



The High Sheriff

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

WINTER 2015



*Competing with Olympians in Shropshire
Also inside Annual General Meeting 2015*



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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

President J R Avery Esq DL
Officers and Council November 2015 to November 2016

OFFICERS

Chairman
J J Burton Esq DL
Email chairman@highsheriffs.com

Honorary Secretary
J H A Williams Esq
Gatefield, Green Tye, Much Hadham
Hertfordshire SG10 6JJ
Tel 01279 842225
Fax 07092 846777
Email secretary@highsheriffs.com

Honorary Treasurer
N R Savory Esq DL
Thorpland Hall, Fakenham
Norfolk NR21 0HD
Tel 01328 862392
Email treasurer@highsheriffs.com

COUNCIL

Col M G C Amlôt OBE DL
Canon S E A Bowie DL
Mrs E J Hunter
S P Leatham Esq DL
A V R Morgan Esq
Mrs A Y Morgan JP DL
W T C Shelford Esq DL
The Hon H J H Tollemache
W A A Wells Esq TD
(Hon Editor of *The High Sheriff*)
Mrs J D J Westoll MBE DL
Mrs B Wilding CBE QPM DL

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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 June 2016. Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 22 April 2016**.

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The High Sheriff
Heritage House, PO Box 21,
Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH
Email editor@highsheriffs.com

Advertisement enquiries
Non-member enquiries
Address as above

Tel 01462 896688
Fax 01462 896677
Email shrievalty@hall-mccartney.co.uk

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From the Editor

WELCOME TO the winter 2015 edition of *The High Sheriff*. As always, High Sheriffs write with great enthusiasm about their varied activities and duties. The number of shrieval initiatives recorded in these pages and elsewhere during the year bears witness to the ability of the Office to open doors and facilitate introductions for the greater good.

The arts play a significant role in the activities of High Sheriffs, such as inspiring prisoners' art recently exhibited in London and sponsored by the Koestler Trust (<http://www.koestlertrust.org.uk>). Music – not just choral music and fanfares in cathedrals – has led to shrieval command performances and standing in alone for a Salvation Army choir, and encouraging young men at risk of going off the rails to achieve some focus in learning to dance. Several High Sheriffs assumed their statutory responsibility as returning officers by declaring election results in their counties.

Every year produces different challenges and activities. Perhaps the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta was the historical highlight of 2015, even if it was aimed at curbing the King's sheriffs' powers as much as their master's. Several High Sheriffs mention Magna Carta commemorations, especially significant for Surrey in whose bailiwick Runnymede is situated. The Association's 'Magna Carta day' (see the Chairman's report on page 6), enabled members to view the original charters and hear erudite and amusing talks on their history and significance.

The Association seeks to advise High Sheriffs on all aspects of their role. For this purpose the Association website's members' area is constantly being developed and members, especially those in nomination, are encouraged to visit it. It contains articles and information we hope will interest members. Court dress is advertised and detailed advice is given on what to wear. The Association's badge for use by serving High Sheriffs can be downloaded and the complexities of addressing the judiciary and other national and local leaders are covered. Please don't hesitate to approach *The High Sheriff* or the Association's Secretary if you have any questions, and for a forgotten password email webmaster@highsheriffs.com giving your year and county.

The death in office of a High Sheriff is a rare occurrence and with great sadness we report the untimely death on 9 November 2015 of Anthony Fortescue, of Boconnoc near Lostwithiel, High Sheriff of Cornwall. His Legal Service went ahead at Truro Cathedral on 29 November, an impressive gesture by his family to which the Association extends its deepest sympathy.

Looking forward, National Crimebeat, your Association's youth crime prevention charity (<http://www.national-crimebeat.org.uk>), seeks award submissions from High Sheriffs by 15 January 2016, for presentations to take place on 16 March.

On behalf of Council I welcome new members of the Association listed on page 46 and I wish serving High Sheriffs well in their final months in office and their successors a year of great interest and discovery. I hope all readers will have a Happy Christmas and a rewarding New Year.

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

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06



Diary 2016

of Forthcoming Events

JANUARY 2016

National Crimebeat Awards

15 January 2016

Closing date for submissions endorsed by High Sheriffs to National Crimebeat; download application forms from www.national-Crimebeat.org.uk and send via submissions@national-Crimebeat.org.uk.

MARCH 2016

High Sheriffs in Nomination for 2016

Tuesday 15 March

The names of the High Sheriffs on the Roll for 2016 will be 'pricked' by Her Majesty The Queen at the meeting of the Privy Council to be held at Buckingham Palace.

National Crimebeat Awards

16 March 2016 at 11am

Awards Ceremony at the Royal National Hotel, London WC1H 0DG; finalists and their High Sheriffs will be informed by 1 February.

APRIL 2016

Meeting of the co-ordinators of the regional meetings

Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 10.00 for 10.30 am

Meeting of co-ordinators of the regional meetings for High Sheriffs in nomination with members of the Council at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge. Please address any queries to Anne Morgan by email: aymorgan@googlemail.com.

JULY 2016

Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2017 and 2018

Friday 1 July 2016

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

OCTOBER 2016

The Red Mass

Monday 3 October 2016

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

The Ladies' Lunch

Early October 2016

The annual Ladies' Lunch will be held in London probably at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge. When arranged, full details will be sent in May 2016 to those ladies who are in nomination. The organiser is Council member Sally Bowie, whose email address is: sallyeabowie@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 2016

45th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday 2 November 2016

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

The Nomination of future High Sheriffs

Saturday 12 November 2016 probably at 10.00 am

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Saturday 12 November 2016 in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court), Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. The names of those nominated as High Sheriffs for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be read in court. In September the Secretary will invite all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2017 and for 2018 to attend, providing an opportunity for nominees to meet each other. It may be possible for some 2019 nominees to attend but space in court is limited and the Association will not know their names, so such nominees or their proposers should contact the Secretary if they wish to attend. The Lord Mayor's Show also takes place that morning, so the Association is considering arrangements to view this and for a possible gathering afterwards.



The Chairman's Address

Annual General Meeting of the High Sheriffs'
Association of England and Wales

4 November 2015 at Drapers' Hall, London

WELCOME TO this, the 44th Annual General Meeting of the High Sheriffs' Association. This year we are back at Drapers' Hall after a two year absence. We are so fortunate to be able to meet in such splendid places. I am also pleased to see so many members here today. We are expecting the best turnout for some time and are pleased to have this opportunity to keep in touch with our members. This is the third time I have reported to you at our annual meeting so I will try not to be too repetitive.

I see the *raison d'être* of this Association as threefold. First of all we want to preserve the dignity of the Office of High Sheriff. We are proud that it is the oldest secular office in the land and we want to ensure that it remains so. Second we want to help High Sheriffs in nomination to be fully prepared to take on the office. We are only too well aware of the differences between the counties in which we serve but there are many common themes and we encourage High Sheriffs to maintain the same high standards across the country. Finally we try keep the shrieval community together, and particularly to keep former High Sheriffs in touch and involved long after their year in office. As always, your Association has organised a number of activities and events this year that have all contributed to these aims.

This Association would not function at all if it were not for its very active Council and I have to pay tribute to all my fellow Council members for the hard work that they put in for the benefit of the Association. These efforts will become clearer throughout the rest of my report.

For the last two years I have spoken about the forthcoming 800th anniversary of Magna Carta which was so significant to the role of the High Sheriff. The pre-Magna Carta Sheriff was not necessarily someone we would have been proud to be associated with and it is no surprise that the barons needed to rein in their power in the early 13th

century. Many High Sheriffs have been involved with events celebrating this important anniversary in their counties and as an Association we didn't want to let the anniversary pass without marking it. One afternoon in May a 'posse' of High Sheriffs past and present visited the Palace of Westminster where we were welcomed by the current High Sheriff of Gwent, Andrew Tuggey, to tea in his splendid rooms in the Palace and we were entertained and informed by the newly appointed Clerk of the House of Commons, David Natzler, who educated us about our place in history.

In the early evening we joined other members at the British Library for a most fascinating private view of an exhibition about Magna Carta which included two original copies of the 1215 document. The tour of the exhibition was preceded by another most interesting talk, this time by Julian Harrison, the curator of the exhibition. Both these events were organised by my fellow Council member, Martin Amlôt, to whom those of us who attended owe an enormous vote of thanks.

In July our annual Burghley seminar was a great success yet again. We always go away with people saying it was the best ever. I suppose it is only to be expected that as we learn we can further fine-tune it each year, but there will no doubt come a time when it is as good as it can get. This year the seminar was run for the second time by Juliet Westoll and she did a tremendous job. The success of Burghley is mostly down to the quality of the speakers and Juliet put together a great bunch. After two successful years she has been let off for good behaviour and Elizabeth Hunter, who joined Council two years ago, has boldly volunteered to take on the challenge in 2016. Elizabeth would be delighted to hear from anyone who can suggest good and suitable speakers.

We have long talked about making better use of our website and this summer I was very pleased to be able to write to all members – at least those for whom we have email addresses

– to tell them about the new 'members only' section of the website. I hope many of you have had a chance to look at it. It is particularly aimed at current High Sheriffs and those in nomination. There is an 'exchange and mart' section for court dress so if any of you are giving precious cupboard space to a court dress for which you have no further use there is now a way to find a new, caring home for it. There is a library of documents that we hope that High Sheriffs and those preparing for office will find useful including some that are available for download. Now that we have the facility we hope to continue adding further resources. Hugh Tollemache, who joined Council this time last year, has taken on responsibility for the Association's website and was responsible for developing this new area. Again, I owe Hugh a great debt of gratitude.

I hope you have all been receiving your magazine, *The High Sheriff*, twice a year. Editing the magazine is one of the toughest jobs on Council and Andrew Wells has been doing it incredibly effectively for the last three years. Andrew is assisted by a production editor, and between them they have refreshed the design of the magazine. You will have seen the fruits of these improvements in the last two issues and I hope you approve. So please do keep submitting interesting articles for publication. It is your magazine and we continually need new material to keep it interesting.

Last year I spoke about the work your Council was doing to provide more detailed guidelines about the nomination procedure for future High Sheriffs and the composition and constitution of county nomination panels. As promised I was able to send the revised guidelines to all current High Sheriffs at the end of the summer and I hope those concerned have found them helpful. If we are to avoid criticism and challenge from outside our small community it is most important that we all stick to these guidelines. I am very grateful to Bill Shelford who has pulled together all the thinking on this sensitive matter on behalf of the Council with assistance from our President, Julian Avery.

Many of you will know Bill Shelford as the man on Council who has been co-ordinating regional meetings for the last three years. It is an onerous task involving travel all around the country and Anne Morgan has kindly taken on this responsibility from Bill. Our regional meetings and network of regional co-ordinators are a very important part of what we do as an Association and I would like to thank all those people for all the hard work that they put in. The regional meetings are the way that your Council keeps in touch with what is happening in the counties and vice versa.

I don't propose to go into any detail about National Crimebeat, ably chaired by Barbara Wilding, because Andrew

Morgan, its Vice Chair, will speak to you in a few moments. I would just like to say that National Crimebeat is the Association's charity and exists to help High Sheriffs if they want to take advantage of it. We are very regularly asked to work with other very worthy charities and often to affiliate ourselves to them. Our answer is always the same: while we admire and are supportive of the work they do it is not our role as an Association to form links with charities. If High Sheriffs in individual counties wish to do so, that is a matter for them although we do stress that they should not make commitments that their successors do not want to be bound by. We also stress that there is no obligation for High Sheriffs to support charities, at least not financially.

Andrew Morgan is another valued member of Council and also a former High Sheriff of Greater London. He is well placed to liaise with the Royal Courts of Justice and the Lord Chief Justice about the arrangements for the Nomination Ceremony on 12 November and the tea party the Association organises after the ceremony which, for the last two years, has been held in St Clement Danes Church. Andrew has made similar arrangements for this year. Next year 12 November falls on a Saturday which coincides with the Lord Mayor's Show so the Nomination Ceremony will be held in the morning. Council is considering what arrangements we can make for those in nomination at that time.

While thinking about the Nomination Ceremony I would like to mention the Lord Chief Justice. A few weeks ago he attended the York Legal Service which I was also fortunate enough to attend. At the lunch afterwards he heaped praise upon High Sheriffs and the work they do at no cost to the public purse. The Shrievalty has a good friend in Lord Thomas.

Before I finish I would like to make a couple of special 'thank you's'. I am extraordinarily grateful to our President, Julian Avery. He is always available when I need him with wise counsel and I am very appreciative. However, without James Williams, our tireless Honorary Secretary, we wouldn't have an Association. James is always available, making sure that everything happens when it should and answering myriad queries from all directions.

You've heard enough from me. I hope you'll agree that our Association is in good shape.

Jeremy Burton

Chairman, the High Sheriffs' Association

RECENT EVENTS

Annual General Meeting 2015

AGM 2015

✦ James Williams
Secretary to the Association

The 44th Annual General Meeting of the Association took place on Wednesday 4 November at Drapers' Hall in London followed by a reception and lunch.

The Chairman, Jeremy Burton, mentioned the Association's many activities in the last twelve months and his full report is published on pages 6 and 7. He gave details of the greatly enhanced website with much more detailed



Above: David Dorman of JWP Creers and Nigel Savory (Hon Treasurer)

Below left: Anthony Woodall (Hertfordshire 1986) and Juliet Westoll (Council; Cumbria 2012)

Below right: Duncan Clegg (Glos 2012), Penelope Lewis (Worcs 2012) and Jennie Clegg

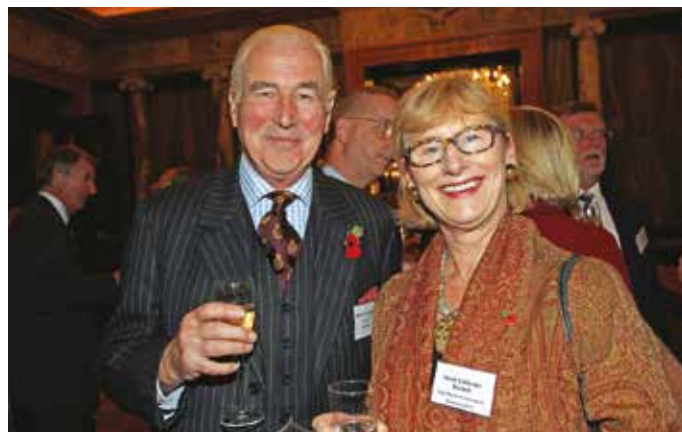
Bottom left: Julian Avery (Association President) and Richard Tilbrook, Clerk of the Privy Council

Bottom Right: Elizabeth Hunter (Council; Herefordshire & Worcestershire 2010) & Lord Justice McFarlane



RECENT EVENTS

Annual General Meeting 2015



Above left: Dr Jas Bilkhu (Notts 2015), Col David Sneath (Notts 2017)

Above: Michael Cunningham (Clwyd 2005) and Sarah Callander Beckett (Cheshire 2017)

Left: Robert Constable-Maxwell (Leics 1991), Penelope Escombe (Northants 2011), Susan Constable-Maxwell and Ven David Painter

Below left: Hugh Burnett and Jeremy Burton

information in a dedicated members' area. Jeremy, together with Andrew Wells, Juliet Westoll and Barbara Wilding, were all re-elected to Council.

Hugh Burnett retired from Council having served for his limit of six years. The Chairman thanked him for the great impact he had had on a wide range of the Association's projects, especially chairing National Crimebeat, and made a presentation to him.

Nigel Savory, as Treasurer, thanked David Dorman of JWP Creers for handling the Association's accounts so efficiently for over 25 years and made a presentation to him on his retirement. Andrew Morgan, Vice Chair of National Crimebeat, reported on the charity's activities and encouraged High Sheriffs to submit candidates for its national awards, the charity's *raison d'être*.

The guest speaker at lunch was the Right Honourable Lord Justice McFarlane who gave a very erudite and amusing speech. He was full of praise for all that High Sheriffs do in their counties and for the difference they make with the many activities they undertake. The number of members and guests attending the AGM and lunch this year was over 160 and was the highest on record.

RECENT EVENTS

Nomination Ceremony and Tea Party

Nomination Ceremony and Tea Party

◆ David Jones

High Sheriff of Greater London, 2013-14

EVERY 12 November, excepting Sundays, High Sheriffs in nomination gather in the Royal Courts of Justice to hear their names read out before these are delivered to HM The Queen to be pricked. The Queen's Remembrancer, Senior Master Barbara Fontaine, conducts the proceedings in tricorne hat (almost the only person allowed to

wear a hat in court) with the Clerk of the Privy Council, Richard Tilbrook. The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, presides, this year assisted by Lord Justice Moore-Bick, Mr Justice Andrew Smith, and Mrs Justice Thirlwall. The Lord Chief replied to the thanks of Lady Hameed, High Sheriff of Greater London, praising with great warmth the work of High Sheriffs. It is an occasion which all in nomination should try to attend.

Below: Jeremy Burton (Association Chairman, West Yorkshire 2009), Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, David Jones (Greater London 2013)



Above: Stelio Stefanou (Hertfordshire 2016), Elaine Thomas (guest of John Thomas, Gwent 2017), Susie Stefanou



Above: Geraint Evans, Chief Clerk to the Queen's Remembrancer, Lady Williams, Sir Philip Williams (Dorset 2016)

Right: Elizabeth Jones (guest of David Jones, Greater London 2013), the Queen's Remembrancer, Senior Master Fontaine



Above: Dudley Fishburn, Victoria Fishburn (Berkshire 2016), Sarah Scrope (Berkshire 2017), Adrian Scrope



RECENT EVENTS

Nomination Ceremony and Tea Party



Left: George Jessel (Kent 2017), Victoria Jessel, Anthony Clay (Gwent 2016)



Above: Lady Hameed (Greater London 2015), Lynn Johansen (Under Sheriff, Greater London)



Above: Virginia Furness and Grania Furness (daughter and wife of John Furness, North Yorkshire 2016), Lady Emma Barnard (centre, West Sussex 2017)

After the ceremony, everyone met for tea in St Clement Danes Church, where they had a chance to meet the Lord Chief, other judges and each other, and were addressed by the Queen's Remembrancer on the history of the office and by Jeremy Burton, the Association's Chairman.

12 November 2016 falls on the Saturday of the Lord Mayor's Show. After the ceremony those attending will be able to watch the new Lord Mayor's arrival at the Law Courts, where last time younger members of my family had an excellent view from the low wall outside.

Above: Susan Hickmet, Richard Hickmet (Somerset 2017), their daughter Sophie Strong and his sister Mme Nesterine Algarra

Below: Deborah Inskip (Bedfordshire 2013), Andrew Morgan (Greater London 2009, tea party organiser), David Jones (Greater London 2013) and Vinod Tailor (Bedfordshire 2017)



Above: Toby Dennis (Lincolnshire 2013), John Furness (North Yorkshire 2016)



Left: Lady Cubitt and Major General Sir William Cubitt (Norfolk 2016)

RECENT EVENTS

Burghley 2015



The Association Chairman Jeremy Burton and speakers

Burghley 2015

♦ **Juliet Westoll MBE DL**
*Council member and Burghley seminar
organiser, High Sheriff of Cumbria 2012-13*

A PERFECT SUMMER'S day greeted over 140 delegates at this year's High Sheriffs' Association nomination seminar, which took place at Burghley House on 3 July. We are very grateful to Miranda Rock, Burghley's chatelaine, for making that possible.

The Association's Chairman Jeremy Burton began the proceedings in the Great Hall, congratulating those present on their nomination and explaining that the aim of the day was to inform them as

much as possible and to help to alleviate some of their concerns. He introduced Simon Leatham, the previous occupier of Burghley and a member of Council. Simon was standing in for his daughter Miranda and warmly welcomed everyone to Burghley House, inviting delegates to join him on a tour at the end of the day.

The first of the day's eminent guest speakers was Professor Robert Turner, Senior Master and Queen's Remembrancer from 1996 until 2007. Robert is a close friend of the Association and has an enormous knowledge of High Sheriffs through the ages. His theme was 'Your place in history and the nomination procedure'. He gave a wonderfully

interesting and highly amusing speech, full of fascinating historic facts and figures about High Sheriffs giving delegates lots of material for their own speeches.

The next three speakers were Colonel Edward Bolitho, High Sheriff of Cornwall 2011-12 and Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall since 2011, Lady Dannatt, High Sheriff of Norfolk 2014-15 and Andrew Brown, the current High Sheriff of Rutland, who spoke under the title of 'Preparation for your Year in Office'. Without exception they gave inspiring and informative speeches with lots of laughs, all using the benefit of their experience, with clear advice and helpful tips on the dos and don'ts, along with the highs and sometimes lows of their years.

RECENT EVENTS

Burghley 2015



Above: Bill Jackson (Herefordshire 2017), Veronica Lillis, Charles Lillis (Shropshire 2017)



Above: Dr Terry Bramall (West Yorks 2017), Lt Gen Robin Brims (Tyne and Wear 2017), Liz Bramall



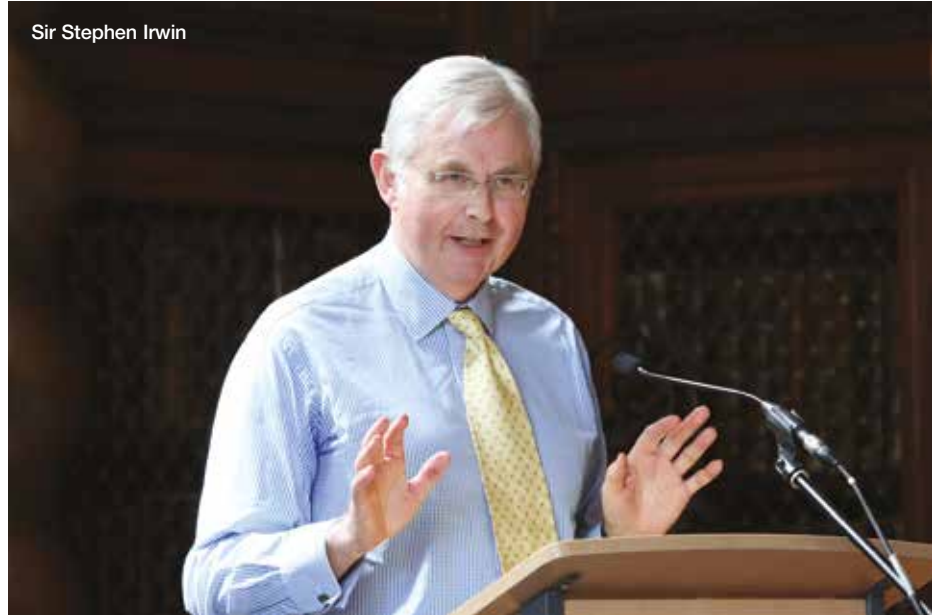
Above: Julian Avery (Association President; East Sussex 2004), Timothy Maxted (Leicestershire 2017), Sarah Furness (Rutland 2016)



Above: Sir Stephen Irwin, Jeremy Burton and Juliet Westoll (Seminar organiser, Cumbria 2012)



Above: Tom Tudor and Ann Tudor (Powys 2016)



We were so grateful to our next speaker, Commander Ray Hunter, husband of Elizabeth Hunter, a member of Council and High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2010-11, who kindly spoke at the last minute since Andrew Brown's wife, Louise, was unable to speak due to an emergency. Ray spoke about being a High Sheriff's spouse, a new slant on the Shrievalty introduced last year which has proved very popular.

The final speaker before lunch was the Honourable Mr Justice Irwin, a High Court Judge in London and previously on the Northern Circuit, and Chairman of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission. Sir Stephen gave lots of useful advice about the special relationship between High Sheriffs and the judiciary and recounted several highly amusing tales of some of his experiences on circuit. He did a tremendous job of putting a lot of the delegates' fears to rest and made them feel much more relaxed about the judicial element of their year.

After such a packed morning there was a much needed break for a welcome cooling drink in the lavender-scented garden followed by lunch. This was another opportunity for High Sheriffs in nomination and their spouses to meet others in nomination, members of Council and the speakers. Everyone enjoyed a delicious summery menu and couples

were discouraged from sitting next to each other. The afternoon proceedings opened with James Williams, Hon Secretary of the Association and Under Sheriff for Hertfordshire. He talked about the Under Sheriff's role and how this varied in each county, some taking on a large amount of work and others very little. The Association has tried to introduce guidelines but this has been difficult to put into action with each county being so very different.

Lord Dear, former Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, and now a cross bencher in the House of Lords, followed with a very interesting and informative speech about our police forces today. He encouraged High Sheriffs in nomination to contact their chief constables as early as possible.

Andrew Morgan, Vice Chair of National Crimebeat, then spoke about the Association's own charity. He explained what it involved and encouraged delegates to put forward suitable youth groups from their counties for its very special and worthwhile award scheme – a great opportunity for High Sheriffs to give encouragement to youth projects in their communities.

Andrew was followed by Sue Warner of Speakers Trust. She told delegates of her speakers' day courses which are specifically aimed at helping High Sheriffs who are feeling daunted by the public speaking which is involved in their year of office.

RECENT EVENTS

Burghley 2015



Above: David Cam (Under Sheriff, Lancashire), Heleen Lindsay-Fynn (Devon 2017), General Lord Dannatt



Above: Robert Thompson (guest of Susan Thompson, Powys 2017), Christine Holmes (Shropshire 2016)

The day concluded with a useful question and answer session taken by a panel of Council members, followed by the President of the Association, Julian Avery. He congratulated, encouraged and reassured the future High Sheriffs and their spouses and wished them well in their year of office. Lastly he expressed his deep gratitude to all the speakers and the team at Burghley. The Chairman then brought the proceedings to an end and everyone withdrew to the orangery for a delicious cream tea. Many delegates enjoyed an organised tour of the magnificent house before going home.

This year's seminar was brimming over with so many interesting topics and tales of experiences. There is never enough time to fit everything in but hopefully everyone left feeling much better informed and more

confident about the year of office ahead – the feedback has been extremely positive, with a higher rating on the return forms than ever before. It is very useful to have this information since there is always room for improvement, but overall delegates did seem to have found the day informative and worthwhile. Many have pointed out that it would be useful, if possible, to attend the seminar twice in their preparation for office.

On behalf of the High Sheriffs' Association, I should like to give an enormous thank you to all of our eminent speakers, not just for their speeches, all of which were of a very high standard, but also for giving up so much of their valuable time. We were very privileged to have such a wonderful line-up and their contribution was very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped to make the day such a success, including Rachel Anne Lampey and her colleagues at Hall-McCartney for all their secretarial work; Kara Lockyer and the team at Burghley; Miranda Hall for kindly putting together the ladies' court dress display and Henry Poole & Co for showing the men's court dress.

Work is already under way preparing for next year's seminar which is due to be held on 1 July 2016, again at Burghley House. Not one to be missed!



Above: Sarah Floyd, Lady Dannatt (Norfolk 2014)



Above: Rosie Tollemache, Victoria Fishburn (Berkshire 2016), Caroline Brocklehurst (Northamptonshire 2016)



Above: Miranda Kendall (guest of William Kendall, Suffolk 2016), Charles Whitbread (Beds 2016)



Above: Jane Whitbread, Simon Leatham (Council; Cambs 2005), Sally Bowie (Council; Leics 2013)



Above: Sue Warner (Speakers' Trust), Maj Gen Sir William Cubitt (Norfolk 2016), Andrew Brown (Rutland 2015)

RECENT EVENTS

York Legal Service



The full judicial and shrieval panoply of the north east of England in the Assembly Rooms in York

York Legal Service

◆ Charlie Forbes Adam DL
High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2015-16

THE NORTH East Legal Service, held at York Minster on Sunday 18 October, was a fabulous occasion enjoyed by all who attended (especially the tourists!).

Leading the procession to the Assembly Rooms and to the Minster were the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, together with Baroness Hale (Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom). Also in the procession were ten High Court Judges and many Circuit Judges, District Judges, barristers and other members of the legal profession. With ten High Sheriffs in attendance and the Sheriff of York's men, we witnessed a grand gathering of wigs and lace!

All the High Sheriffs of the North East entertained 230 people for lunch in the Assembly Rooms afterwards.



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RECENT EVENTS

Lunch for Lady High Sheriffs

If the hat fits...

◆ Elizabeth Hunter

*High Sheriff Herefordshire and Worcestershire
2010-11, Council member*

AFTER THE excitements of last year, it was almost disappointing that not a whiff of smoke upset the proceedings at the Lady High Sheriffs' annual lunch at the Royal Thames Yacht Club on 8 October. Thirty ladies who have served, are currently serving, or are in nomination for the next two years, met at what has become a very popular and informative event.

A member of Council and two serving High Sheriffs were seated at each of the three tables so that those in nomination had a ready opportunity to hear of the good – and perhaps the less good – experiences of their predecessors. We were delighted to welcome Lady Justice Macur as our guest speaker. Dame Julia spoke of her current work in the Court of Appeal and was able to give useful advice on how High Sheriffs can make the visit of a High Court Judge enjoyable and relaxing. She advised on the appropriateness of when a High Sheriff might sit with the judge and encouraged them to acquaint themselves with the County Court judges and the magistrates, particularly in those counties where the appearance of a High Court Judge is becoming rare. She spoke in a delightfully informal way and related one or two amusing anecdotes to a most attentive and enthusiastic audience.

After lunch we had a question and answer session which proved most informative to all those present. There was a useful discussion over the use, and the consequent merits and pitfalls, of the press and social media. The guests were directed

to the Association's website which has recently been updated and transformed. There were some familiar questions about when to wear court dress and fundraising. Towards the end of the afternoon, guests were able to look at examples of court dress and try on hats!

There are several opportunities during the months leading up to the start of

the shrieval year for High Sheriffs in nomination to meet those who have done it before and to exchange views, hopes and fears. This event, solely for the Lady High Sheriffs, has proved to be an excellent opportunity for them to meet and it was clear to see that they enjoyed getting to know one another and that they had an entertaining and valuable afternoon.



Right: Lady Sheriffs past, present and future on the staircase at the Royal Thames Yacht Club

General Election

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, s 24, the High Sheriff is the Official Returning Officer in the case of county constituencies (but not for borough constituencies) at parliamentary elections.

High Sheriffs retain the right to declare the result in such constituencies and several assumed this responsibility after the count had finished on 7 May 2015.



Right: East Sussex: declaration by Juliet Smith for Lewes at 3.38 am



Above: South Yorkshire: declaration by John Holt for Doncaster North at 5.25 am



Above: Powys: declaration by Colonel Mike Lewis for Brecon and Radnorshire at 3.10 am



Above: Suffolk: declaration by Judith Shallow for Bury St Edmunds at 7.00 am



Above: Worcestershire: declaration by Sir Anthony Winnington Bt for West Worcestershire at 4.11 am

Photo credit: Malvern Gazette



◆ Hugh Burnett OBE DL

*High Sheriff of East Sussex 2008-9,
Association Council member 2009-15,
Former Trustee and Treasurer National
Crimebeat; Chairman 2011-13*

“The purpose is to help future High Sheriffs appreciate and plan their roles from a regional and local aspect

Reflections on Council

AS AN AVID READER of *The High Sheriff* magazine, I note that there is rarely any comment about the High Sheriffs' Association's Council other than texts of speeches at the AGM and reports of successful events. This is an effort to put that right from a Council member retiring after some six years.

The striking thing about the Association's Council is the extraordinary commitment by all the members to those who are, or are about to be, High Sheriffs. The elected Council commits itself to running events, providing information and materials, and doing all it can to ensure that the role of High Sheriff is effective, up to date and protected into the future.

This concern about the ongoing role of the High Sheriff is fundamental and there are plenty of people outside the organisation who would like to see an end to this 'unnecessary and archaic' role, as they see it. The Council is ever watchful for, and reactive to, potential threats against a function which contributes so much to English and Welsh society. The Council is the Association's channel for communicating with the Privy Council which ultimately determines the rules for High Sheriffs.

Also striking is the commitment of all the Council members to the Council itself and to what it strives to do. All members of the Council have a function and responsibility such as organising and running the annual Burghley seminar, regional meetings, the website, production of the magazine, National Crimebeat and numerous other activities and events that happen, or are part of the fundamentals of any organisation, such as the accounts and the AGM. This year the excellent visits to the Houses of Parliament and to see the Magna Carta exhibition at the British Library were a huge success.

Council does not pay its members, does not employ any staff, and is supported

by an Honorary Secretary who in turn is assisted by a sub-contracted service provider, Hall-McCartney Ltd. This means that Council members themselves devote considerable time and resource to ensuring that their area of responsibility is well run. This is regularly achieved. The Council always reviews each event both before and after and looks for ways to improve the following year.

It was the Council's concern at the lack of communication with and between members that led to the establishment of regional meetings in 2011. Those in nomination, often with their spouses, meet up annually in their region with past and current High Sheriffs and other local leaders such as judges and senior police officers. The purpose is to help future High Sheriffs appreciate and plan their roles from a regional and local aspect, to meet their neighbours, express concerns which can be discussed and addressed and for the Council to hear of any trends, developments and worries. The model works very well.

The annual Burghley seminar is the flagship event for future High Sheriffs and enormous effort goes into the planning, the selection of speakers and attention to every detail down to the noise level in the dining room. One of the lady members of Council usually takes on this project and devotes a huge amount of time and effort to making it such a success.

Council meets four times a year in London and there is the AGM in November. Meetings take place in the morning and are generally followed by lunch for which Council members pay. There is always plenty of discussion, well focused, and constructive. It is both a pleasure and an honour to have been a member of the Council and I hope that all past, current and future High Sheriffs can feel that the role they have, or will embrace with so much energy and enthusiasm, is well supported.

A police perspective on the Office of High Sheriff

♦ Andy Bliss QPM
Chief Constable of Hertfordshire

THROUGHOUT MY career I have been a strong supporter of the Shrievalty and the benefits that the office brings to policing and criminal justice.

Much earlier in my service I recall the great impact made by one High Sheriff in another county who reported for an evening's duty policing a city's busy streets and night clubs wearing full court attire! I was told that both he and officers had a memorable night and I suspect that one or two revellers may have feared that they had had one drink too many.

Although one of my national roles as Chief Constable is to lead for policing on heritage crime, I am not just a supporter of the Shrievalty due to an affinity for the past – it is an ancient office that adds distinction and value to modern society and ultimately helps us to keep the public safe.

The Shrievalty brings together people

and organisations which otherwise might not meet and builds important and productive relationships between them which otherwise would not exist. Many policing initiatives and improvements have been inspired during conversations between police colleagues and other guests attending events hosted by the High Sheriff.

While serving in Sussex, Essex and now Hertfordshire I have seen on many occasions how the role of High Sheriff has brought a special distinction to events that celebrate and recognise not only police bravery but the efforts of the public and our partners too in times of crisis. I particularly recall the immense dignity that our High Sheriff lent to a small anniversary commemoration ceremony in honour of a police officer who had died in the line of duty.

Only recently the present High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Jonathan Trower, was our honoured guest at a constabulary awards event. During the summer Jonathan, who has been out on patrol and spent time with my teams, generously allowed us to use his home

as the backdrop for a special awards night.

I am always pleased to see a High Sheriff taking an active part in the social calendar within a county since they bring such a unique perspective to everything they do. I am keen for High Sheriffs to see policing in action and always encourage them to make frontline operational visits during their year in office. I very much look forward to working with next year's High Sheriff; shortly we will offer the prospective candidate a police-hosted briefing together with our outgoing Sheriff.

Alongside every able and effective High Sheriff there is invariably an equally hard-working consort; I also pay tribute to them. And it would be remiss of me were I not to bid a warm farewell to James Williams who has been the Under High Sheriff in Hertfordshire for 25 years. James has worked tirelessly over the years, loyally supporting and guiding his principals knowledgeably and with great charm. I wish him every happiness and success upon his retirement.



At the awards evening with the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Jonathan Trower (left)



Above: The High Sheriff with the principal participants at his Declaration standing on the sacred grass in front of Emmanuel College Chapel

Top Right: The Royal Marines Band from HMS Collingwood Beating Retreat.

Above right: The Royal Marines Band marching through Warboys en route to Beating Retreat



In tune on land

THE SHRIEVAL YEAR started on a bright sunny day with the Declaration held in the Long Gallery of Emmanuel College, Cambridge where I am fortunate to be a Bye-Fellow. In addition to the Lord-Lieutenant and the outgoing High Sheriff there were also present two Pikemen from Lord Robarte's Regiment of Foot providing the required protection for the visiting judiciary. The judges remarked that they would welcome their presence more frequently.

One of the many highlights early in the year was the general election. Following a precedent set by previous High Sheriffs I visited the smallest and largest polling station in each of the constituencies within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The final visit was to the smallest of all in the Old Rectory in Hadden where I was handed a glass of wine on leaving the 'polling station' in the sitting room and invited to join the party elsewhere in the house where it seemed all the electors were present. I decided to preside as returning officer in Huntingdon where the announcement was made by a very bleary-eyed High Sheriff at 5.30am on the Friday morning. My metabolism was restored later in the day by an excellent Founders' Feast in St Edmund's College, Cambridge.

As a former naval person who is retired in a virtually land-locked county I felt I should

do something a little different for the summer reception. I was fortunate to secure the Royal Marine Band from my former command at HMS Collingwood. The Band performed Beating Retreat and the Sunset ceremony magnificently after first marching through the village and collecting several hundred of the local community who also witnessed the ceremony, along with the High Sheriffs of the surrounding counties. Very generously the reception and the villagers raised over £6,000 for the High Sheriff's Award Scheme and the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen Families Association.

The year so far has provided a unique opportunity to see at first hand the vital work undertaken by a whole range of groups which work with vulnerable and ethnic minority communities. This work is invaluable in Cambridgeshire where over 100 languages are spoken as a first language in Peterborough alone. It has also been a great privilege to visit those organisations which provide positive and constructive activities to help keep youngsters out of trouble, or not get back into trouble. They have my greatest admiration.

♣ Captain V H Lucas DL Royal Navy
High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire 2015-16



An early start

I STARTED MY TERM of office a year earlier than I had expected due to one of my planned predecessors having to stand down through ill health. My initial sense of panic was soon replaced by relief that the waiting would soon be over and I could start the planning in earnest.

The previous High Sheriff of Cheshire, Susan Sellers, had given outstanding service to the county and I was somewhat nervous about following in her footsteps. However, the oft-repeated advice that High Sheriffs can tailor their year to suit their circumstances and ambitions did put my mind at rest – and it has proved to be true!

My year in office has focused on young people and I have had the pleasure of visiting a large number of youth organisations including Scouts, Guides, Prince's Trust graduations, local youth clubs, sporting facilities and national citizenship ceremonies; all of which have confirmed my strong belief that young people are by far the most inspiring members of our communities if given a chance.

My normal working life is as chairman and founder of a charity called OnSide

which builds and operates state-of-the-art youth clubs in city centres – each attended by two to three hundred young people every day. I have made it my aim as High Sheriff of Cheshire to initiate two of these centres in Cheshire during my year in office. As I write, we have two live projects in Chester and Warrington so, with six months to go, I am on track.

The County Court in Chester is seldom used these days, with major cases being directed to Liverpool and Manchester. For this reason we have not had much cause to look after visiting judges but both of the judges whom we have entertained at our home have opted for a less formal approach to the proceedings. The Lord-Lieutenant had suggested that I offered a choice of format and I pass this good advice on to other High Sheriffs.

As I enter the second half of my year I am resolved to be more proactive on the events and visits that I would like to arrange. It is too easy to be led by diary requests and I feel that I will make much more of a contribution by being more focused and directed.

It is a bit of a cliché that High Sheriffs are always mentioning how wonderful it is to meet all the people and organisations which make our country so great. All I can say is that this sentiment is at the absolute centre of my experience and I have enjoyed every single engagement so far.

❖ Bill Holroyd CBE DL

High Sheriff of Cheshire 2015-16

Above: Welcoming back the Warrington Wolves Foundation's young trustees on their return from the Gambia

Below: At the Cheshire Scouts and Guides send-off to the 23rd World Jamboree in Japan





Exiled on the Humber



SOME OF THE EAST RIDING's most high-profile figures joined me in sailing out to sea and having to raise bail money before we were allowed to return as part of a unique charity fundraiser. Exiled on the Humber took place on the River Humber on 11 September, raising around £14000 for the High Sheriffs' and Humberside Police Tribune Trust, my chosen charity as High Sheriff.

Our group of five had to endure a prison-style lunch and briefing, before

we were led across to the holding cells inside Hull's Guildhall. We then faced a mock trial, where our crimes were read out by Judge Michael Mettyear, who was the longest-serving resident judge in the country and former honorary Recorder of Hull and the East Riding. He was joined by acting prosecutor Richard Taylor, of Hull's Gosschalks Solicitors, and a group of children from the city's Longhill Primary School, who acted as the jury, before bail was set. As

Above: Chairman of the High Sheriffs' and Humberside Police Tribune Trust Hugh Bethell, Humberside Police Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Paul Robinson, Chief Fire Officer of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Dene Sanders, former High Sheriff Julie Good, and Jim Dick, High Sheriff on the CatZero in Hull marina as part of the Exiled on the Humber charity fundraiser

'prisoners', we then had a short time to make our final pleas for bail money to our families, friends and colleagues via phone before we were bundled aboard



“All money raised from Exiled on the Humber is donated to the High Sheriffs’ and Humberside Police Tribunal Trust

Hull’s CatZero vessel, exiled on the River Humber as we tried to reach our targets.

The pioneering event, which was run in association with the Hull and East Yorkshire (HEY) Smile Foundation and CatZero, both of which I helped to found and chair, stemmed from Smile’s Boss Behind Bars initiative, which sees corporate bosses locked up in Hull Prison in a similar format.

Joining me in exile was chief fire officer of Humberside Fire and Rescue

Service Dene Sanders, Humberside Police Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Paul Robinson, and chairman of the Tribunal Trust Hugh Bethell, as well as Julie Good, a former High Sheriff. Our crimes included Dene kidnapping Fireman Sam and myself raising too much money for worthy causes. If the others were going to be locked up, I thought I should put myself forward for punishment too.

The event followed a unique theme

to raise money and, fortunately, we had lovely weather for it. Everybody was extremely generous and I’m very pleased with how it all went. All money raised from Exiled on the Humber is donated to the High Sheriffs’ and Humberside Police Tribunal Trust, which helps to build safer communities across the Humber region.

Exiled on the Humber was sponsored and supported by Humberside Police, the Hull and East Yorkshire Smile Foundation, CatZero, Hull Museums and Gosschalks Solicitors.

♦ Jim Dick OBE DL
High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2015-16



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Opening doors

HOWEVER MUCH one tries to prepare for one's year in office, the experience is full of the unexpected, as well as infinite moments of delight and poignancy. With my background in education I thought one of my earliest engagements was relatively straightforward, addressing children at their morning assembly. That was until four-year-old Josh asked in such an earnest manner: 'When you become High Sheriff are you given a camel?'

At the reception after our Declaration before Lady Hale, my counterpart in West Sussex, Denise Patterson, and I both stated that we had deliberately decided not to choose a theme for our year, preferring instead to keep our options open. That is not to say that I had not planned some key events, one of which was facilitating a conference on brain injury for the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance attended by

over 150 delegates. They came to learn from internationally renowned specialists and the conference concluded with an evening reception for local dignitaries and a talk: 'Drunken Fish and Getting the Blues: the Story of Hypoxia'.

In actual fact a theme started to emerge very early on when I attended 'Unsung Heroes', an aptly named awards ceremony at Newhaven. At the heart of all that I have experienced in my first six months in office is the realisation of how much we owe all those who volunteer in almost all walks of life.

As much of my county is coastal, I have made the most of the opportunity to learn more about those unsung heroes who patrol our shores and seas. At Seaford I spent an afternoon (some of it on a quad bike!) with an inspiring group of young people, Seaford Lifeguards, who work most professionally to ensure the safety of visitors throughout the summer

Below: Maritime and Coastguard Agency training near Beachy Head: the High Sheriff wears the orange hat





News from and about members



months. In addition I have been out with crews from the RNLI and attended an evening training session with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. A sad fact is that Beachy Head has become an international focal point for many who wish to commit suicide, meaning that the volunteer crews from these agencies spend much of their time responding to such harrowing incidents. This is in spite of the amazing work done by the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, which has seventeen volunteers providing cover day and night throughout the year.

I had the honour of attending, with my splendid chaplain the Revd David Wallis, the 73rd anniversary commemoration ceremonies of the Dieppe Raid, which was launched from East Sussex. On 19 August I laid a wreath in three places, each site more moving than the previous one, a reminder of the devastating loss of hundreds of lives just on that one day. The citizens of Dieppe are assiduous in honouring the fallen, a moving example being school children placing a red rose on each grave in the Canadian war cemetery on the eve of the anniversary.

Overall, what is clear is that as High Sheriff when one door opens another door opens!

♦♦ Juliet Smith JP

High Sheriff of East Sussex 2015-16



Above: With Eastbourne RNLI before Sunday morning training at sea

Left: Front: Denise Patterson, High Sheriff of West Sussex; Baroness Hale, Deputy President of the Supreme Court; Juliet Smith
Back: Jonathan Taylor, outgoing High Sheriff of West Sussex; Chris Gebbie, outgoing High Sheriff of East Sussex



Above: Sharing in the diversity of Adam Day

County's generosity rewarded

IN THE past few months I have attended a great number of events and they have ranged from the sublime to the, well... sublime!

Following my Declaration my husband Grahame and I were off to a flying start with a visit from HRH The Princess Royal within the first week.

I have attended a wide range of events from the most moving services such as the centenary of the Gallipoli Landings with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Lancashire) in Bury and the VE Day Anniversary Service in Tameside, to the lighter hearted occasions such as the Yanks Parade in Uppermill and the Big Curry Cook Off in Manchester.

I have enjoyed entertaining the mayors from all ten Greater Manchester Boroughs, as well as ten High Court Judges. I have been to graduation ceremonies, visited prisons, attended several civic occasions and citizenship ceremonies, witnessed the swearing in of 30 new magistrates and visited all statutory services including an emergency services open day, as well as many charities and voluntary organisations, all doing brilliant work.

I've mixed with some outstanding young people, including visits to the Sea Cadets and a Jamboree held by GM West Scout Council. I had reasonable success at tomahawk throwing and 'soft' archery (using arrows with suckers rather than sharp points!) unlike when I fired a rifle at the Army Cadets range. All the young people I've met are a breath of fresh air, confident and articulate.

The most poignant ceremony I attended was the unveiling of the Gallipoli Stone in Rochdale. Also at the ceremony was Major Edmund Gartside, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester in 1995/1996, who unveiled the Stone after the Lord-Lieutenant spoke movingly about the contributions Major Gartside and his father had made to the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Following the precision of the parade, led by



News from and about members

the King's Division Band, it was a totally different atmosphere at Adam Day in Manchester. The purpose of Adam Day is to remind mankind that every human being of whatever faith or none is an Adamite – a son or daughter of Adam and Eve. They promote peace, harmony and love and want to rid the world of hatred and prejudice. The occasion was hugely enjoyable, if slightly chaotic.

Another novel experience was a visit to the new set of Coronation Street where, with my Under Sheriff David Cam, we met some cast members and were let into a number of 'behind-the-scenes' confidences. Of course we've been sworn to secrecy but I can tell you that I now watch the programme with perceptive eyes!

While on a theatrical theme I attended a 'relaxed performance' of The Ghost Train at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Relaxed performances are designed to welcome anyone who will benefit from a more laid-back performance environment. This can include people with an autism spectrum disorder, sensory and/or communication disorder or a learning disability. Small changes are made to the staging of a performance and there is a relaxed attitude to noise and movement. There are break-out areas for anyone who begins to feel stressed. I thoroughly enjoyed the production, as did everyone in the audience. It is hoped that these events become a regular occurrence because they allow people with disabilities to visit and experience the theatre in comfortable surroundings together with friends or family.

Wherever I go, people ask me whether I am enjoying my role. How could I not when I meet so many lovely people who seem delighted to see the High Sheriff? Some want to give me sustenance, a good number of them want a photograph of

me and all of them do wonderful work, many voluntarily. I am astonished by the generosity of people who give many hours to help their fellow citizens. Greater Manchester is renowned for its caring residents and this was never more apparent than at a recent ceremony to bestow 22 Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service, making our county the most successful for the number of awards received. Martyn Lewis CBE, the former newsreader, who chairs the national QAVS Committee, joined us for the ceremony and said he was staggered by the voluntary work being undertaken in our area.

I am truly blessed to be High Sheriff of Greater Manchester.

♣ Sharman Birtles JP DL

High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2015-16

Below: The ceremony of the unveiling of the Gallipoli Stone in Rochdale

Bottom: At the Army Cadets range north of Bury





A Kent Declaration...

from a friend's perspective

A FEW months ago, I attended a service in a tiny church in the Kent countryside. It's called St Botolph's, and lies in the grounds of Lullingstone Castle. It was a vile day with strong winds, scudding black clouds and heavy showers. Some lady guests were dressed in wedding-type clothes, with smart dresses, fascinators and high-heeled shoes, which sank into the turf as they crossed the lawn to reach the church.

But we weren't there for a wedding – we were there to witness something much more unusual: the Declaration of our friend, William Alexander, as High Sheriff of Kent.

We all waited expectantly. Trumpets sounded. Then along came the procession, which was as long as the church itself. There was the outgoing High Sheriff; the Chief Constable of Kent; the Lord-Lieutenant; two judges, one of whom – in a long wig, robe and knee breeches – looked as if he'd walked straight out of a Dickens novel. There were chaplains and churchwardens. And most important of all, there was the High Sheriff designate, looking a picture in a black velvet coat and breeches, with snow-white ruffles at his neck and cuffs, silver

buckles on his shoes and a sword at his side. Marvellous!

William had to swear a magnificent oath full of sonorous phrases, the gist of which was: 'In all things I will well and truly behave myself in my office'. After being presented with his badge of office, he spoke about what he hoped to achieve in his year, because, aside from all the ceremonial duties he or she has to perform, a High Sheriff these days is expected to take on a project of some kind, often related to the justice system. William is interested in the rehabilitation of prisoners, particularly focusing on raising literacy and educational standards with the aim of improving the prospect of gaining employment after release. (Sadly, I don't *think* he'll be allowed to charge all over Kent leading a hue-and-cry or a *posse comitatus*, as the early High Sheriffs did. But you never know.)

He also read extracts from Magna Carta (in which 27 of the 63 clauses refer to sheriffs) and from the Charter of the Forest. I'd never heard of this document before, but apparently it was much more to do with the rights of the common man,



Above: William Alexander signing his Declaration witnessed by Mrs Barbara Ide JP under the watchful eye of Lord Clarke of Stoke-cum-Ebony, Justice of the Supreme Court

as distinct from the rights of the nobles.

Having written a book about Alfred the Great (*Warrior King*), I'm fascinated by the Dark Ages and the period immediately after them. But reading – and writing – about that time is one thing: this felt like a visceral link back to the England of over a thousand years ago. It felt archaic, but still relevant. It felt as if we were just the newest page in a long, long story that is part of living history. It was a privilege and a delight to be there.

♦♦ Sue Purkiss

www.suepurkiss.com

www.the-history-girls.blogspot.co.uk



Shrieval procession from the house of Percyvall Hart (High Sheriff 1707) to Lullingstone Church



Be prepared

IT ALL started on 31 March with my Declaration in the Guildhall in Brecon. The only lost souls appeared to be the Chairman of Powys County Council and his wife, who, through a number of enforced errors, had not got a front seat and were not even on the list of attendees. Good start! The moral of that story is to spend some time learning the structure of county councils particularly if your county is made up of three old counties.

It soon became clear that there was interest in the High Sheriff and requests and invitations started to arrive at a rate of about three per week. Some were long – nearly 24 hours for election day – and some short – 15 minutes in total the day after the election, including a two-minute silence for VE Day. Much of the activity in a huge county like Powys – 100 miles top to bottom – seems to depend on the energy of one's predecessor. Phil Bowen had clearly been very active and his enthusiasm had permeated through to this year. We have met on a number of occasions, not the least of which was a lavish dinner



off quite well I thought, by speaking 'Franglais' which one of the characters in the pantomime had been doing brilliantly, but then rather lost cohesion. Moral – make sure you know what is expected before you turn up. This pantomime was followed a couple of days later by the Mayor of Brecon's concert which was attended by no less a figure than the Lord Chief Justice and his wife supporting the Côr Dathlu Cwmtawe of which he is patron. The moral of this one is never miss

“He turned to me and said in a loud voice: 'Don't you feel embarrassed walking around dressed like that?' Moral: be ready for anything!”

hosted by the Chairman of Powys CC, giving the opportunity to lay aside our earlier difficulty with some direct talking!

Diversity has definitely been the order of the day so far, with one major highlight being able to watch Aberedw (a tiny village) Young Farmers' Club performing their pantomime at the Albert Hall in Llandrindod Wells. They went on to Torquay to be placed second in the UK YFC competition. At the end I was invited – somewhat unprepared – to give a vote of thanks. Leaping on to the stage, I started

an opportunity; if I fall short on support for the judiciary in my year then I have something on which to fall back!

Often accompanied by my wife Lorraine, I was returning officer at the general election, attended various police events, presented awards, lunched with the Lions of Llandrindod, explored the Elan Valley, rode in a fast police car, took part in an Agincourt pageant, met HRH The Prince of Wales, sat with magistrates, walked up Pen-y-fan in the dark, was President of the Brecon County



Show (better than 'parking and gates', my usual job), met the Wild Women of Welshpool and last but not least opened our local village fête in the pouring rain with nobody visible! On another occasion I was wearing court dress and had just presented a twelve year old with a certificate of achievement when he turned to me and said in a loud voice: 'Don't you feel embarrassed walking around dressed like that?' Moral: be ready for anything!

♦ Lt Colonel
MHL Lewis DL
High Sheriff of Powys 2015-16



Making a donation

IN SPITE of the fact that Rutland is England's smallest county (but only when the tide is out on the Isle of Wight), we are up there with the largest counties regarding shrieval activities. My year in office started with my Declaration in historic Oakham Castle, a mediaeval fortified manor house built c1180, more than fifty years after the first recorded High Sheriff of Rutland. Having a young family and a wife who works full time means there has to be a lot of juggling of school runs and balancing the time commitment I need to give to the role and my responsibilities as a father and a farmer. Those of you with younger children

will know that they are horrified to have to be seen with their father wearing tights and frilly appendages, but I think they do take pride in the fact that a parent has been chosen to hold such an esteemed position.

I have been trying to get to every school in Rutland to educate the children about this ancient role and how it fits in to a modern society. They love the regalia and without exception most of the questions relate to the sword: 'Is it real? How many people have you killed? Are you going to kill anybody?' Others include, 'Do you know The Queen?' and 'Do you live in a castle?' It can be quite daunting to speak to 350 children in one

room, but I would urge you all to overcome any fear and get into as many schools as you can – the children love it!

I was a guest at the annual Rutland County Show in June, where the weather was awful, so I wore my full regalia with steel toe-capped boots rather than court shoes, which caused a certain amount of hilarity among the crowd. I was being shown around the trade stands when a small boy saw me and took one look and said to his mother 'that man was on Horrible Histories, I don't like him'; he then burst into tears. It is amazing the effect you can have on people!





News from and about members



Opposite page:
Reclining for a good
cause

Left: Resham Sandhu
(Past High Sheriff,
Leicestershire), Supt
Sally Healy and
Andrew Brown at
Armed Forces Day

“It was a bit like holding one of your own internal organs outside your body. A surreal experience, but donating blood is a way to be a hero without having to do anything brave.”

As a regular blood donor I want to raise the importance of this activity, so I arranged to donate in court dress and get some publicity pictures taken. Heads certainly turned when I arrived, but being stared at is something we all have to get used to. The needle was inserted and the appropriate weight of my blood was duly removed. The photographer then gave me my own blood to hold which was still warm from the donation. It was a bit like holding one of your own internal organs outside your body. A surreal experience, but donating blood is a way to be a hero without having to do anything brave.

Being High Sheriff will open doors for you, so don't be afraid to ask to go to, or do, something which particularly interests you. I have been out on patrol with the police, travelled in a rapid response ambulance for a day and am spending a day with the fire service. I have even passed my fire fighter's fitness test. I have also arranged to ride on the footplate of an inter-city train down to London and back, a dream of mine since I was a child.

Those of you who are taking over in April 2016 will now be thinking how quickly the last four years have gone and are probably worrying about how you

are going to cope. It has been said many times, but it really is up to you to do as much or as little as you want. It is your year after all and you are in charge. I would urge you not to say 'no' too often and try to do as much as you can. You will be tired and sometimes wonder why you agreed to speak at some obscure club or society on a dark winter's night, but it is always rewarding and always appreciated, especially by those who perhaps don't get much thanks for what they do.

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



Competing with Olympians

RATHER THAN hosting a drinks party, I decided to put together an evening with five speakers talking on subjects connected to the theme for my High Sheriff's year – 'The Opportunity and Challenge of Old Age'. More than 250 people gathered in the Mitchell Theatre at Packwood Haugh School for what turned out to be a very stimulating evening.

Professor James Goodwin, head of research at Age UK, got things under way with an unexpected but well-received joke, and then went on to give us an insight into the extraordinary scale and pace of change to our global, national and local demographic. International tennis player and GP, Bill Gowans, who is also the clinical lead of FutureFit, the programme to transform NHS services across the county, talked with great passion about the local implications of this change. Baroness Warnock, at 91 a wonderful example of how to make the most of later life, introduced the idea of Teach Last. This is her scheme to encourage people in later life back into the classroom – an initiative that our local MP Philip Dunne is supporting. Virginia Ironside, agony aunt, author and performer, made us all laugh, and Mark Stevenson, an expert on global trends and innovation, warned us that ageing may become optional. The evening ended with a fantastic curry supper.

With curries and finger buffets taking their toll on our waistlines, my wife Annabel and I signed up for the Severn Mile Swim. Shrewsbury owes its very existence to the River Severn which loops around the town and is becoming cleaner every year as the arrival of otters in the town demonstrates.

The decision to enter this race was not made lightly: Annabel and I decided that if we were going to participate we wanted to do well. An intensive mile-a-day training regime in the ten days leading up to the big day gave us every reason to be hopeful of a strong showing in this mile-long swim through the centre of Shrewsbury. Who were we kidding? A mile a day for ten years would have been more like it. One hundred and forty swimmers leapt into the river at the Welsh Bridge, swam downstream to the Kingsland Bridge and then back up to the Pengwern boathouse. After only 16 minutes the winner was back on dry land. Had there been a prize for last place it would have been my great pleasure to present it to my wife, whose elegant breaststroke brought her home twenty minutes later – I struggled home a few minutes and a dozen





News from and about members

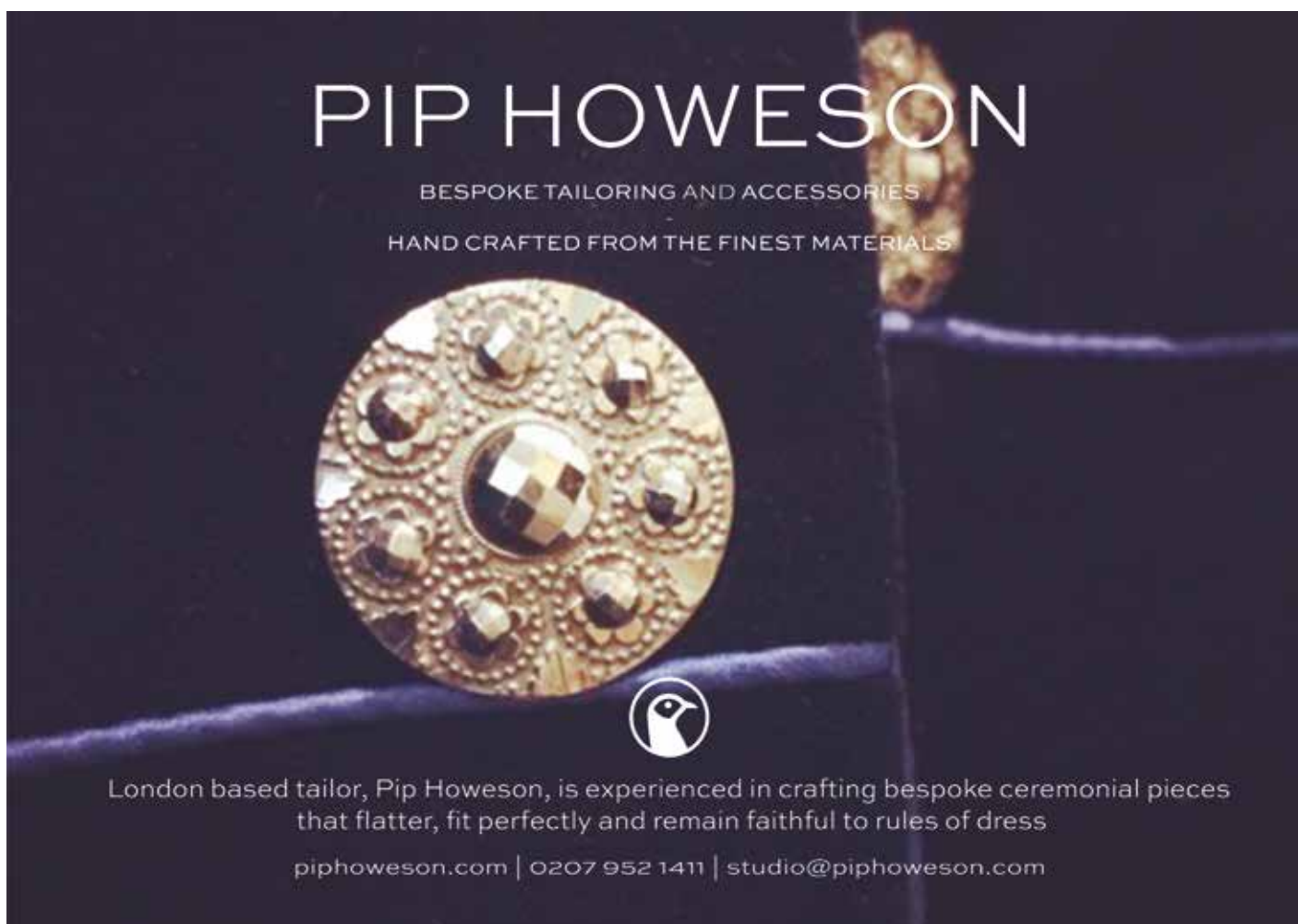


Opposite page: David and Annabel Stacey at the Severn Mile Swim


Left: Baroness Warnock speaking at 'The Opportunities and Challenge of Old Age'

places ahead of her. This, as it turned out, was a gathering of pretty serious swimmers including current and former Olympians. We were both proud to get round without drowning and for raising a bit of money for my two charities, Age UK and the Severn Hospice. There were competitors from Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Birmingham, Cheshire and Warwickshire – they all expressed great disappointment that their High Sheriffs were not swimming. I fully expect a better turnout next year – it's on 21 August.

♦ **David Stacey**
High Sheriff of Shropshire 2015-16



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Growing the future

I SPENT THE two years before becoming High Sheriff of Somerset hoping that the Queen would forget to 'prick' my name. I felt quite overawed by the thought of having to carry out so many and varied engagements. However, with the support I received from ex-High Sheriffs, notably Pat Hunt and Maureen Whitmore, I struggled towards my Legal Service in March. Having had the outfit and the hat 'built' I felt much more the part.

My 'day job' is running a stud of 25 horses, bred for dressage and eventing, so I get up early as a matter of course and listen to Farming Today most mornings. I became aware that Somerset has a great strength in Brymore – a state-run agricultural boarding school – and Cannington College, now part of Bridgwater College, which again is a beacon of excellence in farming and horticulture. I decided, in addition to my work on Somerset Crimebeat, I would like to raise funds for Travel and Training Bursaries at Cannington for students wishing to study Horticulture. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the

college and we launched the project 'Grow your own Future' thanks to the kindness of Rupert Cox and the Somerset Gardens Trust at the Royal Bath and West Show in May. Somerset is a huge county and a bursary of £500/£1000 will help a student trying to get to college from the other side of the county. I aim to help around 25 students this year. I also discovered that we have the Young Horticulturalist of the Year 2014, Jez Stamp, working

to help oil the wheels. I hope to be involved with the students when they start back at college in September.

We are fantastically lucky in Somerset to have a really active Community Foundation run by the exceptional Justin Sargent. They hold 'Under the Radar' meetings on special problems in the community, the last one focusing on adult mental health and isolation. During the second part of my year, I

“We are fantastically lucky in Somerset to have a really active Community Foundation run by the exceptional Justin Sargent

for Cameron Mackintosh and Michael le Poer Trench at Stavordale Priory and Tess Evans who is the 2015 winner and Senior Gardener at Tintinhull, so we are awash with brilliance in the county and just need a bit of money

would like to concentrate on mental health. We are lucky in having several exceptional charities working in the sector; 'Creativity Works' in Radstock encourages people with mental health problems to produce creative writing and art which has a hugely beneficial effect on their wellbeing. They kindly asked me to the launch of the first anthology produced by the participants of one of their groups, 'Writing Space'. I am hoping to work with 'Heads Up' in Wells with their 'Healing Garden' and the Balsam Centre in Wincanton which is doing such excellent work on my doorstep.

I am so fortunate to have had a new and enthusiastic Lord-Lieutenant to work with this year. Lady Gass was a very hard act to follow and her contribution to the county was monumental, but Annie Maw has been hugely encouraging and facilitating. She is an extraordinary example of fortitude, arriving for Royal visits with her wheelchair with or without her wonderful husband Richard, never tiring and always smiling.



Above: Lucy Nelson after her making her Declaration at the Legal Service at Wells Cathedral on 22 March 2015, with her husband James and the immediate past High Sheriff Richard Lloyd



♦♦ **Lucy Nelson**

High Sheriff of Somerset 2015-16



Police protection

A LIFETIME'S practice in law has taught me that good preparation and groundwork are essential. So, attendance at the Burghley House seminars and the regional gatherings, shadowing one's predecessors, making introductions and learning protocol were all essential. How often had I heard the expression 'if you cannot hit the ground running you may never catch up'.

I did the homework and felt that I was ready... until a tricky juxtaposition of the legal term and Easter meant that in less than 36 hours after making my Declaration I was privileged to attend the Royal Maundy Service and be presented to HM The Queen. A once-in-a-lifetime honour was almost derailed by a comical police sergeant who, at the identification and security checkpoint, asked me if I really thought I would be permitted to take that sword into a cathedral flying the Royal Standard! A momentary frisson as I stared at my court shoes, then I glanced up to see a twinkle in his eye and a slight smile beginning to form. I got his number... A memorable start and a huge privilege for the city of Sheffield and not least for me.

One week later preparing for my role as returning officer for the parliamentary elections, I attended a briefing given by

Doncaster Council's Chief Executive (acting returning officer) and her election team regarding the process and preparation for the general election. I had opted to exercise the right to read the declaration of result for Doncaster North, the seat held by Mr Miliband. There seemed every likelihood that the Labour candidate would retain his seat and secure a sufficient majority to form a coalition and thus the next government.

Fast forward to the night of 7 May and the early hours of 8 May; I witnessed a flawless count and verification process for all three of the Doncaster constituencies. As forecast, the count was complete by 4.00 am but had to be delayed pending the arrival of the candidates. I remained on standby for many minutes at the side of the stage supported by a single police officer: none other than the same sergeant from the Maundy Service! He stayed to see me read the declaration at 5.25 am before a significant proportion of the world's press and television.

The sergeant and I met twice more: in May, he was part of a police demonstration of tactics deployed during public disorder, an event staged during South Yorkshire Young Leaders' Day; and more recently he was again on duty for the visit of HRH The Princess Royal to a charity lunch.



Above: The High Sheriff and Mrs Holt leaving the Cathedral

I glanced up to see a twinkle in his eye and a slight smile beginning to form

More than once I have been asked which occasion or memory I value the most. Several spring to mind but perhaps the answer lies somewhere between the fundraiser for an Asperger's youth club with an excellent race night and a community cohesion exercise for an attentive madrasa which listened carefully to a talk about the High Sheriff's role with reference to Magna Carta. This surely indicates the wonderfully diverse nature that the role affords to the county rather than the enjoyment one secures from it.

I look forward enormously to an equally busy programme over the next six months, in the belief that I shall surely meet up with the same police officer again...

♦ John R Holt DL

High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2015-16



Left: The Yeoman guarding the royal party on leaving Sheffield Cathedral



Speaking out

SINCE TAKING over on Maundy Thursday with my Declaration at Bury St Edmunds 12th-century Guildhall, life has been a flurry of activity ranging from ceremonial to caring.

With all the news and concern about the migrant situation across Europe at the moment, I have enjoyed presiding over citizenship ceremonies across Suffolk. Some people are refugees and have had 'quite a journey' to get to this point; it means so much to them as they look forward to being able to play a proper part in their new communities.

I paid a rather sad farewell visit to the RAF's 22 Squadron Search and Rescue upon its disbanding. My grandfather commanded 22 Squadron during the war when they flew Beaufort bombers. I was pleased that aircrew from Wattisham dropped in to attend my High Sheriff's reception and I was able to thank them publicly for the great service they have provided to the east coast over the 20 years they had been based there. Helicopters became rather a theme as I also hosted a fundraiser for the East Anglian Air Ambulance

which raised over £10,000 and recruited some more benefactors. Their new helicopter flew in just before the end of the evening causing one neighbour to ring up solicitously the next morning to see if we were still alive.

It is already clear to me that the voluntary sector is having to pick up the slack in the system as never before and, without people who give their time as volunteers and/or money as charitable donors, many of the positive activities that make a real difference to people's lives simply wouldn't happen. It underlines the importance of my role in cheerleading the voluntary sector, community groups and charities that do so much, and I have been preaching 'philanthropy' whenever I've been given a platform. I should like to mention how much I valued Sue Warner's brilliant 'Speak Up, Speak Out!' public speaking workshop for High Sheriffs in nomination from which I (and I hope my audiences) have benefited greatly.

Magistrates are the ultimate volunteers and it was a pleasure to host a social event for the

Above: Declaration in the historic Bury St Edmunds Guildhall with Under Sheriff Neil Walmsley; Nicholas Wingfield Digby LVO DL, immediate past High Sheriff; His Honour Judge Goodin; myself; my Chaplain Canon Matthew Vernon; Sue Hughes JP, Chairman of the Suffolk Bench



News from and about members

combined Suffolk Bench at our home in August. However, they had just received the news that the Ministry of Justice is proposing to close two of our remaining three Magistrates' Courts leaving our large, rural county of 1,500 square miles with just one in the south-east corner. Historically, a Sheriff might raise a hue and cry in pursuit of a suspected criminal; nowadays I think that can be translated into causing a public clamour of protest alerting people to an issue, so I have been campaigning alongside magistrates, lawyers, the police and crime commissioner and others to try and prevent this. For people living in North Suffolk and rural West Suffolk this move will represent a serious threat to their right to access to local justice.

I have had great support from the Suffolk Community Foundation in managing the High Sheriff's fund, grants and awards, as well as pointing me in the right direction on charity and social enterprise visits. As a former chairman of an arts organisation I am a great believer in the 'power of the arts for change' and this has been my other theme. We celebrated my halfway point with a command performance in our lovely historic Theatre Royal with a cast of professional ballet, opera and drama stars alongside community groups launching a much needed new Arts and Culture Fund. The full house raised £40,000 which will help outreach arts projects across the county. I



shamelessly exploited the finale – 'Do You Hear the People Sing' from Les Miserables – to make the point about court closures with a 'Justice for Suffolk' banner!

My next six months will feature many more visits, the High Sheriff's Awards and Justice Service, both at the tail end of my year in March. I am looking forward to a very busy second half.

♦♦ Judith Shallow

High Sheriff of Suffolk 2015-16

Above: Citizenship ceremony at Elm Studios, Ipswich

Below: Curtain call of my command performance at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds: cast and ensemble members with Mara Galleazzi and Gary Avis (Royal Ballet), myself and Timothy West





Home of Magna Carta

SURREY IS the home of Runnymede and we celebrated 800 years of the sealing of Magna Carta with wonderful events, including the unveiling of HM The Queen's statue by the banks of the Thames at Runnymede, and the national celebrations on 14 June attended by Her Majesty and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, other members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury. I was amused to meet so many Americans at Runnymede who didn't realise the origins of their 'Sheriffs' who still maintain law and order and collect taxes in the USA! On 9 September I returned to Runnymede to celebrate the Queen's milestone as the UK's longest-reigning monarch. Surrey also hosted National Armed Forces Day in Guildford, another wonderful occasion.

My theme for the year is supporting the rehabilitation of offenders and it has been great to spend time with organisations in Surrey that help to maintain law and order. I have visited four prisons, spent time with the police, sat in our County, District and Magistrates' Courts and visited the probation service. I have also been in contact with Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company which has won the government contract to provide rehabilitation services for prisoners with short-term sentences. Although our prisons have many work and training opportunities for prisoners, and programmes for helping

with drug addiction and mental health issues, more needs to be done. I visited the Women's Refuge Centre in Woking which does wonderful work helping women in prison and on release and I was the speaker at an art exhibition showing work by women in prison. I have watched two Keep Out workshops, sessions taken by prisoners explaining to young people 'on the edge of criminality' what being in prison is about. Very powerful stuff. I have been struck by the terrible start in life that so many of our offenders have had and I am convinced that support and rehabilitation in many cases is the right way forward so I champion it on every possible occasion. Charities such as The Clink Restaurant operating out of HMP Highdown, which provided the canapés and service for my garden party in June, have already demonstrated huge success in reducing re-offending because they have enabled prisoners to gain life skills in food preparation and restaurant service. Recently I met Andrew Selous, Prisons Minister, to discuss rehabilitation of offenders.

My weeks have been full with plenty of opportunity to travel around Surrey and see at first hand the wonderful work of our charities and voluntary organisations. I have given out many Duke of Edinburgh Awards, but I was particularly thrilled by the pupils from Limpsfield Grange School who are all special needs children – what an amazing achievement! I was



Above: The High Sheriff at Runnymede celebrating HM The Queen's milestone as the UK's longest-reigning monarch with Cllr Derek Cotty, Mayor of Runnymede and other Surrey Mayors

very impressed by the two Queen's Scouts I met, but conscious in my speeches to acknowledge the time given by parents and others for young people to achieve such awards. Watching disabled boxing, keep fit and other projects at Disability Initiative was an inspiration. Visiting High Sheriff's Youth Awards projects is equally rewarding and reinforces how lucky we are to have so many dedicated volunteers in Surrey.

◆ Elizabeth Kennedy

High Sheriff of Surrey 2015-16



Above: The High Sheriff with new Queen's Scouts, Kieran Woods and Georgie Bearman, and Surrey County Commissioner Alison Sargeant

Left: Surrey-supported employment event, where the High Sheriff gave a speech supporting vulnerable people being helped to get back in employment



TYNE AND WEAR

News from and about members



Cadets to the rescue

THE COUNTY of Tyne and Wear takes its name from two magnificent rivers and therefore ports, docks, rivers and the sea dominate the landscape and played a prominent part in my first six months as High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear.

Just a few days after my Declaration, Britain's largest warship and helicopter carrier HMS Ocean sailed into the port of Sunderland to be awarded the Freedom of the City by Sunderland City Council. I was fascinated by the capability demonstration; learnt a great deal about the role of the Royal Navy in keeping our nation safe; marched to the Royal Marines Band; enjoyed the Salute at dusk (but I wished I worn some thermals!); dined with the Captain and thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the work of the Sea Cadets. It was a shock to the system once HMS Ocean sailed out of the port to no longer be saluted and called Ma'am every few minutes!

A little further south on the coast, while a guest of South Tyneside Council celebrating Armed Forces Day at South Shields, a squall from the North Sea whisked off my High Sheriff's hat and ostrich feathers; a fleet-of-foot army cadet dashed off to rescue it, with success I'm pleased to say. And a little further north on the coast, when invited by the Royal British

Legion to lay a wreath at Whitley Bay to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, again I was grateful to the Sea Cadets for their hearty singing (the Salvation Army having failed to turn up and leaving me somewhat exposed as lead soprano).

On the Gateshead side of the river Tyne, the new Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, Mrs Sue Winfield (High Sheriff in 2010/11) commissioned a new pontoon for the Marine Cadets; I commissioned two new sailing boats, and the Gateshead's Mayor was allocated a rowing boat. Again the young cadets were impressive and I accepted their invitation to return to their open day and took part in rowing, sailing and other water sports. It was very cold and wet; the accompanying photographs were taken by another former High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear, Nigel Westwood, who shouted encouragement from dry land.

The young cadets are typical of the large number of young people I have met in the last six months who are members of the voluntary groups which have been financially supported by the Tyne and Wear High Sheriff's Fund, and about which my predecessor Ruth Thompson wrote so eloquently in the last edition of this magazine. Like Ruth, I have been touched



Top: Hard at work

Above: High Sheriff (second from left): 'What on earth are we supposed to do?'

by the sense of community in our county and the fabulous work undertaken by so many volunteers who are supporting our children and young people, many of whom face the most challenging circumstances in the early stages of their lives. While I have enjoyed every minute of the ceremonial side of the role, attending services in Durham and Newcastle Cathedrals, various civic events, celebrating Magna Carta, HM The Queen's long reign, Armed Forces Day, the Battle of Britain and the huge range of High Sheriff's activities, it is the work with these groups that proves the most rewarding. I am thoroughly looking forward to the next six months.

♦♦ **Lucy Winskell, OBE DL**
High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2015-16



Local tradition in a modern context

WHAT AN honour, what an opportunity, what a responsibility, what a privilege! All of these thoughts passed through my mind when asked to be High Sheriff. The variety of events I have attended and the people I have met have made it a wonderful first six months. My first thought was: what am I going to wear? As a female High Sheriff there is far more flexibility about your official outfit. Representing Warwickshire, I decided to approach an organisation that is a master in designing and making costumes – the Royal Shakespeare Company. The Director of Design, Stephen Brimson Lewis, worked with me to create what is, in my view, a perfect combination of traditional and modern design – a dark purple silk dress and woollen coat decorated with cut steel buttons and antique lace and the hat with its shaved ostrich feathers which sets it off perfectly. Commissioning the RSC also fulfilled two of my objectives: first to highlight the unique contribution Warwickshire makes to arts and culture and second to use local talent.

The next essential preparation was planning the focus of my year. Knowing what you want to get out of the year is important. I have lived in the county for over 35 years but felt I did not know enough about what is really happening at grass roots level; now I had a wonderful opportunity to learn about and publicise



Above: Visiting the Shakespeare Hospice's new children and young people's unit

the work of a wide range of people. I also wanted to explain to people the role of the High Sheriff and why it exists. Deciding on what charities you want to support and how you can best do this is also important; raising awareness can be just as important as money raised.

The first six months were enlightening. Despite being involved in voluntary work for many years I had completely underestimated how great a contribution local people make, something which tends to go unrecognised and unsupported by public funds.

This year offered High Sheriffs the opportunity to be the County Returning Officer in the general election. It was

“The variety of events I have attended and the people I have met have made it a wonderful first six months”

very interesting being taken around a number of the polling stations to meet the team which administers the whole process and also to watch and understand the very complicated procedure of the count. Involvement with civic leaders plays a prominent part in the role of High Sheriff. We have over 15 mayors and other dignitaries within the county and so I held a tea party for them immediately after the election, which meant not only that I could get to know them but that they could get to know each other.

My summer garden party was held on one of the warm days of the summer. However, my first major fundraising event, a ladies' charity lunch making use of the garden party marquee, was interrupted by storm-force wind and rain. Luckily it did not dampen anyone's spirits. People's generosity overwhelmed me – a local florist gave us her time and expertise doing an



Above: Janet Bell Smith and her husband Stewart Bell

amazing flower arranging demonstration; friends rallied round to help with food; and auction and raffle prizes came flooding in.

I am now focused on my Annual Legal Service, which is to be held in Coventry Cathedral. This is an awesome task but my two Chaplains, a wonderful husband and wife team, are ably supporting me.

I have had the honour and enjoyment of being invited to events by numerous charities, religious organisations, schools, youth organisations, cadet forces, as well as to investitures, prize-givings, the emergency services and Queen's Awards ceremonies. The scale and work done by so many people for the good of others is humbling.

I would recommend a year as High Sheriff to anybody.

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

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Creative culture



Photo credit: Jas Sansi

Above: At the launch of My Route with Vanley Burke, photographer, Tas Bashir, Sampad writer, Reyahn King, Director of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, Piali Ray OBE, Director Sampad

THE FIRST six months of my shrieval year have been an enormous honour and pleasure. I have put arts, creative industries, young people and justice at the centre of the year. I have enjoyed meeting visiting judges and attending a range of judicial, arts and cultural events with them.

At my Declaration in Birmingham's historic Victoria Law Courts I launched an Arts & Creative programme through which I have met many young people participating in arts, right from day one when illustrator Katie Tomlinson captured my Declaration in pencil. Other occasions have covered 3D printing at Solihull School, beautiful stained glass at Coventry Cathedral, great paintings in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Wolverhampton and Walsall Art Galleries, and the 'Little Hoot and Big Hoot' launches that have engaged so many talented people and sponsors in support of Birmingham Children's Hospital. I have presented awards to school pupils who aspire to be

our lawyers and artists of the future at the local and national Mock Trial Finals. I enjoyed the launch of Sampad's My Route project which captures, shares and preserves the vibrant and culturally rich heritage that exists on the Stratford Road in inner city Birmingham (Sampad: South Asian arts). Over the last 60 years this road has welcomed many new residents from across the globe, whose lives and experiences have created a diverse and colourful tale that My Route acknowledges.

We recognised the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta with contributions from writer and commentator Joshua Rozenberg, Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral Chris Pullin and a specially created Magna Carta 'interactive table' by John Sear from the digital Humanities Hub at Birmingham University.

I have been honoured to attend royal visits; Anzac anniversary celebrations; Vaisakhi and Armed Forces Days; celebrations of HM The Queen's achievement



News from and about members

as the longest serving monarch by Coventry University and the British Organisation for People of Asian Origin. The months have been full of surprises such as the bicentennial celebration of Australia's Coventrian founder Sir Henry Parkes and Walsall's long-standing 'Buns and Shilling' tradition of giving to disadvantaged children, to new additions to the county like the Genting Arena at the NEC and the Bengali TV Studios in Small Heath, Birmingham.

Our summer garden party was held at the Library of Birmingham's garden in the city. Many of our guests enjoyed a series of artefacts and a specially commissioned exhibition by innovative and inspiring theatre company Stan's Cafe – 'Of All the People in All the World' – on the theme of young people, arts and justice. I also launched Birmingham's Creative Future and presented High Sheriff's awards to many inspiring young people nominated by our seven mayors. The event was generously supported by the library and Selfridges which made a special award to Yusuf Niazi, a young talent who is going places in theatre. Fourteen young cared-for children received an award for their group contribution to a Starlight owl sculpture for the Big Hoot.

We plan more of these events as the winter draws in and our hearts are warmed with the uplifting music, dance and arts from the rich diversity of people and cultures which make up the West Midlands.



Photo credit: Daniel Graves

Throughout my year, I have tweeted and blogged about the county-wide arts and creative activities I have attended, supported and encouraged. I'm told I may be one of the first High Sheriffs to use social media. You can follow me here: Hashtag – [highsheriffWM15](https://twitter.com/highsheriffWM15) – or get all the latest High Sheriff of the West Midlands stories, pictures and videos on my website – <http://highsheriffwm15.uk>.

♦♦ Jonnie Turpie MBE

High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2015-16

Above: Ready for the Big Hoot's Little Hoot

Below: Some of the winners of the award for their contribution to the Starlight owl: supported by Cllr Brigid Jones (back, centre) and nominated by the Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr Ray Hassall (sixth from right)



Photo credit: Graham Peet



Hitting the right note

THE HIGHLIGHTS of my first five months in office have been too numerous to do justice to in a short article. Together with my wife Heather, I have had the privilege of visiting all five prisons in the county where we were struck by the dedication and resilience of prison governors and staff in the face of major reductions in funding. I have attended many civic and church services and visited charities, hospices and voluntary projects across West Yorkshire. I have also been a guest or presided at some seven university graduation ceremonies.

I have admired the extent to which charities and voluntary groups provide the glue which holds our society together. The sheer quantity and quality of volunteering is amazing.

I have greatly enjoyed entertaining seven High Court Judges and many circuit judges at dinner parties, concerts and the theatre, and hosting

lunches at court. I have sat in court several times, including two murder trials.

I have particularly valued spending time with the police. This has included their annual awards ceremony; time on the streets in inner-city Leeds; visiting the purpose-built Leeds division headquarters at Elland Road and the new state-of-the-art police training centre in Wakefield; and seeing first-hand the operation at the Leeds Festival and the West Indian Carnival. All these have helped provide an insight into the wonderful, mostly unseen, work the police do each day to keep our communities safe.

I had the privilege of being the general election returning officer in the Shipley and the Keighley constituencies. This involved spending the night at the Keighley leisure centre where the results were declared at 6.30 am and 8.00 am respectively. I was most impressed by the professionalism of the

Below: Carleton Community High School receive a framed copy of Magna Carta





News from and about members



“The town had organised an excellent series of events to ensure that the 800th anniversary was appropriately marked

counting staff and also by the good relations and courtesy shown by all the candidates.

Pontefract is a Magna Carta town since John de Lacy, one of the rebel barons, owned Pontefract Castle. The town had organised an excellent series of events to ensure that the 800th anniversary was appropriately marked. My participation included giving a reading at a beautiful Magna Carta commemorative service in the church on the main square; a dinner where I spoke and unveiled a superb Magna Carta embroidery which had been produced by local women; presenting, in court dress, the prize to the winner of the Magna Carta Stakes at Pontefract races; and presenting a framed copy of Magna Carta to Carleton Community High School where one could hear a pin drop when the head teacher told 400 pupils they had to

listen very carefully because they were going to hear the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire.

Towards the end of August, I officially opened the triennial Leeds International Piano Competition, one of the leading competitions in the world, led by the formidable 95-year-old Dame Fanny Waterman. I attended many sessions and was privileged to introduce Lang Lang, the world's most celebrated pianist, at a special concert at Leeds Town Hall.

I look forward to many visits over the next few months – to the fire service, the air ambulance, on the streets of Leeds overnight with the police and the Street Angels charity, and participating in the north-east circuit Legal Service in York. I am enjoying every day.

♣ Ed Anderson

High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2015-16

Left: Meeting one of the many participants in the West Indian carnival

Below: Magna Carta Stakes at Pontefract Races

Bottom: Promoting cycling for the disabled



THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 2015-16

England

BEDFORDSHIRE	The Countess of Erroll
BERKSHIRE	D M A Bertie Esq
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Mrs A F Skelton DL
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Captain V H Lucas DL RN
CHESHIRE	C W Holroyd Esq CBE DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	Dr R P Kennedy
CORNWALL	vacant
CUMBRIA	S A M Rayner Esq
DERBYSHIRE	O G Stephenson Esq
DEVON	Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent KCB CBE
DORSET	Mrs J S Coombs
DURHAM	J M F Fenwick Esq
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	J L Dick Esq OBE DL
EAST SUSSEX	Mrs J A Smith JP
ESSEX	G V B Thompson Esq
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Dr R J Head DL
GREATER LONDON	The Lady Hameed
GREATER MANCHESTER	Mrs S R Birtles JP DL
HAMPSHIRE	Lady Portal MBE DL
HEREFORDSHIRE	E M Harley Esq
HERTFORDSHIRE	J C G Trower Esq
ISLE OF WIGHT	R T Holland Esq
KENT	W Alexander Esq
LANCASHIRE	Mrs A J Parker JP
LEICESTERSHIRE	G D Arthur Esq
LINCOLNSHIRE	Air Vice Marshal H G Mackay CB OBE AFC
MERSEYSIDE	R T H Owen Esq JP DL
NORFOLK	N J H Pratt Esq
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	Dr A I Mukhtar DL
NORTHUMBERLAND	Mrs L H M Carroll
NORTH YORKSHIRE	C D Forbes Adam Esq DL
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Dr J S Bilkhu
OXFORDSHIRE	T H Birch Reynardson Esq
RUTLAND	A J Brown Esq
SHROPSHIRE	D R Stacey Esq
SOMERSET	The Hon Mrs James Nelson
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	J R Holt Esq DL
STAFFORDSHIRE	J W Leavesley Esq
SUFFOLK	Mrs J V Shallow
SURREY	Mrs E A S Kennedy
TYNE AND WEAR	Mrs K L H Winskell OBE DL
WARWICKSHIRE	Mrs J A Bell Smith JP
WEST MIDLANDS	E J Turpie Esq MBE
WEST SUSSEX	Mrs D L A Patterson
WEST YORKSHIRE	E J S Anderson Esq
WILTSHIRE	Lady Gooch JP
WORCESTERSHIRE	Sir Anthony Winnington Bt

Wales

CLWYD	Mrs J P Evans
DYFED	J W P Lewis Esq
GWENT	Lt Colonel A S Tuggey DL
GWYNEDD	Dr E M N Andrews MBE DL
MID GLAMORGAN	Mrs J A James
POWYS	Lt Colonel M H L Lewis DL
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Mrs H V Stevens CBE
WEST GLAMORGAN	R M Redfern Esq

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
S A Betts Esq	Worcestershire	2017
M G Clare Esq	Buckinghamshire	2017
J C M Davies Esq OBE DL	Not Applicable	
D Grey Esq MBE	South Yorkshire	2017
R S Hickmet Esq	Somerset	2017
Professor S Hope OBE	Gwynedd	2017
Professor M Hughes DL	Dyfed	2016
C L Mitchell Esq	Rutland	2017
Mrs C P Peacock	Durham	2017
The Lady Smith of Leigh DL	Not Applicable	
R N Taylor Esq	Hertfordshire (Under Sheriff)	
Mrs S E Thompson	Powys	2017
R M Webb Esq JP DL	Not Applicable	
S M Wrightson Esq	North Yorkshire	2017
K M Yeung Esq	Not Applicable	
S J Young Esq MC JP DL	Dorset	2017

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

Deaths

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

D H Andrews Esq	J H G Lywood Esq
Date of death: 01/06/2015	Date of death: 27/08/2015
Age: 85	Age: 81
County: West Glamorgan	County: Shropshire
Year of office: 1983	Year of office: 1994
Sir Neville Bowman Shaw DL	S J Packe-Drury-Lowe Esq
Date of death: 11/07/2015	Date of death: 15/05/2015
Age: 84	Age: 76
County: Bedfordshire	County: Leicestershire
Year of office: 1987	Year of office: 1977
Sir Adrian Cadbury	P J K Speyer Esq
Date of death: 03/09/2015	Date of death: 26/05/2015
Age: --	Age: 78
County: West Midlands	County: Dyfed
Year of office: 1994	Year of office: 1989
A D G Fortescue Esq	A C F Aylesbury Esq OBE
Date of death: 09/11/2015	Date of death: 28/08/15
Age: 69	Age: 79
County: Cornwall	County: West Glamorgan
Year of office: 2015	Year of office: 1993

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

County	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
BEDFORDSHIRE	C E S Whitbread Esq	V B Tailor Esq DL	A J G Polhill Esq
BERKSHIRE	Mrs V J Fishburn	Mrs S P Scrope DL	G Barker Esq
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	The Hon Mrs C R Soames DL	M G Clare Esq	Professor R S Farwell CBE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Sir David Arculus	R F A Pemberton Esq	A C Harter Esq
CHESHIRE	Mrs K H Cowell OBE DL	Mrs S A M Callander Beckett	Mrs A J Redmond MBE
CITY OF BRISTOL	Ms H M Wilde	A R E Brown Esq	R G Opie Esq
CUMBRIA	The Revd T R Lee	A G M Wannop Esq	S F M Berry Esq
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs E J Fothergill CBE	Mrs A H Hall	Mrs L B Palmer
DEVON	Mrs A M Gilbert	Mrs H Lindsay-Fynn	Mrs G T Phillips
DORSET	Sir Philip Williams Bt JP DL	S J Young Esq MC JP DL	Mrs J A Swift
DURHAM	G C J Salvin Esq	Mrs C P Peacock	Dr S M Cronin
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	T G Martin Esq	Mrs G E Drewry	Mrs D J Rosenberg
EAST SUSSEX	M J Foster Esq DL	Mrs M J Chowen	Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL
ESSEX	Mrs L J Rolfe JP	S A D Hall Esq MBE	B R H Burrough Esq
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	The Rt Hon the Countess Bathurst	Lt Colonel A J Tabor JP	C Martell Esq
GREATER LONDON	Sir Nigel Knowles	W J Furber Esq	C A E Spicer Esq
HAMPSHIRE	T H Floyd Esq	The Hon. Mrs M R Montagu-Scott	M E Thistlethwayte Esq
HEREFORDSHIRE	W J Jackson Esq	The Reverend the Lady Lisvane	T N Hone Esq
HERTFORDSHIRE	S H Stefanou Esq OBE DL	W A Hobhouse Esq	Mrs S R Harvey
ISLE OF WIGHT	R V Courage Esq MBE	B M A S Rouse Esq	Dr N J England
KENT	Mrs K F Smallwood	G E Jessel Esq DL	The Hon Nicholas John Boscawen
LEICESTERSHIRE	Professor S Sharma	T P Maxted Esq	Mrs D Thompson
LINCOLNSHIRE	Mrs J G A Hughes DL	A S Clark Esq DL	I H Walter Esq
NORFOLK	Major General Sir William Cubitt KCVO CBE	A J S Bagge Esq	C J Watt Esq
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	Mrs C C Brocklehurst	R Fordham Esq	J S Watson Esq
NORTHUMBERLAND	W Browne-Swinburne Esq	J R Dickinson Esq	M W Orde Esq
NORTH YORKSHIRE	J W Furness Esq	S M Wrightson Esq	C J C Legard Esq
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Mrs J L Naake	Colonel David R Sneath TD DL	N R B Ebbs Esq
OXFORDSHIRE	Mrs S J Taylor	Miss J E Cranston	R Venables Esq
RUTLAND	Dr S H Furness	C L Mitchell Esq	Mrs M S Jarron
SHROPSHIRE	Mrs C M Holmes JP	C E Lillis Esq	R M Swire Esq
SOMERSET	E W G Bayntun-Coward Esq	R S Hickmet Esq	D A S Burn Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Dr J MacDonald	D Grey Esq MBE	S Ingram Esq
STAFFORDSHIRE	Colonel D L Leigh TD DL	H D S Scott-Moncrieff Esq DL	Mrs P J Gee
SUFFOLK	W B Kendall Esq DL	G T C Probert Esq	G M W Vestey Esq
SURREY	R G Whittington Esq	N J S Wood-Dow Esq DL	R S Napier Esq
TYNE AND WEAR	J D Mowbray Esq OBE	Lt General R V Brims CB CBE DSO DL	P M Callaghan Esq
WARWICKSHIRE	R M D Samuda Esq	M E T Davies Esq	Mrs C A I Sawdon
WEST MIDLANDS	Dr K G Bradshaw DL	J L Hudson Esq	C T Loughran Esq
WEST SUSSEX	D M Spofforth Esq OBE	The Lady Emma Barnard	Mrs C Nicholls
WEST YORKSHIRE	C J Brown Esq	Dr T G Bramall CBE	C R Jackson Esq
WILTSHIRE	D K Hempleman-Adams Esq LVO OBE	The Lady Marland	Mrs N Alberry
WORCESTERSHIRE	Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt	S A Betts Esq	C B L L Roberts Esq

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

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

County	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
CLWYD	J P O'Toole Esq DL	Mrs C H G Howard	Lady Hanmer
DYFED	Professor M Hughes DL	Mrs S Balsom	S M Davies Esq
GWENT	A J Clay Esq	J K L Thomas Esq JP	Mrs S E L Linnard
GWYNEDD	Dr P G Harlech Jones	Professor S Hope OBE	D G Morgan Esq
MID GLAMORGAN	G J George Esq	D J Davies Esq JP	J H Wall Esq
POWYS	Mrs A Tudor JP	Mrs S E Thompson	D R Price Esq
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Professor J D Williams OBE	G C Lloyd Esq	B C Lakin Esq
WEST GLAMORGAN	Professor D M Mead OBE	Mrs R L Fleet JP	H M Gilbert Esq

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

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS



The High Sheriff's Badge

(for wearing round the neck) **£185.00**
41mm x 74mm



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



Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

Sold in pairs for each end of chaplains' preaching scarves **£27.00**



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:

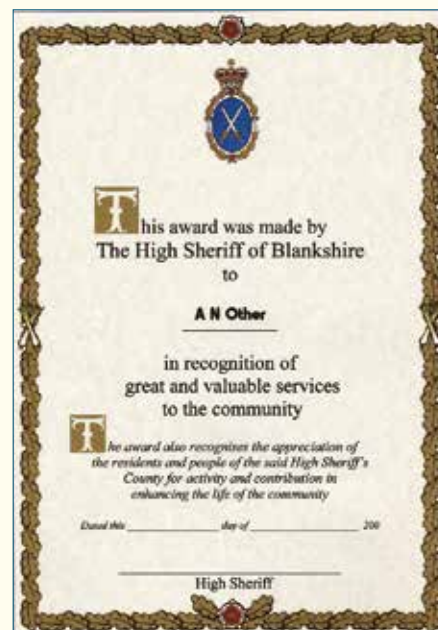
STYLE 1 comes with the name of your county already printed on it and blanks in

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

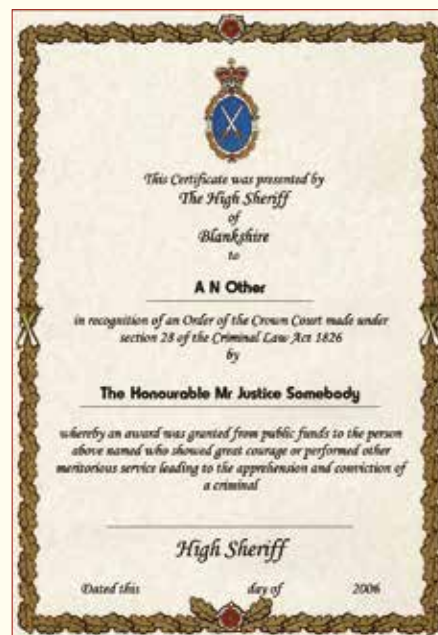
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

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

Questions and Answers

Q

I note from the guidance on court dress on the Association's website that High Sheriffs' badges should not be worn with court dress. I like wearing mine and it interests people I meet.

Why can't I wear it?

A

Badges, whether a county's own or the High Sheriffs' Association's badge, were introduced for High Sheriffs to wear in less formal dress when it was felt helpful to be able to identify the wearer, especially on civic and other occasions when badges were worn. A High Sheriff's badge is customarily worn when handed over at a Declaration ceremony, although in recent years High Sheriffs have worn them increasingly on other occasions. There is nothing wrong with this, but the Association feels that court dress sufficiently identifies the wearer without 'gilding the lily'.

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 **June 2016**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 22 April 2016**

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

To advertise in *The High Sheriff*
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