating dementia. All these and more have left me feeling tremendously proud of the voluntary work that goes on in my county.

And so, after 8000 miles and over 700 thank you letters, the year ended. I feel so privileged and humbled to have been High Sheriff of Shropshire.

♦♦ **Christine Holmes JP**

High Sheriff of Shropshire 2016-2017





You won't believe it

IF I was commercially minded I might be able to recoup some of the expenses of the last year by publishing my diary. It is provisionally entitled *You Won't Believe It*, my nightly refrain, and it would probably be classified and shelved under Fantasy Fiction. Serving, or acting, as High Sheriff for 53 weeks was the most extraordinary experience and privilege. Somerset is a county of extremes, with levels and hills, caves and beacons, beaches and forests, castles, abbeys and battlefields, and the largest construction site in Europe, centred on Hinkley Point. Satnav covers the major routes, but a good old-fashioned Shell Guide should be on hand (or in the glove compartment if, like me, you drive yourself). How can one ignore a finger-post pointing towards Brympton d'Evercy, Butleigh, Compton Pauncefoot, Clapton-in-Gordano, Hatch Beauchamp, Marston Bigot, Nempnett Thrubwell, Stogursey, Weston Zoyland or Wiveliscombe? This is the world of Coleridge (who wrote *Kubla Khan* while living at Nether Stowey), Evelyn Waugh (resident of Combe Florey) and TS Eliot, Siegfried

Sassoon and Anthony Powell (all of whom are buried in the county).

One of my initiatives was to write to all 24 mayors and ask them to list any interesting facts and features peculiar to their patch. With the exception of one town which John Wesley considered 'one of the dullest places in the country', the responses were astonishing. I had no idea that John Lewis and Wallace Wyndham Waite (one half of Waitrose) both came from Shepton Mallet (45 years apart) or that the statue of Lady Justice on top of the Old Bailey was cast in Frome. I am preparing to pass all this on, and humbly suggest that High Sheriffs should be encouraged to promote knowledge and pride in the history of their counties. It is a way of bringing people together and giving them common cause. As the MP Jo Cox famously said: 'We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us.'

When I first pulled on the uniform I was warned not to let the power go to my head. I have failed to detect any scent of power and the tights alone should deter the slightest sense of superiority. I

Opposite page:

The High Sheriff of Somerset being presented with flowers by the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset, Andy Marsh

Below: The High Sheriffs of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon, Dorset and Bristol at Wells Cathedral 19 March 2017





News from and about members



have had misadventures along the way, and many moments of high humour – all dutifully recorded in the diary. Yet at every encounter and event I was greeted with warmth, favour and respect. The admirable policemen and women graciously accepted their bravery awards from a man with the name of Coward. In return the chief constable was kind enough to present me with a bunch of flowers, which endeared both of us to my wife, Laura.

I was relieved to have made it through the year without incurring any penalties or public rebukes. I am the fifth Edward Bayntun to have been pricked, and in 1654 the fourth invited the diarist John Evelyn to dinner. Evelyn was not impressed, recording: 'Our coachman made so exceedingly drunk; that returning home we escaped incredible dangers; tis it seems by order of the Knight, that all Gentlemans servants be so treated: but the custome is barbarous, and much unbecoming a Knight, much less a Christian.' In Sir Edward's defence, it could be said that he was generous to a fault. Perhaps in 350 years time my diary will be a source of quotation and wonderment – but for now it will remain unpublished.

♦ Edward Bayntun-Coward
High Sheriff of Somerset 2016-17



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

High Sheriffs intending to lay wreaths during the Armistice period can order these with the High Sheriffs' badge in the centre from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Orders should be placed (quoting stock code H0018) by calling the Poppy Appeal on **01622 717172** and speaking to a Regional Organiser.

Please order in good time.



46th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon *Wednesday 1 November 2017*

The Association's 46th AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall. 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 2017.



A roaring year in Staffordshire

STAFFORDSHIRE IS an extremely busy county, with two combined courts, Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent, and no less than eight prisons, all of which I visited during my year in office. The prison service desperately needs our support at this time. Yet more pressure on the legal system this year was the closing of Burton Magistrates' Court.

I was privileged to attend the majority of the Queen's Award ceremonies and was hugely impressed by the industry and innovation of businesses throughout the county, not to mention the incredible dedication of the voluntary sector, without which the whole country would almost certainly grind to a halt. One such example is Manna House, a Baptist church in Hanley, which provides a hot meal for up to one hundred homeless people every Thursday evening. My wife Lucy and I returned to help one evening and to chat with some of the visitors.

We are very lucky to have the National Memorial Arboretum on our doorstep at Alrewas, a must for any visitor to the county. I attended numerous events there throughout the year, most notably the Annual Service of Remembrance of COPS (Care of Police Survivors: an amazing charity dedicated to helping the families of police officers who have lost their lives on duty), the Armistice Day Service with HRH Prince Harry and the official opening of the magnificent new Remembrance Centre by HRH the Duke of Cambridge.

As I am chairman of Staffordshire Clubs for Young People and having spent 28 years in the Territorial Army, I decided my charitable focus would be the youth of the county, including the Reserves and Cadets. Since the demise of the county's Youth Services it has become critical to look to the voluntary sector to provide activities for young people, especially those in deprived areas who might otherwise be led astray or find themselves branded as trouble-makers because they are bored and have nothing on which to focus their energy (ASB = Anti-Social Boredom!). This sat nicely with the role of looking after the judiciary, by keeping some youngsters actively engaged and out of trouble! I was very pleased to have a cadet from one of my former TA centres: Corporal now Sergeant Slade.

A vintage car enthusiast, I was fascinated to learn from a friend, Edward Bolton, that his grandfather, Francis Bolton, who founded a copper works in Oakamoor, was also an avid motorist and had organised a hill climb in Oakamoor in the early 1900s. A few telephone calls, recces and meetings and we were on our way to organising a hill climb revival to raise money for Staffordshire Clubs for Young People. Deemed a success, we are organising a bigger, better event this year on Saturday 15 July 2017!

Sir Kenneth Parker was the only High Court Judge to come to Stafford during my year. It was fascinating to sit with him and my wife Lucy and I were delighted to invite him and Lady Parker to a dinner party at home. Nonetheless, feeling somewhat bereft of High Court Judges, I wondered what else I might do to look after the

Right: A roaring start to my charity fundraiser in Staffordshire

Opposite page: Armistice Day – The High Sheriff presents Harriet Baldwin MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Ministry of Defence to HRH Prince Harry





News from and about members



judiciary and organised what was described by the Recorder of Stafford, His Honour Judge Michael Chambers QC, as a pop-party for staff members at Stafford Combined Court before Christmas, and another at Stoke-on-Trent before Easter. The latter was also an opportunity to present three Court Awards. Regrettably the recipients decided to keep a low profile but their actions demonstrated remarkable bravery and integrity and it was humbling to learn about their exploits. They truly are unsung heroes.

Finally, I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to my Under Sheriff and his Secretary, Paul Slater and Pat Chilton at Hand Morgan & Owen. Both have been extremely supportive throughout my year and the firm has provided Under Sheriffs of Staffordshire for many decades. Long may they continue to do so!

♣ **Colonel David Leigh TD DL**
High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2016-17

“We are very lucky to have the National Memorial Arboretum on our doorstep at Alrewas, a must for any visitor to the county.”



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Cheerleader for the 21st century

I HAD been warned that a question frequently asked of High Sheriffs by curious schoolboys was whether we ever used the sword to stab anybody. Sure enough, as I stood before a primary school assembly, I found myself facing that very test. On the same occasion, a much smarter schoolgirl took one look at my uniform enquiring if that was what I wore during the day, then what did I wear at night in bed. This enquiry inspired the commissioning of some shrieval pyjamas in the finest Suffolk silk. This exquisite material is made in Sudbury's historic mills and is prized in the world's design houses. In fact the question most often asked is what purpose we High Sheriffs serve. Attempting to answer this by reference to the Sheriff's traditional role usually proved unsatisfactory. We assume that all public offices in Britain are historic so the more pertinent question is why have some of them survived?

As somebody whose day job is the support of entrepreneurs and new enterprise, I had planned to spend my time showcasing Suffolk's good businesses. The county is blessed with numerous small and medium-sized companies which create worthwhile jobs, engage with the wider community and pay their taxes in the country in which they are earned. After only a few weeks, it became

clear to me that as well as these more established organisations, there are many thousands of volunteers, charities and social enterprises working alongside and often among them. Most are small and under-resourced but they are all trying to turn society's problems round, and they all face the familiar issues which occupy the minds of those of us who work in the world of commercial entrepreneurs. I am not alone in observing that there is a new proliferation of these mainly volunteer groups. Many are newly formed and others are being asked to do more than hitherto. Often operating in apparent isolation, these individuals and organisations lack 'cheerleaders'. It seemed to me that the 21st-century sheriff is well placed to become a cheerleader for this expanding community. We can only do so much in a short year but campaigning for the unsung heroes and bringing them together with others in their field and those who might help them made a much more satisfactory response for those curious people asking what a sheriff is for. More satisfactory than taking the questioner back to the 13th century to explain our role.

Of course the expansion of the voluntary sector is really an extension of the civic society founded on the administration of justice. I quickly



Above: Removing an internal fence on the reopening of Knettishall Heath reserve in Suffolk's Brecklands. From left to right: William Kendall, High Sheriff of Suffolk; Peter Cox, Managing Director of WREN; Ian Brown, Chairman of Trustees at Suffolk Wildlife Trust; Julian Roughton, Chief Executive of Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Phil Rothwell, of the Heritage Lottery Fund

learned that the Suffolk courts and police are as dependent on volunteers as everybody else. Meanwhile, I was able to help challenge the decision to close two-thirds of the county's Magistrates' Courts, a battle still raging.

I wanted to illustrate my interest in how the arts and the environment can improve the lives of all in our society. So I hosted relevant events in our spectacular Snape Maltings concert hall and also added a new prize to the High Sheriff's Awards for organisations working with the environment. In this and many other areas, I found invaluable support from our brilliant Community Foundation.

A year is a very short time. My predecessor set a stunning example of what can be achieved. Close collaboration with her and my successor has greatly enhanced our usefulness without remotely committing each other to any particular action. I was dreading being the Suffolk sheriff who let the side down. Thanks to the help from many friends, I may have just escaped this fate.

♦ William Kendall DL
High Sheriff of Suffolk 2016-17



Left: Suffolk High Sheriff's Award winners on stage at Snape Maltings along with National Crimebeat Special Award winners Wassup



TYNE AND WEAR

News from and about members

Get out and about!

MY FINAL week as High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear pulled together various things that I had been working on or had seen during my year. It was a special week with the High Sheriff's Awards up first on Tuesday. The real highlight of my year has been visiting community groups across the county – amazing people doing wonderful things to support young people. Lots of unsung heroes! On the night we awarded nearly £40,000 to 68 groups and a special award to Dr Shobha Srovastava, as the outstanding unsung hero, for her work with Hindu Nari Sangh in South Tyneside. Our inspirational speaker was Alan Hinkes OBE, the only British person to climb all 14 mountains over 8,000 metres – he gave a brilliant insight into achieving goals against the odds. I guess my first message about being High Sheriff is get out and about as much as possible!



“I've spent a lot of time on this and knocked on quite a few doors but they were always open

Wednesday brought the launch of Read North East, at the University of Sunderland. Literacy was the theme for my year with a plan to try and bring together a range of partners to improve literacy levels in the whole North East region. The campaign is backed by the High Sheriffs of Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. It will be driven by the National Literacy Trust supported by numerous partners including the Education Endowment Foundation, Penguin Books, Greggs, Schools North East, Seven Stories, New Writing North and organisations leading library services for young people. The campaign aims to lift literacy levels in the North East and I was delighted to be made honorary president of the campaign to enable me to stay involved after my shrieval year. Nearly 150 people from different sectors and various parts of the region attended and pledged their support. You can pledge your support or read about the campaign at www.readnortheast.org.uk. I've spent a lot of time on this and knocked on quite a few doors but they were always

open and I do believe having a focus on one thing helped me.

History has been a major part of my year starting with my Declaration at the 7th-century St Peter's Church in Monkwearmouth in Sunderland, home of the Venerable Bede, the Father of English History. My finale took place on the Thursday of that final week at Ryhope Engines Museum, a 19th-century steam driven water pumping station. It is run by volunteers – more unsung heroes! This was my last major event before handing over to Robin Brims and it gave me the opportunity to say thank you to many people who had supported me throughout a magnificent year. What a year!

♣ **John Mowbray, OBE**
High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2016-17

Top: Outside Ryhope Engines Museum with the wonderful volunteers

Left: At the High Sheriff's Awards, accompanied by Alan Hinkes OBE and Vivien Stapley of the Sir James Knott Trust, one of our funding supporters, John Mowbray presents a cheque to Jonny Falcon of Newcastle YMCA, which won the top award of £2,500 to support its Space2 project in Newcastle

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND and WALES FOR 2017-18

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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
Lady Agnew	Norfolk	2019
P J Barrett Esq	Kent	2019
Mrs S M Beazley	Hertfordshire	2019
R C G Berkeley Esq	Gloucestershire	2019
Dr F J A Bettley JP DL FSA	Essex	2019
Mrs R D Brooks	Hampshire	Under Sheriff
A E Brough Esq	Staffordshire	2019
Mrs S L Catherall	Clwyd	2019
Mrs C E Clancy	Gwent	2019
R N J Coombe Esq	Kent	Under Sheriff
Mrs Sarah Coryton	Cornwall	2017
R W Day Esq	Lincolnshire	2019
J J Dixey Esq	Shropshire	2019
Mrs C M Dolling	Bedfordshire	2019
The Earl of Burlington	Derbyshire	2019
N R B Ebbs Esq	Nottinghamshire	2018
B R Eldred Esq DL	South Yorkshire	2018
Mrs K K G Ellis	Gwynedd	2018
Mrs R T Eminson	Suffolk	2019
Mrs L L Fenwick	North Yorkshire	2019
W J Glover Esq	Surrey	2019
Ms S R Goldstone	West Glamorgan	2019
Dr I M Graham	South Glamorgan	2019
J A N Halliday Esq	Somerset	2019
Mrs V L Hancock	East Sussex	2019
T R Hercok Esq	Leicestershire	2019
J F S Hervey-Bathurst Esq CBE DL	Herefordshire	2019
Mrs D Irwin-Clark	West Sussex	2019
Mrs K Jones	Dorset	Under Sheriff
Mrs S M Jones	Gwynedd	2019
Lady Jay of Ewelme CBE DL	Oxfordshire	2019
The Lady Joicey	Northumberland	2019
P D Lawrence Esq	West Yorkshire	2019
Mrs C S Le May	Hampshire	2019
Mrs A H J Lewis	Dyfed	2019
G J Lowson Esq	West Midlands	Under Sheriff
The Hon N A McKittrick DL	Cambridgeshire	2019
S J V Miesegaes Esq	Warwickshire	2019
Mrs M A Miles	Rutland	2019
Mrs C L Moran OBE	Tyne and Wear	2019
Ms M E Reid Fotheringham JP	Cumbria	2019
N A N S Robertson Esq DL	Northamptonshire	2019
D B Scott Esq DL	Wiltshire	2019
His Hon.J.J.Teare	Nottinghamshire	2019
Mrs J A Upton MBE	Buckinghamshire	2019
G M W Vestey Esq	Suffolk	2018
C J C Wyld Esq	City of Bristol	2019
Mrs L V Zeal	Berkshire	2019

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY

BEDFORDSHIRE
BERKSHIRE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
CHESHIRE
CITY OF BRISTOL
CUMBRIA
DERBYSHIRE
DEVON
DORSET
DURHAM
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
EAST SUSSEX
ESSEX
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GREATER LONDON
HAMPSHIRE
HEREFORDSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
ISLE OF WIGHT
KENT
LEICESTERSHIRE
LINCOLNSHIRE
NORFOLK
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NORTHUMBERLAND
NORTH YORKSHIRE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
OXFORDSHIRE
RUTLAND
SHROPSHIRE
SOMERSET
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
STAFFORDSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SURREY
TYNE AND WEAR
WARWICKSHIRE
WEST MIDLANDS
WEST SUSSEX
WEST YORKSHIRE
WILTSHIRE
WORCESTERSHIRE

2018/2019

A J G Polhill Esq
G E Barker Esq
Professor R S Farwell CBE DL
Dr A C Harter
Mrs A J Redmond MBE
R G Opie Esq DL
S F M Berry Esq
Mrs L B Palmer
Mrs G T Phillips
Mrs J A Swift DL
Dr S M Cronin
Mrs D J Rosenberg
Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL
B R H Burrough Esq
C Martell Esq
C A E Spicer Esq
M E Thistlethwayte Esq
T N Hone Esq DL
Mrs S R Harvey
TBA
Mrs S J Ashton
Mrs D Thompson
I H Walter Esq
C J Watt Esq
J S Watson Esq
M W Orde Esq
C J C Legard Esq
N R B Ebbs Esq
R Venables Esq
Mrs M S Jarron
R M Swire Esq DL
D A S Burn Esq
S Ingram Esq
Mrs P J Gee DL
G M W Vestey Esq
N J S Wood-Dow Esq DL
P M Callaghan Esq
Mrs C A I Sawdon
C T Loughran Esq
Mrs C S Nicholls DL
C R Jackson Esq MBE DL
Mrs N Alberry DL
C B L L Roberts Esq

2019/2020

Mrs C M Dolling
Mrs L V Zeal
Mrs J A Upton MBE
The Hon N A McKittrick
M S Mitchell Esq DL
C J C Wyld Esq
Ms M E Reid Fotheringham JP
The Earl of Burlington
Captain S C Martin RN
P H Warr Esq
P H Candler Esq
M C S Hall Esq
Mrs V L Hancock
Dr F J A Bettley
R C G Berkeley Esq
I Wahhab Esq
Mrs C S Le May
J F S Hervey-Bathurst Esq CBE DL
Mrs S M Beazley
G P Underwood Esq
P J Barrett Esq
T R Hercock Esq
R W Day Esq
Lady Agnew
N A N S Robertson Esq
The Lady Joicey
Mrs L L Fenwick
The Hon J J Teare
Lady Jay of Ewelme CBE
Mrs M A Miles
J J Dixey Esq
J A N Halliday Esq
TBA
A E Brough Esq
R T Eminson Esq
W J Glover Esq
Mrs C L Moran OBE
S J V Miesegaes Esq
M Kuo Esq
Mrs D Irwin-Clark
P D Lawrence Esq
D B Scott Esq
E W P Holloway 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

CLWYD
DYFED
GWENT
GWYNEDD
MID GLAMORGAN
POWYS
SOUTH GLAMORGAN
WEST GLAMORGAN

2018/2019

Lady Hanmer
S M Davies Esq
Mrs S E L Linnard
Mrs K K G Ellis
J H Wall Esq
D R Price Esq
B C Lakin Esq
H M Gilbert Esq

2019/2020

Mrs S L Catherall
Mrs A H J Lewis
Mrs C E Clancy
Mrs S M Jones
Colonel W C J Donnelly CBE TD
D L Peate Esq JP
Dr I M Graham
Ms S R Goldstone

DEATHS

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

Professor H Carty DL

Date of death: 23/04/2017
Age: 72
County: Merseyside
Year of office: 2011

R H Chapman Esq JP

Date of death: 07/04/2017
County: Tyne and Wear
Year of office: 1982

Dr B K Davison OBE

Date of death: 15/12/2016
County: West Glamorgan
Year of office: 1989

Mrs Jeremy Elwes (Clare)

Date of death: 03/05/2017
Age: 85
County: Lincolnshire
Husband's year of office: 1969

A W Fenwick Esq

Date of death: 08/04/2017
Age: 89
County: Leicestershire
Year of office: 1984

S R Fisher Esq MBE JP DL

Date of death: 17/11/2016
Age: 95
County: Lancashire
Year of office: 1981

J Sapsworth Esq MBE

Date of death: 18/02/2017
Age: 75
County: Bedfordshire
Year of office: 2012

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 (only to be worn by members of the Association) **£32.00**



Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

Single **£27.00**, 2+ **£20.00** each
(2 for preaching scarves)



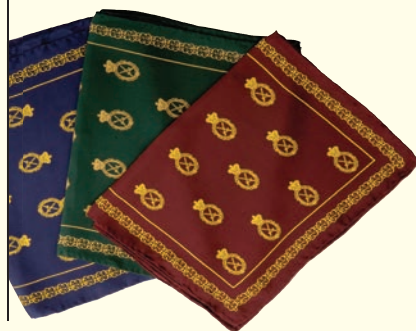
Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

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 11 3/4") **£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 8 1/2 minutes) **£7.00**

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

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS

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

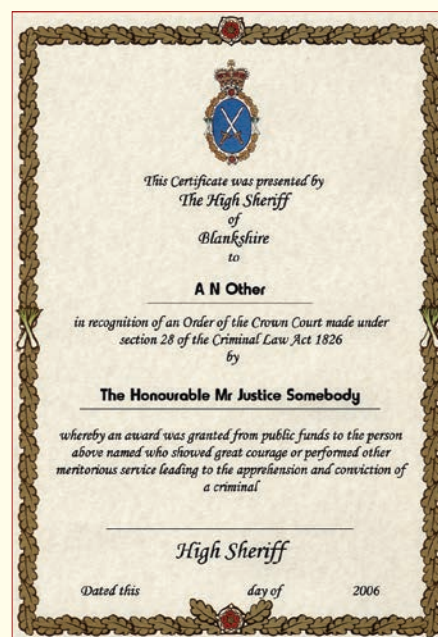
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

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



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

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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 2017**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 22 September 2017**

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 Maz Oakley
Tel: 01462 896688
Email: maz@hall-mccartney.co.uk
www.hall-mccartney.co.uk

HELPFUL TOPICS FOR MEMBERS

– full details on the Association's website (www.highsheriffs.com)

If you have forgotten your password, please email webmaster@highsheriffs.com giving your year and county

The following list of topics is not exhaustive and is revised and amplified as members seek advice:

*Chaplains to High Sheriffs – their appointment, duties and insignia

*Citizenship Ceremonies

*Court Awards recommended by judges to be made by High Sheriffs (Criminal Law Act 1826)

*Court dress

*Courts System Structure

*Death or resignation of High Sheriffs in office – procedure

*Declarations by High Sheriffs and Under Sheriffs (English and Welsh)

*Eligibility for nomination as High Sheriff

*Forms of Address covering the judiciary, and civic, military and other office holders (and even High Sheriffs)

*Heraldic insignia of the Association and High Sheriffs and how this may be used

*National Anthem – deportment when this is played (and when taking parades; [not] saluting)

*Politics – High Sheriffs' returning officer duties (Representation of the People Act 1983, s 24(1); non-involvement in politics; not entertaining politicians during a pre-election period)

*Proclamation of the Accession of a New Sovereign by High Sheriffs

*Senior Judiciary – list of current judges of the higher courts



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