



The High Sheriff

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

WINTER 2016



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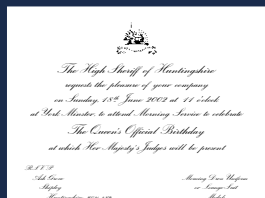
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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

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

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

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for answers to your questions



From the Editor

On behalf of the Association's Council I should like to thank serving and past High Sheriffs who have kindly contributed their thoughts and reports to this issue of *The High Sheriff*. Recently I enjoyed attending the West Midlands Regional High Sheriffs' conference in Leicester, a city now renowned as the burial place of Richard III and the home of the Premier League Football Champions. As well as covering shrieval legal and traditional duties, this useful meeting illustrated the wide-ranging opportunities for High Sheriffs to introduce people and organisations to each other throughout our 55 diverse counties, assuming 'the role of matchmaker' as one High Sheriff contributor puts it. The value of regional meetings is covered in another article.

Another contributor mentions his county's mayors coming from all political backgrounds, all dedicated to serving their communities. A key attribute of the role is that High Sheriffs are not political, enabling them to become involved with any county activity and group but with no suspicion of bias. A third contributor emphasises the appropriateness of shrieval participation in quasi-legal and non-political citizenship ceremonies where the ambitions and hopes of new British citizens radiate happiness – but how many readers would pass the online 'Life in the UK' practice paper?

Council is not infrequently asked about the need to appoint a chaplain, a topic covered in the members' area of the Association's website. There is a traditional expectation although no statutory obligation to do so, just as other public office holders and trade guilds appoint chaplains. Apart from involvement with High Sheriffs in religious services, chaplains provide useful sounding boards and helpful companions in the course of shrieval activities. They can be of any faith appropriate to the High Sheriff – one serving High Sheriff has both his Rabbi and an Anglican chaplain. In a special article another contributor states that her chaplain added a new dimension to her duties.

The last six months have seen some national media coverage of Shrievalty-related subjects. *Country Life* ('The women who make Britain great', 20 July, page 60) listed and illustrated the High Sheriff alongside lollipop ladies, organists and postmistresses. On BBC Radio 4, Professor Gretchen Gerzina explored the fascinating life of Nathaniel Wells, a West Indian plantation owner whose mother was one of his father's slaves, who became High Sheriff of Monmouthshire in 1818 ('Britain's Black Past', 14 October 2016, online <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07yvszg/broadcasts/2016/10>). *The Spectator* (19 November, page 78) contained a short piece on 'curtana' (their spelling 'cortana'), or the Sword of Mercy with its point cut short, carried at Coronations since 1189 and forming an element of the Association's badge and armorial bearings (see a related article in the members' section of the website).

The High Sheriff's year spawns varied new interests and activities. The two films described on pages 18 and 19 illustrate diverse aspects of Buckinghamshire and Kent common to most counties in England and Wales. With the retirement from Council of Andrew Morgan (Greater London 2009), winner of several BAFTA Awards and one Emmy, it seems that we have members ready to carry his baton.

Finally, I would encourage serving High Sheriffs to nominate candidates for awards by National Crimebeat, our Association's youth crime prevention charity (<http://www.national-crimebeat.org.uk>). Submissions close on 17 January 2017 and presentations take place on 15 March.

On behalf of Council I welcome new members of the Association listed on page 38. I wish serving High Sheriffs a fulfilling final few months in office and their successors a year of adventure and interest, and all readers a Happy Christmas and a rewarding New Year.

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

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06

Diary 2017

of Forthcoming Events

MARCH 2017

High Sheriffs in nomination for 2017

March 2017

The names of the High Sheriffs on the Roll for 2017 will be 'pricked' by Her Majesty The Queen at the meeting of the Privy Council to be held at Buckingham Palace.

APRIL 2017

Meeting of the co-ordinators of the regional meetings

Tuesday 25 April 2017 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 2017

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

Friday 7 July

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

OCTOBER 2017

The Red Mass

Monday 2 October 2017

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

The Ladies' Lunch

Early October 2017

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 2017 to those ladies who are in nomination. The organiser is Council member Sally Bowie, whose email address is: sallyeabowie@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 2017

46th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday 1 November 2017
The Association's 46th AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall, London. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2017.



The Nomination of future High Sheriffs

Monday 13 November 2017 probably at 2.00 pm

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Monday 13 November 2017 in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court) at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At this ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 will be read out in court.

The Secretary will be writing in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2018 and for 2019 inviting them to attend. This function provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for a few 2020 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2020 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend.





The Chairman's Address

Annual General Meeting of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales
2 November 2016 at Drapers' Hall, London

Welcome back to Drapers' Hall and this, the 45th Annual General Meeting of the High Sheriffs' Association. It is always a treat to be able to meet in such splendid places and we are grateful to the Master of the Drapers' Company for allowing us to be here again. Thank you to all of you for coming in such good numbers. One of our aims as an Association is to keep past High Sheriffs in touch with the Shrievalty and this is one way of doing so. The numbers attending the AGM continue to grow and we are expecting over 160 for lunch today. This justifies the decision taken before my time to host the AGM in London every year. A number of attempts were made to hold the meeting outside London, but on each occasion the attendance was poor.

“The Association only functions because of the very active contribution made by each and every member of the Council. Once again I must thank them all for the part they play

We do not exist only to eat and drink and enjoy each other's company. We also exist to uphold the values of the Shrievalty and to help those coming into office to be well prepared so that they can hit the ground running when their turn comes.

The Association only functions because of the very active contribution made by each and every member of the Council. Once again I must thank them all for the part they play.

Yet again our Burghley seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination ran without a hitch. Elizabeth Hunter, who took on the organisation for the first time this year, put together a great panel of speakers and everyone who attended agreed that it was as successful as ever. We were pleased to welcome Senior Master Fontaine, The Queen's Remembrancer, to Burghley for the first time. Barbara Fontaine will be joining us again for lunch today. Elizabeth has kindly agreed to organise Burghley for a second time next year and will be pleased to hear from anyone with suggestions about how she can make it even better.

Last year I spoke about the Association's website and what was then the new private area only available to members of the Association. The information available on this private section continues to grow and I hope that it is useful, in particular for current High Sheriffs and those in nomination. My fellow Council member, Hugh Tollemache, looks after the website on behalf of Council and we are enormously grateful for what

he has achieved. If any members have mislaid the login information for the private area, please either speak to a member of Council today or email the Secretary.

For the last two years, I have spoken about the procedure for nominating future High Sheriffs and the establishment of nomination panels in each county. Last year we sent new detailed guidelines to all current High Sheriffs about the recommended constitution for nomination panels and we do hope that all counties are now operating panels according to those guidelines. I owe a debt of gratitude to my fellow Council member, Bill Shelford, and to our President, Julian Avery, for all the work they did in drawing up the guidelines and if you have any questions on this subject both are here today and will be pleased to speak to you afterwards.

Our regional meetings are now a well-established part of the Association's activities. These meetings are now co-ordinated for Council by Anne Morgan. They provide a forum for current and incoming High Sheriffs to get together in a less formal environment than the Burghley seminar to discuss problems common to their particular part of the country. My thanks also go to the regional co-ordinators who facilitate these meetings.

On your way into today's meeting you will have had the opportunity to purchase various items that include the insignia of the Association. Your Council has frequently considered what products the Association might add to the range that might be more suitable for lady former High Sheriffs. While we do offer a scarf it is not very popular with our lady members. If any members have any suggestions for items of regalia that may complement the tie worn by many of our male members, please speak to Martin Amlôt who is another valued member of Council and who looks after the Association's regalia.

Your magazine, *The High Sheriff*, continues to appear as if by magic twice a year. Of course, it does not appear by magic and my colleague on Council, Andrew Wells, puts in an enormous amount of work to make it all happen for which I can't thank him enough. Of course, the magazine is only as good as the articles that are submitted and I particularly appeal to current High Sheriffs to submit appropriate material.

National Crimebeat, the Association's charity, continues to go from strength to strength and Barbara Wilding, the chair of the charity and a fellow Council member will be telling us about that later in the meeting. I can only applaud Barbara and her fellow trustees, all of whom are here today, for everything they do.

“I can only applaud Barbara and her fellow trustees, all of whom are here today, for everything they do

Each year on 12 November the Association arranges a reception to follow the annual nomination ceremony in the Royal Courts of Justice where the names of future High Sheriffs are read out. This year the ceremony falls on a Saturday which is the same day as the Lord Mayor's parade and the swearing-in of the new Lord Mayor. The Association has been able to make special arrangements for those High Sheriffs in nomination attending the ceremony to view the parade. Andrew Morgan, another very valued Council member, has organised this as he has for several years now. I am very sorry to say that Andrew will have served on Council for the maximum six years so is standing down today. Not only has he been co-ordinating all the arrangements for the annual nomination ceremony, he has also been a very valued trustee of National Crimebeat where he has made the arrangements for the annual award presentations in London. Andrew will be sorely missed on Council but I hope he will be continuing as a trustee of National Crimebeat.

Last year I spoke about the current Lord Chief Justice, Lord Thomas, and his support for High Sheriffs. I am very pleased that his predecessor, Lord Judge has accepted our invitation to be the guest of honour at our lunch today. I am sure you will all make him feel very welcome.

Finally, I can't finish without saying a special thank you both to our President, Julian Avery, who is available with wise words of wisdom when necessary and to our invaluable Honorary Secretary, James Williams, who is the 'nuts and bolts' of the Association and without whom it would all fall apart. Thank you to both of you.

Jeremy Burton

Chairman, the High Sheriffs' Association

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2016



Above: Association Council 2016-17

AGM 2016

James Williams

Honorary Secretary, the High Sheriffs' Association

THE 45th Annual General Meeting of the Association took place at Drapers' Hall in London on Wednesday 2 November 2016.

The Chairman, Jeremy Burton, remained as Chairman and Nigel Savory and James Williams were both re-elected as Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary respectively.

Andrew Morgan retired from Council having served for his six years and Jeremy Burton thanked him for all his work on the many matters with which he had been involved, especially the Nomination Ceremony organisation and National

Crimebeat. David Jones, High Sheriff of Greater London in 2013, was elected to Council and Martin Amlôt and Elizabeth Hunter were both re-elected to Council. Jeremy Burton gave a full report of the Association's activities over the year (see pages 6-7).

The meeting was followed by a reception and a very fine luncheon attended by over 160 members and guests. The guest speaker at lunch was the Rt Hon Lord Judge who was the Lord Chief Justice between 2008 and 2013. He amused us by recounting a number of anecdotes and stories which occurred during his career. He also kindly said how much High Court Judges appreciated all the help and hospitality they received from High Sheriffs when on circuit.

Right: Annie Hall (Derbyshire 2017), Nicky Weston (Notts 2013), The Queen's Remembrancer, Senior Master Fontaine and Judith Shallow (Suffolk 2015)

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2016



Left: Jeremy Burton (Association Chairman, W Yorks 2009) and Andrew Morgan (Greater London 2009)

Right: Vinod Tailor (Beds 2017), Deborah Inskip (Beds 2013) and Judith Shallow (Suffolk 2015)



Left: Kevin Thomas (Gwent 2017) and Elaine Thomas

Right: Sally Bowie (Leics 2013), Simon Leatham (Cambs 2005), Jill Samuda (guest of Richard Samuda, Warks 2016), Jenny Tolhurst (Essex 2006) and Barbara Wilding (Mid Glam 2011)



Sir Nicholas Lechmere (Worcs 2016), Hugh Tollemache (Glos 2013) and Penelope Lewis (Worcs 2012)



Gordon Arthur (Leics 2015) and Jonathan Douglas-Hughes (former Under Sheriff, Essex)



Cora and Michael McGrane (Mid Glam 2001), Sue Balsom (Dyfed 2017), Anne Morgan (Mid Glam 2008) and John Lee (Devon 2013)



Catherine and David Bertie (Berks 2015)

RECENT EVENTS

Nomination Ceremony 2016

Nomination Ceremony 2016



♦ A V R Morgan

Greater London 2009; Council member 2010-16

THE ANNUAL Nomination Ceremony took place in the Royal Courts of Justice on 12 November. It takes place every year on this date except when it falls on a Sunday, so in 2017 it will be on Monday 13 November. (All those in nomination, please note.)

This year it fell on a Saturday which coincided with the Lord Mayor of London's Show so special arrangements had to be made. The ceremony took place at 10.00 am rather than the usual 2.30 pm and, because of extra security requirements, we were asked to enter and leave by the Carey Street entrance at the back of the building. Furthermore, we couldn't use our normal venue for the get-together afterwards as St Clement Danes

(the RAF Church) would be full of RAF personnel attending the show. Luckily we found an excellent alternative in 'The Knights Templar' public house nearby.

After beautiful late autumn weather the previous day, the clouds broke and 170 seriously drenched future High Sheriffs and their families and friends turned up in Carey Street at the appointed time waiting to be let in. There was a real stalwart spirit and eventually we all took our places in the Lord Chief Justice's Court which was at least dry! Usually a sheet of paper is waiting for us explaining the ceremony but not this year so in my little speech explaining who was who, I tried to define the procedure.

The Queen's Remembrancer reads out the three names of the current High Sheriff and two people already in nomination and asks for another name. The judges take it in turns to proclaim a new person in



RECENT EVENTS

Nomination Ceremony 2016



nomination. The list is then revised with the current High Sheriff's name omitted and The Queen's Remembrancer reads out the new list with the next year's High Sheriff in first place followed by his or her two successors.

This year, because the Lord Mayor was coming to be sworn in later, there were six judges, not the usual four: the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Davis, Lord Justice Longmore, Mrs Justice Nicola Davies and Mrs Justice Thirlwell. The ceremony went off well and after the last names were read out, the High Sheriff of Greater London, Sir Nigel Knowles, thanked the judges. The Lord Chief Justice responded with a fascinating and humorous speech and thanked all of us for the hospitality and friendship High Sheriffs always show to the judiciary.

After this it was off to The Knights Templar for bacon rolls and tea and coffee. Eventually all were served and Jeremy Burton, Chairman of the Association, welcomed everyone and explained how the Association was always there to help. The importance of attending the Burghley seminar in the summer and the regional meetings was essential advice.

By midday, people started to go down Chancery Lane to watch the show from a special viewing area. We then moved to just outside the front entrance of the Law Courts where many of us had an excellent view of the Lord Mayor's arrival.

It even stopped raining!



The weather did not dampen the spirits of those attending the Nomination Ceremony and afterwards the Lord Mayor of London's Show



RECENT EVENTS

Burghley 2016

Burghley 2016

◆ Elizabeth Hunter

Council member and High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2010-11

ONE HUNDRED and thirty-five delegates arrived at Burghley House for the High Sheriffs in nomination seminar on 1 July. It had been a fairly miserable summer thus far but Burghley always seems to produce sunshine and so it did that Friday.

Coffee, the collection of badges and plans for the day gave delegates the opportunity to mingle and seek out those who were either to serve the same year as they were or who came from the same region. Everyone then moved to the Great

Hall where Miranda Rock, the chatelaine of Burghley, welcomed the delegates and promoted the Association magazine by drawing their attention to the cover of the current edition starring Edward Harley (Herefordshire 2015), a governor of Burghley House Preservation Trust. The Association is most grateful to Miranda for allowing the use of her stunning home for this event. Jeremy Burton, Chairman of the Association, then opened the seminar and welcomed all those present, explaining the purpose of the day and what the delegates might hope, and expect, to gain from it.

He welcomed our first speaker, Senior Master Barbara Fontaine, The Queen's Remembrancer. She gave a fascinating speech describing the history of the Office and its development through the years with all the changes and occasional threats it has faced. The presentation was received with much enthusiasm and was the perfect introduction to this ancient role which the delegates would be assuming during the next couple of years.

Hearing about previous High Sheriffs' experiences has always been a useful part of the seminar and David Jones (Greater London 2013) described with verve and panache some of his experiences. He went on to explain the work of National Crimebeat, encouraging High Sheriffs to enter projects for the charity's awards. National Crimebeat has raised its profile over the last few years and he urged sheriffs in more counties to involve themselves in this most worthwhile enterprise. Finally, David described the work of the Volunteer Police Cadets and encouraged sheriffs to

Below: Chris Sheffield, Daphne Amlôt, James Williams, Elizabeth Hunter, Jeremy Burton, Lord Hughes, Amanda Parker, Nicholas Pratt, Julian Avery, Senior Master Fontaine and David Jones



Right: Dr Stephen Cronin (Co Durham 2018), Suzanne Cronin and Nick England (Isle of Wight 2018)



Far right: Alexandra and Charles Martell (Gloucestershire 2018), Jonathan Peacock, guest of Mrs C P Peacock (Durham 2017)



RECENT EVENTS

Burghley 2016



include and engage them in the various activities of their year.

Nicholas Pratt (Norfolk 2015) followed with an entertaining résumé of his year. It is always helpful to have representatives from both rural and urban counties giving their own take on the Office and describing what has worked for them and how best to cope with support services such as catering, secretarial and transport. He had many useful tips to impart to his successors.

Daphne Amlôt, wife of Martin (Merseyside 2012), filled the 'spouse slot' with a very good description of her husband's year and gave some sound advice as to how best spouses may help. Daphne painted an amusing picture of the supporter's role 'one step behind' but at the ready for unexpected needs, including a spare pair of tights. Judging by the reaction to her presentation, she had clearly allayed the fears of most and given encouragement to all.

We were very privileged to have Lord Hughes from the Supreme Court to speak to us. He described briefly the Criminal Justice System and spoke of the interaction he had had with High Sheriffs when sitting in the High Court. Mindful of the fact that many counties do not often, if ever, see a High Court Judge, he encouraged sheriffs to visit and sit with the Circuit Judges, District Judges and Magistrates. He shared one or two amusing anecdotes that had occurred during his illustrious career, ending with the reaction of some young women he had met who, on hearing that he actually wore black and gold robes and a wig, uttered one word 'WOW'!

A drinks reception was held in the rose garden followed by lunch in the marquee and the orangery. The delegates were back in their seats soon after 2 o'clock to listen to Dr Chris Sheffield, lately Governor of Manchester Prison and now Vice Chairman of the Howard League for Penal

Clockwise from top left: Sally Bowie (Leics 2013) and Maureen Chowen (East Sussex 2017) with ladies' court dress designs;

Julia Pratt, Nicholas Pratt (Norfolk 2015), Geoffrey Probert (Suffolk 2017), Nella Probert, Sir David Arculus (Cambs 2016);

Vinod Tailor (Beds 2017), Samantha Orde, Michael Orde (Northumberland 2018), Jaimani Tailor;

Helen Pemberton and Richard Pemberton (Cambs 2017);

Revd Lady Lisvane (Herefordshire 2017), Lord Lisvane, Lord Hughes

RECENT EVENTS

Burghley 2016

Reform. He gave us some rather alarming facts and figures about the increase in the prison population in a most interesting presentation and exhorted future High Sheriffs to include prison visits during their year.

Amanda Parker (Lancashire 2015) was our final speaker and she offered a 21st-century view to the Shrievalty with an upbeat and enthusiastic promotion of social media and its uses. It was a relevant encouragement to future High Sheriffs to consider the use of modern communication to engage a wider audience.

As always, the Q&A session proved useful, the delegates having submitted questions in advance which were answered by a panel of Council members. Finally, the Chairman thanked all those involved in the organisation of the day and encouraged everyone to enjoy a tour of Burghley House and a very welcome cup of tea.

I should like to add my own thanks, on behalf of the Association, to all our distinguished speakers who had given so much time in producing first-class presentations.

Nothing had been too much trouble for Kara Lockyer and the staff at Burghley and a special thank you too is due to Kelly Sadler at Hall-McCartney. Finally, I do thank all those delegates who took the trouble to produce questions, fill in questionnaires relating to the day and expressed interest in the public speaking workshops. They greatly help our endeavours to give High Sheriffs in nomination support and, I hope, to produce an equally successful event next year!

• Next year's seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for 2018 and 2019 will be held at Burghley on Friday 7 July.



Clockwise from above:

Cassian Roberts (Worcs 2018), Jane Roberts, Craig Mitchell (Rutland 2017);

Diana Thompson (Leics 2018), Ian Walter (Lincs 2018), Margaret Jarron (Rutland 2018), Simon Berry (Cumbria 2018);

Mark Davies (Warwicks 2017), Jane Loughran, Chris Loughran (West Midlands 2018);

Melissa Thistlewayte, Mark Thistlewayte (Hants 2018), Pete Alberry, Nicky Alberry (Wilts 2018);

Tim Maxted (Leics 2017), Elaine Jackson, Richard Jackson (West Yorks 2018)



RECENT EVENTS

Lady High Sheriffs; Wales High Sheriffs

Our accomplished ladies

❖ Sally Bowie, DL

High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2013-14

THE ELEVENTH annual lunch for Lady High Sheriffs took place on 4 October at the Royal Thames Yacht Club. It was a lively and well-attended event with 36 interesting and accomplished ladies. We were very grateful to the ladies in office

who gave up their time during their busy year to share their experiences and ideas with the ladies in nomination, giving them plenty of handy hints and encouragement for their exciting year ahead.

This year we were very fortunate to have Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, as our guest speaker. Not only did Dame Lorna

give a very informative and encouraging speech but she truly entertained us with wonderful stories of her experiences during her time as Lord-Lieutenant.

There was a display of court dress to inspire the ladies with designs for uniform and plenty of advice on all aspects of the Shrievalty on hand from my fellow Council Members: Elizabeth Hunter, Anne Morgan and Juliet Westoll.

The feedback was extremely positive. The ladies felt the event was very helpful, being both informative and a good place to make new friends and receive advice, which I am sure will not be needed once they have got into their stride.



Sally Bowie (far left) and Dame Lorna Muirhead (left) speaking after lunch

Forging new friendships

❖ Bob Redfern

High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2015-16

IN ADDITION to annual all-Wales training sessions organised for those in nomination together with their partners in preparation for the year of office, there have been regular cross-boundary events throughout the year itself.

Such events included the service to commemorate the start of the legal year (alternating between Bangor and Llandaff Cathedrals), civic services and commemorative events, meetings with emergency services and the judiciary, and various charitable functions and dinners to which again consorts were invited. In February we were also privileged to visit the Houses of Parliament and enjoyed a splendid meal in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Room hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Tuggey (Gwent 2015-16) and his wife Clare. Such events

helped to forge lasting friendships among the various High Sheriffs and their partners.

Consequently, while we have all had to adjust to the abrupt transition at the end of our year of office – there is nothing so ‘ex’ as an ex-High Sheriff! – we were determined as a group to maintain contact. Thus it was that most of the Wales class of 2015-16 met up again in June for a few days in Aberdyfi hosted by Dr Elizabeth (Libby) Andrews (Gwynedd 2015-16). This gathering presented a wonderful opportunity for reminiscence and relaxation, and to visit some of the local attractions, including the Dyfi Osprey centre near Machynlleth, the Tallylyn Railway and the ancient hill fort of Castell y Bere in the shadow of Cader Idris. Plans are well under way for next year’s reunion. My wife Julie and I extend our thanks to all the Welsh Shrievalty for contributing to such a memorable year. *Diolch yn fawr iawn*



Above: Dinner in October 2105 at Fonmon Castle, home of Sir Brooke Boothby, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan 1986: (left-right) Mrs Jayne James, Dr Libby Andrews, Prof Heather Stevens and Mrs Janet Evans, with (left-right) Lt Col Mike Lewis, Mr Bob Redfern, Mr Jamie Lewis and Lt Col Andrew Tuggey. Behind them is Richard Brompton’s fascinating conversation piece of George III’s younger brother Edward, Duke of York and Albany, KG, and his entourage painted in Venice in 1764. To the left is Major General Sir William Boothby, 4th Bt, the Prince’s Master of the Horse.

Regional meetings – are they of any use?

Let me start straightaway by answering this question:

After more than a year as Association Council link member to the regions, I can confidently report that the answer is an overwhelming 'yes'! Meetings give High Sheriffs, both in office and in nomination, together with their husbands and wives, the opportunity to ask and have answered – as one regional co-ordinator so succinctly put it – any question, however silly it sounds.

The meetings are full of High Sheriffs in nomination in earnest discussion of ideas for their year together with pitfalls to avoid. They really do provide an opportunity for participants to get to know each other in a congenial setting and discuss working together across county boundaries.

So how did the meetings come about?

It became apparent that every year High Sheriffs had to 'reinvent the wheel'. The national seminars now held at Burghley came into being followed by regional seminars which started under the watchful and helpful eye of Council member Hugh Burnett, then Bill Shelford who subsequently passed the baton to me.

There are nine Association regions in England and Wales: Central, Eastern, East

Midlands, North East, North West, South East, Wales, South West and West Midlands. Every year, regional organisers, current and in the frame, are invited to a seminar in London in April to exchange ideas and enable Council to take on board suggestions.

My sincere thanks and admiration go out to all our co-coordinators, who do a marvellous job finding suitable meeting locations, organising programmes and speakers, and encouraging High Sheriffs in nomination to attend.

Attendance at meetings is now excellent with usually a good balance across shrieval years. Most co-ordinators undertake the role for two years or so and each co-ordinator seems to find a successor often as a result of a well-planned rotation between counties. Meeting dates range from October to March. Venues vary from private houses to hotels and delegate costs are kept to a minimum.

The Council link member attends meetings and other Council members often take on this role too. Programmes vary, usually including reports on specific topics by current High Sheriffs and outside speakers such as Chief Constables, Lord-Lieutenants and Judges, and sometimes locations of particular interest have included tours.

Council members report on Association advice papers and mention other practical points. Topics covered include National Crimebeat, nomination panels, proclamation advice, and the Association's website. Questions are always welcomed and lively discussions often ensue. Indeed, where answers are not readily available there is always someone on Council who can provide the information, and we are lucky to have the backing of our administrators Hall-McCartney and our invaluable Hon Secretary James Williams.

Do come to the meetings – you will be warmly welcomed and please remember, Council not only wants to provide you with information but also really wants your views on how best we can go on helping you in the future.

◆ Anne Morgan

Mid Glamorgan 2008-09 and Council link member to the regions

Below left: John Lee, Regional Co-ordinator (Devon 2013), with keynote speaker Commodore Jamie Miller CBE, Naval Regional Commander for Wales and Western England, who discussed how High Sheriffs might engage with the armed forces

Below: South-West regional meeting at Athelhampton House, Dorset 2016



Please support your Association's charity

♦ Barbara Wilding CBE QPM

Chair, National Crimebeat and High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2011-12

WE ARE gearing up for the 2017 Awards Ceremony and letters have been

sent to all High Sheriffs reminding them of the closing date for their submissions. If you are a past High Sheriff and know of a project fitting the National Crimebeat categories A and B do please do bring it to the attention of the current High Sheriff.

The closing date is 5pm on Tuesday 17 January 2017. Don't forget, only those projects supported by their county's High Sheriff will be accepted. Applying is so easy – all electronic. A High Sheriff wishing to encourage and support a project team can direct them to download the application from national-crimebeat.org.uk, complete it and forward it to them for endorsement and submission via email: submissions@national-crimebeat.org.uk.

Judging will take place on 1 February and the winning order determined. All the finalists, together with their High Sheriffs and county supporters, will be invited to the 2017 Awards Ceremony to be held on 15 March at the Royal National Hotel, London.

All finalists will be asked to prepare a presentation on their project explaining their role and the outcomes. Those giving the best presentation, regardless of where they are in the winning order, will be awarded the Hugh Burnett Prize of £100. After the ceremony the finalists will have lunch at the hotel, take a tour on an open top Big Bus and a trip on the London Eye.

The trustees would not be able to provide a ceremony worthy of the dignity of the High Sheriffs' Office without the huge support of Big Bus Tours which has again promised to provide a bus and guide without charge as they have done for the past 15 years. Occasionally, the London Eye donates a pod (25 persons), and we await the outcome of our current request for two pods.

“Those giving the best presentation, regardless of where they are in the winning order, will be awarded the Hugh Burnett Prize of £100”

To fund the cash prizes and some extra places on the Eye we rely on donations. This year we have again been fortunate to be supported by the Lady Hind Trust and the continued unfailing generosity of Richard Walduck, Hertfordshire1997, and for the first time by Oldfield Partners. We trustees thank all who make it possible for the National Crimebeat Awards to recognise young people who are working hard to make their communities safer.

Since the inception of National Crimebeat in 1998 the Walduck family, owners of the Royal National Hotel, have donated the use of one of their hotels for our Awards Ceremony, including lunch. Since the revamp of National

Crimebeat in 2012, Richard and his son Alex have also provided the help of their brilliant staff to make the day extra special. There is more – they have also sponsored pods on the London Eye and Alex completed a gruelling challenge, climbing the Three Peaks and raising money for National Crimebeat.

The trustees and I are truly delighted that Richard has accepted the trustees' invitation to become our first Honorary President. His valuable and vast knowledge of National Crimebeat's history, together with his commitment to the ethos of the charity, is inspiring.

As I say, submissions must be received by 5pm on **Tuesday 17 January 2017** and may be submitted from Tuesday 3 January.

Good Luck!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are two categories of awards:

CATEGORY A is for groups where the idea for the project came from the young people who are then also responsible for running the project.

CATEGORY B is for groups where the project was developed by others (adults) but where the young people have a significant role in the management and delivery of the project.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 5 AND 25 YEARS
The projects should have a beneficial effect on the community outside of the group; therefore a project that just keeps youngsters off the street is not acceptable. It should be aimed at reducing and/or preventing crime, well established, and with benefits already being achieved.

Filming for good causes

Our County At War

In these years that mark the centenary of the First World War, much important work has been done to research the lives of those who died. However, as I accompanied my husband Joe, High Sheriff 2014-15, with that privileged insight one gains into the county, we felt there was also a story to tell about those who stayed at home and how their lives were affected. This film tells that story.

Along with a small team of skilled volunteers I undertook the research, writing, production and direction. Our aim was to find out what happened in Buckinghamshire as 44,000 of its men went off to war and to create a permanent record on film, using an extraordinary range of visual material from all round the county. We sought to give a vivid picture of how the lives of families and communities were disrupted; to show how this county responded to the real food crisis brought about by the German submarine blockade, how the role of



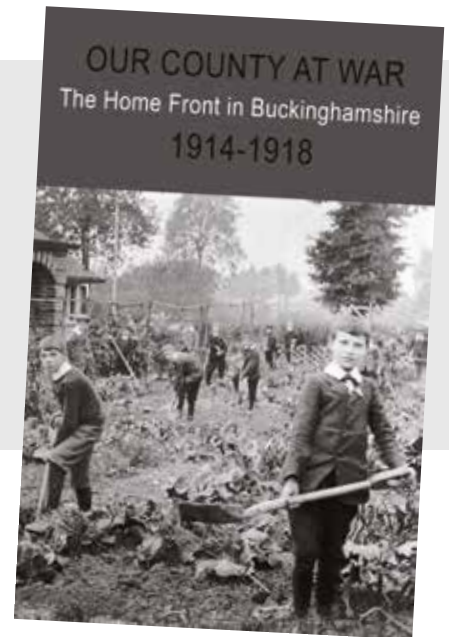
women changed and how children had to grow up fast and play their part.

Industries in the county adapted to the demands of war. The film reveals the important contribution made by Wolverton Railway Carriage Works in north Buckinghamshire, including adapting circus and mail carriages into mobile hospitals. It provides a unique insight into the critical part played in the war effort by some of

“The film reveals the important contribution made by Wolverton Railway Carriage Works in north Buckinghamshire



Above: Some of the wounded convalescing at Chequers



Left and below: New uses for trains and station platforms highlighted in *Our County at War*



the larger houses such as Chequers, before that house was given to the nation for the use of her prime ministers. It shows how a Rothschild house was transformed into an infantry training camp which, in 1918, became RAF Halton. In addition, the film covers the contribution of farming to the war effort and the first real mechanisation of agriculture.

Further county support came from The National Film and Television School at Beaconsfield who sourced an editor for the project; and Pinewood Studios at Iver kindly hosted a launch for the film. A copy of the DVD has been sent to all schools in the county.

♦ Joanna Barclay

• If you would like to obtain the DVD of *Our County at War: The Home Front in Buckinghamshire, 1914-1918*, please contact: joannabarclay2@gmail.com.

The film was generously sponsored, so all we ask is that you send donation, minimum £5, to be given to SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

Kent Churches Bike Ride

♣ Nigel Wheeler JP
High Sheriff of Kent 2007-08

In 1981 an enterprising group from Suffolk decided that their fine, ancient churches needed extra financial support for payment of repairs and in so doing they started the annual sponsored bike ride. They cycled or walked from spire to tower earning money for the cause. The initiative snowballed to over thirty counties from Northumbria to Kent and Cornwall and now is known as 'Ride+Stride', held annually on the second Saturday of September.

In several counties the Shrievalty has strongly supported this community effort. High Sheriffs have taken to their bikes, walked the streets and lanes from church to church, and have even been seen on horseback helping to promote Ride+Stride. They have joined their county's Churches Trusts and attended garden parties, luncheons and meetings and presented

awards to loyal, long-serving participants. Ride+Stride protects our heritage, supports the preservation of our cathedrals, churches and chapels of all denominations and sees those doors open that so often now are firmly shut. The Post Offices are going, the pubs are going and in Kent oast houses no longer do their job – our churches must survive.

The Friends of Kent Churches has made a short film showing two former High Sheriffs and their 'posse' enjoying the exercise and pleasure of supporting their county's efforts. It can be seen on <https://player.vimeo.com/video/178906132>.



High Sheriffs on their bikes



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Follow the spire



Having a chaplain added a new dimension to her round of duties and official events, and helped give Juliet Smith, High Sheriff of East Sussex 2015-16, a deeper understanding of the many inspirational people and organisations she met.

Here the former High Sheriff and her chaplain the Revd David Wallis, Vicar of the Beacon parish of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston in East Sussex, talk about their highly effective collaboration.

Q: HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CHAPLAIN?

A: The first parson I approached was very enthusiastic but weeks before my declaration he was offered a parish far away. I had already arranged to hold a reception at Ditchling Museum and thought it would be a good idea to combine this with a judicial service at St Margaret's, across the village green. Thus, when I went to visit the church I had an important ulterior motive: would the vicar possibly become my chaplain? There was an immediate connection and my prayers literally were answered. In addition, the main church in his parish could not have been a better location for some of the important events in the calendar; it was an idyllic setting and a part of the county of East Sussex that had not received recent shrivell attention. – *Juliet*

Q: HOW DID HAVING A CHAPLAIN HELP IN YOUR DUTIES?

A: Together we went on the most incredible journey. Inevitably we met all

Above: Enjoying tea after the High Sheriff's Declaration at Lewes Crown Court with (L-R) my chaplain's wife Sally Wallis, Annette and Martin Gosling and the Revd David Wallis

sorts of groups and organisations across East Sussex, many of them performing the most inspirational work for the community in often very difficult circumstances and working with very tight budgets. As a High Sheriff, you are on your own in planning your diary and when you go on visits. It was great to share so much with Father David. We would have regular meetings when I would go through my diary and decide if there were events he would like to attend or discuss. Having Father David there was like another pair of eyes and ears and thus I was able to gain a fuller picture of organisations and their work. – *Juliet*

A: In a way it is a natural fit to have a parish priest as a chaplain. We are at the heart of communities and can tap into local organisations and groups, so I felt I had a great deal to offer in terms of support to the High Sheriff. Juliet always told me of upcoming events and asked if I could attend. I went to as many as I could, from meeting a charity helping children with cancer to the RNLI and the Kent, Surrey



and Sussex Air Ambulance. Afterwards we met up to share our experiences and discuss what further help we could provide for a group. – *Father David*

Q: WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR YEAR IN OFFICE?

A: I started the year with the intention of keeping my options open and not having a theme. However, several months into my term, I was so struck by how much we owe in every area of life to people who volunteer, that celebrating the unsung heroes of communities emerged as something I wanted to champion. This culminated in an award ceremony I held at the end of my year in office in which I presented a High Sheriff's Award to a total of 34 organisations and individuals. St Margaret's was the perfect venue and as well as the many guests numerous members of the parish attended (and incidentally provided a wonderful tea afterwards!). – *Juliet*

A: There were so many special events – from accompanying the High Sheriff to a commemoration in Dieppe for Canadian soldiers stationed in East Sussex, who were killed during a war-time attempt to drive back the Nazis, to meeting the families of people who have given their organs to help others. As well as continuing to keep in contact with Juliet, there is another legacy in that I have become an active supporter of Juliet's campaign to promote defibrillators in public places. Our idea is for every church to have one in the porch or other space open to the public – that way if you are in the country, town or city and need to find a defibrillator quickly, then simply follow the spire and that will lead you to one. – *Father David*

Below left: Father David preaching at the Judicial Service on 15 June 2015

Below: Laying a wreath in Dieppe on 19 August 2015 at the commemoration of the Dieppe Raid, accompanied by my chaplain





Representing the royal county in a royal year

AT THE training day at Burghley House I learnt the central truth of being High Sheriff: to put a close connection with the courts and the police at the heart of your year. The link of the High Sheriff with the judges and magistrates, the police and other public services gives a central meaning to the role. From that central strand, individual High Sheriffs may choose to concentrate on particular aspects of the judicial system.

I have taken a particular interest in those areas that deal with the fall-out on families from the criminal justice system. The Troubled Families Programme, which seeks to break the cycle of offending and help those families most at risk, is doing good work across the county. Youth offending teams, probation services and the many charities working to help vulnerable people and to keep young people out of the courts, all benefit from the High Sheriff taking an interest. The Elizabeth Fry Hostel for Women on Licence in Reading is one of only six approved premises for women in England: an essential charity working alongside the public services. I have lived in the Royal County of Berkshire for all my adult life but there is nothing like being High Sheriff to discover quite how much more there is going on than one could ever imagine.

My regional grouping of High Sheriffs is small compared to others. We consist of the three counties which make up the Thames Valley: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Together with my two fellow High Sheriffs, Milly Soames in Buckinghamshire and Sarah Taylor in Oxfordshire, we gave a lunch in early July to support a charity which works across the region. The Thames Valley Partnership was founded by Lady Popplewell, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1992-93, and it covers five areas: restorative justice; 'New Leaf

which helps ex-offenders into work; the provision of family desks at the Crown Courts to help the families of recently convicted offenders; using art to work with women offenders and a telephone service supported by Vodafone for the victims of domestic abuse. We were pleased to raise awareness of this wonderful charity which has resulted in publicity and donations.

Here in Berkshire there is one indisputable fact: we are a royal county. And the royal status of the county reached a pinnacle in April, only two weeks after my Declaration at Reading Crown Court, when HM The Queen celebrated her 90th birthday in Windsor. As we go about our daily shrieval tasks, I can only marvel at the strength of character, duty and personality that is Her Majesty at the age of 90. Having already been to the Post Office, The Queen opened the Edwardian bandstand in Alexandra Gardens where I was presented. Her Majesty did a walkabout with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh through the streets of Windsor and, before her family birthday dinner, she lit a Beacon at the top of the Long Walk, the first of many across the country.



Top: Opening of Little Owl Pre-school, Reading, with the Mayor of Reading and Rob Wilson, MP for Reading East (Photography by Clare Beckett)



Above: With the Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, Admiral Sir James Perowne, KBE and the Chairman of the Submariners Association, Mr Jim McMaster unveiling a plaque to Lieutenant Commander Geoffrey Saxton White, Royal Navy, posthumously awarded the VC for his selfless actions while commanding HM Submarine E.14 in the Dardanelles on 21 January 1918

Curtseying to Her Majesty and seeing her wonderful smile as I was presented yet again, made me very proud to be The Queen's representative in matters relating to law and order in Berkshire.

♦ Victoria Fishburn

High Sheriff of Berkshire 2016-17



Above: With the Chief Fire Officer, Andy Fry, the Chairman of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Colin Dudley, and Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, James Puxley



The kora comes to Bristol

THE CITY of Bristol is one of the smallest of all our counties and is entirely urban. This makes it very different from large rural counties and garden parties are not so easy to organise! Bristol has its own special solution, a June summer concert. Previous concerts have been held in Bristol Cathedral but I decided to use St George's Bristol, a concert hall described as having one of the finest acoustics in Europe.

A joyful event was vital and I also wanted to reflect the diversity of our wonderful city. The centrepiece was commissioned by me and my husband; a concerto for kora (a 22-stringed West African harp) and orchestra. Jointly composed by William Goodchild, conductor of the Bristol Symphony Orchestra and Mamadou Cissokho, a seventh generation Senegalese master kora player from Bristol, it received an extended standing ovation from the rapturous audience. The finale was the energetic Serenade in D by Dame Ethel Smyth, a rarely heard but prolific British composer from the turn of the nineteenth century, highly thought of by Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Sir Thomas Beecham. She was also a prominent campaigner for women's rights.

Having lived in Bristol for 40 years I thought I knew it well but my privileged access as High Sheriff has given me a new



Above: Soloist Mamadou Cissokho receives applause from conductor William Goodchild and the Bristol Symphony Orchestra at the end of the High Sheriff's concert in June

understanding of my home city. There have been many high-profile events: the 500-year-old tradition of Rush Sunday at St Mary Redcliffe; the declaration of our second elected city mayor; and several royal visits. During a visit by HRH The Prince of Wales to the Prince's Trust, it was very inspiring to meet Major Tim Peake, our intrepid British astronaut. Smaller events have been particularly inspiring. So much is done by community groups and charities and it is hard to pick out notable examples but opening our local May Fair, opening two primary schools and hosting a lunch for local Home-Start charity volunteers were especially memorable.

More unusually I collaborated with Edward Bayntun-Coward, High Sheriff of Somerset, in the topping-out ceremony of the incredible new St Monica Trust retirement community in the refurbished chocolate factory in Keynsham near Bristol. The trust was started by the famous Bristol Wills family and now has five retirement communities in both Bristol and Somerset. Court dress and site safety clothing made an interesting sartorial combination!

Of course, links with the police and judiciary have been very important and I have had close relationships with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable. A visit to a Bristol initiative, the Lighthouse Project supporting victims and witnesses, was something I knew little about and found tremendously inspiring.

Finally, it has been a real education and pleasure to meet and host some of our visiting High Court Judges. I have learnt so much about the legal system and have seen it in action for myself. We have entertained judges at home with dinners prepared by Stephen Markwick, a celebrated recently retired Bristol chef.

I have always thought my home city was a special place but the role of High Sheriff has made me appreciate even more what it has to offer.

♦♦ **Helen Wilde**

High Sheriff of Bristol 2016-17



Above: Helen Wilde opened the Redland May Fair with Bristol's famous Ambling Band



Fun, fortitude and fortune

AS A retired Royal Air Force chaplain, I had assumed that I had encountered most of the challenging situations that came a clergyman's way. However, as I asked my interviewee if I could assist in any way – imagining they wanted me to arrange a service for the work of the High Sheriff – I was stunned to be asked if I would be prepared to be High Sheriff! Recovering somewhat, I imagined that I would find it impossible as a Church of England cleric to gain my Diocesan Bishop's approval.

I was mistaken; the regulations had recently been clarified and the Bishop was delighted to agree and so I find myself to be the High Sheriff of Cumbria and still the Rector of Egremont.

The fun arrived almost immediately. I was invited to the Roman Games on the Ewanrigg estate in Maryport. Rome had established a garrison in Maryport and a hard-pressed community centre used this to inspire their young people to produce cardboard chariots, armour, run gladiatorial races, create a triumphal arch and produce a mural. A tough estate, but

a dedicated team of pensioners wanted to enthuse their young families and had offered inspired leadership to produce a local festival. The theme of local inspiration and local leadership providing support and fun has been a feature of many events that I have attended.

The No Wood Low Wood rafting event revisited the use of cardboard in the improbable setting of Windermere. All the rafts sank but considerable charitable funds were raised. Many more events, filled with hours of energetic fundraising in response to recognised hardships, were determined to raise spirits and funds. Jigsaw, the children's section of our Carlisle hospice, generated funds in the grounds of Muncaster Castle and everyone disappeared in clouds of coloured cornflower.

Brownies, beavers, guides and scouts all greeted the joys of scouting and guiding with enthusiasm even in the downpours that Cumbria calls springtime. I met sea cadets climbing hills to light beacons, army cadets deploying on exercise and air cadets parading with panache; again, young people supported by inspired leaders making a difference.

Fortitude was a recurring feature on many visits in Cumbria. The flooding has subsided but in so many homes damage is not repaired and while many



Above: At Ewanrigg Roman day

people are still rebuilding their houses they cannot fully repair their fears of another such event. I was privileged and humbled to meet so many resolute flood victims and most supportive volunteer individuals and organisations.

I was also privileged to observe the professional fortitude of the judges and magistrates of my county, who face an ever-increasing workload of demanding legal work and yet respond with enthusiasm, integrity and wisdom. A necessarily brief visit to the courts left me with an abiding admiration for their professionalism. So also for the police and other blue light services that face duty and danger with fortitude.

Finally, to reflect on my own good fortune... When slipping on wet ground, wearing new court shoes hurrying to Carlisle Cathedral, I turned a complete somersault in full court dress. Fortunate, as no one observed my acrobatics and I did not fall on my sword! Napoleon indicated that he wanted lucky generals not clever ones.

May I wish my colleagues continued similar good fortune.

♦♦ **Richard Lee**
Cumbria 2016-17



Left: With Sergeant Emma Clark at the Air Training Corps stand at Grasmere Show
Below left: At a Cumbria County Council charity event in support of SSAFA
Below: At Bookwell School assembly





A revealing first six months



AS I approach the halfway mark of my shrieval year, I have been kindly invited to write a piece for *The High Sheriff*, describing my experiences so far.

I'm delighted to do so, but studying the schedule for the last six months, I do ask myself how on earth I can describe the role effectively, without hogging the majority of the magazine's pages to myself? It has been nothing short of a revelation and I hope that within the next few paragraphs, I am able to do my county justice.

My declaration was on 17 April within the stunning surroundings of Gloucester Cathedral. It was, still to my slight surprise, witnessed by approximately 900 people – family and friends were a given, but the wide range of the county's great and good was a terrifying prospect, along with a large smattering of casual bystanders coming along to see the show.

It happily proceeded smoothly and the baton of office of the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire was passed into my (slightly trembling) hands by Roger Head OBE, who fulfilled his year with such style and aplomb.

Above: Mr John Beard, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, and Mr Stewart Edgar, Chief Fire Officer, Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service with Countess Bathurst

Since then I have travelled the length and breadth of my county – there have been schools, youth venues, town visits and tours, mosques, wonderful shifts spent with the police across our boundaries, concerts given by young people with special needs, learning about the work of the fire service, and attending courts and judges of all levels, as well as several royal visits within Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire.

The highlights have been many – so many I cannot possibly include them all, but I will mention a few. I've had a pie named after me (it IS delicious); I've had a fire engine named after me, too (I love the thought of a fire engine dashing around Cirencester doing valiant things, with my name on it); I've spent hours with engaging and intelligent and dynamic school students; and I've opened some wonderful fetes and met some extraordinary people across the charity sector.

I'm incredibly proud that the book club I promised to start continues to

operate at HMP Eastwood Park for women, stretching the minds and horizons of the prisoners who join it. A new branch of the Women's Institute has opened in the same facility, giving prisoners a sense of belonging, and I hope, something they will be able to take with them into their lives once they rejoin society.

As I'm sure many High Sheriffs have experienced, the one question I am asked the most is: 'What does a High Sheriff DO?' There is no real answer. Each individual uses the year to place their own style on the time in office, but there is one underlying thread to which I suspect every High Sheriff would attest.

It is a revelation – the plethora of people one meets, the extraordinary things they do, the inspiration which may be drawn, and the realisation that, without a doubt, we would not exist as a society if it were not for the people who work so hard, give so much of their time, voluntarily, to better the lives of others – and it is those people for whom I have endless admiration and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have met them.

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



Above: Earl and Countess Bathurst after her Declaration Service at Gloucester Cathedral on 17 April



Sheriff defends against cyber-attacks...

AS WELL as being the High Sheriff of Hampshire, I am also chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation. This brings me into contact with many wonderful small charities but also a few harrowing stories about the consequences of cyber-attack. So with the help of others I sponsored a workshop held in November at St John's House in Winchester.

The event was a joint initiative with Action Hampshire, HIWCF, Hampshire Constabulary, Fixers, Southampton University and Vermont; it was designed to help smaller charities and voluntary organisations protect themselves against the threat of cyber-crime. Over 70 participants attended from organisations across Hampshire, and a closing speech was given by the Mayor of Winchester Cllr Jane Rutter.

In 2014, £1.2 billion of direct debit donations were made to charity nationally, providing a huge temptation to cyber-criminals perceiving charities to be an easy target. Some smaller voluntary organisations and community groups simply don't believe they have the financial or staff resources to protect themselves against attacks. They risk their customer database being held to ransom, their website forced offline or loss of access to emails or business-critical data. The impact of a cyber-attack can be

immense, involving loss of funds and valuable staff resources wasted in trying to resolve the situation, but worst of all potential donors may lose their trust in that organisation.

Figures from the Office of National Statistics indicate that fraud and computer misuse accounted for 5.8 million crimes during 2015, with another sharp increase for the first half of 2016. Detective Chief Superintendent Ben Snuggs is responsible for Cyber-Crime, Digital Investigation and Intelligence at Hampshire Constabulary and he gave an insight into the world of cyber-crime, explaining that in order to

defend your organisation, a company's philosophy is absolutely key. People must be willing and prepared to protect themselves through adequate training, strong passwords, updates to software and reporting of suspicious activities. Implementation of Cyber-Essentials, a scheme designed by the government, can help organisations to protect themselves against the most common types of cyber-attack for just a few hundred pounds.

Neil MacEwan of Southampton University presented a ransomware case involving a cyber-attack against event organisers Action Hampshire; access to their vital business data was only unlocked after a ransom of almost £500 had been paid.

My work with the Community Foundation was a massive trigger for the conference; the smaller charities we support can ill afford the total disruption that a cyber-attack generates. Our aim is to help these groups protect themselves. Ian Glover, President of Crest, advised that to gain Cyber Essentials certification, an organisation must complete a self-assessment questionnaire which is then verified by an independent certification body. The cost is approximately £300 but HIWCF are making grants of £200 available to Hampshire charities to help. Accreditation with Cyber-Essentials will not only enhance protection but enable organisations to demonstrate that they are taking cyber risks seriously.

♦ Tom Floyd DL

High Sheriff of Hampshire 2016-17



Above: The cyber-crime workshop was a brilliant sequel to the most wonderful Legal Service in Winchester Cathedral which was attended by three High Court Judges and six visiting High Sheriffs seen here with the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire and the preacher, the Bishop of Lynn



Old meets new

Right: The High Sheriff unveiling a memorial bench recognising the tremendous efforts, courage and fortitude of women during World War I, with Mrs Eileen Eastham BEM (Hon Secretary, Darwen Townswomen's Guild) and Cllr Brian Taylor, Mayor of Darwen

Below: Immediately after the service at Lancaster Priory (L-R): the Hon Mr Justice Norris (Vice Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster), the Hon Mr Justice Sweeney, the High Sheriff and Mrs Barnett, the Hon Mr Justice Peter Jackson, His Honour Judge Mark Brown (Hon Recorder of Preston and Resident Judge for Lancashire), His Honour Judge Sycamore (Honorary Recorder of Lancaster), His Honour Judge Stuart Baker (Circuit Judge) and Mr Timothy Duke, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms

IN LATE May, it was a case of old meets new at my official shield-hanging ceremony. Together with my wife Danielle, we introduced some additional elements into the day's proceedings to reflect the fact that I'm believed to be the first Jewish High Sheriff of Lancashire.

At the church service in Priory Church, Lancaster, immediately before the shield-hanging ceremony, two religions were intertwined and this was testament to the close working relationship between the High Sheriff's chaplain the Revd Christopher Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster, and Rabbi Ephraim Guttentag of St Anne's Hebrew Congregation who is Rabbi to the High Sheriff. The two religious leaders worked on the order of service together with Danielle, so that it was acceptable to both Jewish and Christian members of the congregation.

It was a huge honour to hang the family shield in such an historic setting as the Shire Hall, Lancaster Castle, and a day to remember and pass on to future generations.

And so my 12 months of service was well under way. I had anticipated many aspects of the role such as the time commitment, the travelling and making arrangements. What I had not envisaged was the impact it would have on me and Danielle seeing the great work that is undertaken in Lancashire and hearing the deeply personal stories.

One highlight for us, as founder and patron of Blackpool Carers Centre, was the news



that Children in Need planned to support the development of the new centre and they had enlisted the help of BBC Television's *DIY SOS* programme.

Over the summer months, presenter Nick Knowles and designer Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen engaged with builders, plumbers, plasterers, electricians, gardeners – you name it – and harnessed their energy into making a super place for young carers to get help and support with their issues.

The role of High Sheriff has also presented opportunities for me to learn more about the county where I have lived all my life.

I knew nothing about the women of Darwen until I was asked to unveil a new bench in their memory. The inscribed granite bench will always be a reminder of the Darwen Townswomen's Guild to honour the women of the area who supported soldiers during the Great War. Around 1,300 soldiers from Darwen died in the war but what is often forgotten is the vital role women played.

Meanwhile, at another event, Danielle and I were moved to hear the story of a young girl who has cancer. Having been invited to attend Cancer Research's Relay For Life event in the Lancashire countryside at Gisburn, we were surprised and delighted that the first part of the walk was led by cancer patients. To later hear a seven-year-old girl talk about her illness and show such bravery was extremely emotional for everyone.





News from and about members

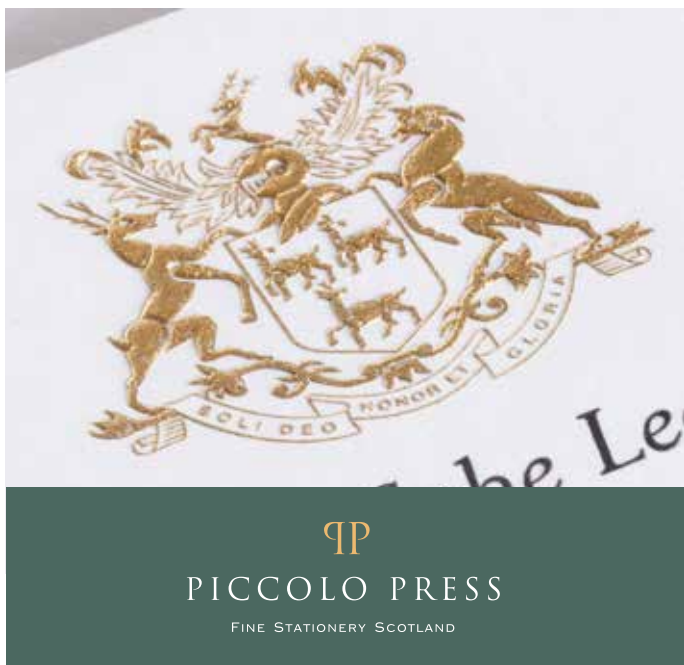


And, before you know it, I am halfway through my year in office. The sheer range of events we are invited to and hearing about the great work that people undertake in the local community is inspiring.

From supporting Blackpool Council in its bid for the Great Exhibition to giving a talk to children in a disadvantaged school, every day is a challenge I and my wife are relishing.

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


Above: The Barnett family (L-R): Joey, Ben, Sam, Serena, Danielle and John at County Hall Preston for the High Sheriff's Declaration on 8 April 2016




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Off and running in an unexpected direction



With my predecessor Dr Ahmed Mukhtar at my Declaration

'HIT THE ground running' High Sheriffs in nomination are advised frequently, but where to run and in what direction? Fortunately, previous High Sheriffs and the Under Sheriff are ready to give generous and helpful advice, so off you set on the great adventure of being High Sheriff, travelling through your own county meeting remarkable people and visiting places that you might otherwise never have the opportunity to see.

In July the Hon Mrs Justice Carr helped Northampton's judges celebrate 25 years since the opening of its Combined Court Centre in Lady's Lane where it moved from the Grade I Sessions House, a magnificent building where I held my Declaration but which is currently only used by the coroner. This year has regrettably seen the closure of two of the county's four Magistrates' Courts but despite this, the Justices of the Peace have been very welcoming in allowing me to sit in on cases as have judges and the coroner. This has been a huge privilege,

one that I have found fascinating, with cases varying from the gruesome and depressing to even unintentionally funny.

His Honour Judge Tim Smith made an award under the Criminal Law Act 1826 to a singularly brave individual and his young son who went to the aid of a shopkeeper who was being assaulted and racially abused. The father held down the assailant until the police arrived while others stood by videoing the event on their mobiles. It was a great pleasure to give the High Sheriff's Award to this man but, as a sad reflection of modern times, the recipient did not wish there to be any publicity for his own safety and that of his son.

I had grave doubts about visiting HMPs Onley and Rye Hill as I thought they would be gruelling experiences, particularly the latter which is exclusively for sex offenders, but I found the staff and the governors of both positive, full of initiatives and engaged with local companies for the benefit and training

of offenders. HMP Onley has one of the highest success rates of its prisoners not reoffending upon release, a result of the hard work and effort of all those involved. Northamptonshire's courts send many offenders to HMP Woodhill in Milton Keynes, so I shared a visit there with my counterpart in Buckinghamshire, Milly Soames. The governor Rob Davis gave up almost three hours of his precious time showing us around this Category B establishment, introducing prisoners and staff in a very secure but relaxed environment; there was even a wedding taking place in the chapel. The governors and staff at all three prisons are utterly professional, approachable and dedicated to their work in trying to turn around the lives of offenders, a great many of whom have backgrounds of drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues, poor education and dysfunctional home lives. These are all problems where I question whether prisons should be responsible for such treatment, or are the right places for this.

So which direction am I going in? My prison visits have been an unexpected epiphany and I would like to get involved in this field, starting with attendance at a lecture next month given by the Howard League to learn more. The Howard League for Penal Reform was named after John Howard, a pioneer prison reformer and High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1773.*

◆ Caroline Brocklehurst

High Sheriff of Northamptonshire 2016-17



Above: Judges celebrating 25 years of the Crown Court building



Caring for carers

MY YEAR started on the high note of 'United for Peace: Three counties united against extremism', the third interfaith service organised by The Oxford Foundation, founded by Imam Monawar Hussain. It took place at Eton's Dorney Lake and assembled Christians, Hindus, Humanists, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs from across the Thames Valley. Each contributed to the service, whether in prayer or in song, and we heard moving addresses from the brother of an aid worker killed by terrorists in Syria while working in a refugee camp and from a young survivor of the Peshawar Military Academy massacre. It was a truly uplifting experience.

My next experience was quite different. As part of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, the Oxford Preservation Trust invited both Town and Gown to visit the remarkable painted room in what was the 'Crown Tavern' in Cornmarket where the playwright used to stay with his friends the Davenants when he visited the city. The Lord Mayor of Oxford, county councillors, distinguished academics and I assembled in our finery in Oxford Town Hall before processing to Cornmarket and up the stairs to Betfred. Or at least, that is how it must have looked to the curious crowds outside! We actually climbed a further flight of stairs to the beautiful Elizabethan painted room where we were treated to mulled wine and cake, an entertaining performance of Ovid's *Pyramus and Thisbe* by Creation Theatre and a fascinating talk by Sir Jonathan Bate.

Royal visits have included one by HRH The Duke of Cambridge who came to Oxford to open two exceptional buildings, the Weston Library and the Blavatnik School of Government. He was happily reunited with his former Vice Chancellor, Louise Richardson, who has moved from St Andrews to Oxford University.

I have chosen carers as my cause for the year: that huge group of people of all ages who look after their partners, relatives or friends who are ill or

disabled. The effects of caring on their health, both mental and physical, are considerable and young carers also lag in educational and social attainment. During my year so far, I have hosted a number of groups of carers at Rycote, where I live, for tea and cake and a tour of the gardens and historic chapel. It is sobering that even such a small break from the daily routine has proved extremely popular. I have also hosted a fundraising concert and dinner, enlisting the help of Sholto Kynoch and young singers from the Oxford Lieder Festival. People were incredibly generous and as a result some significant donations will be made to a number of groups involved with carers within the county. I spoke at the Big Event during Carers' Week and met many organisations dedicated to making carers' lives easier. I am also encouraging 'networking' among such groups, in the hope that cross-fertilisation

Below: Greeting HRH The Duke of Cambridge outside the Blavatnik School of Government



At Carers' Week Big Event

of ideas will result. I have found that the convening power of the title of High Sheriff is considerable in persuading people from all walks of life to talk to each other. This is a huge responsibility but it is also a humbling honour.

♦♦ Sarah Taylor
High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2016-17



Running in Rutland

'HIT THE ground running' is the advice before becoming a High Sheriff. No one told me that I would not stop! Between September and December is supposed to be even busier... I have yet to see!

Recognition of the role of High Sheriff beyond my own age group and friends is important. There is a misleading stereotype of the High Sheriff as a posh person giving a garden party for civic dignitaries and posh people, and turning up condescendingly to view a few 'good works'. This must be avoided. Advice from our Chief Constable, Simon Cole, suggested using Twitter and Facebook to reach a wider audience which I am doing. I decided that instead of having one grand and expensive reception I would have a number of accessible events which entertained people from a cross section of society.

Oakham Castle was the stunning setting for my Declaration – I entertained 110 friends, family and dignitaries at a buffet lunch in the castle afterwards and a week later I held a Community Service in our village church for 300 (it is big!). I invited as many representatives of charities and public bodies as I could.

By far my biggest (3,000 people attended) and most novel event, and the toughest to organise, was my 'Hue and Cry'. Races chasing 'criminals' for charity gained public recognition for the Sheriff, raised money, reached a wide demographic and provided family fun. We closed Oakham High Street, there was a carnival atmosphere and the races are now planned as an annual event. Two days later I held a commemoration for the Battle of Jutland at the nearest Rutland has to the sea, Rutland Water. Two sponsored charity walks across the Leicestershire-Rutland borders with the High Sheriff of Leicestershire have symbolised co-operation between the two counties and raised a good amount.

Before I go from 'cocked hat to feather duster' next April I have planned another four events. I am glad these were prepared in advance because there is so much else to do. No amount of planning prepares for how your view of society changes when making the visits that form a High Sheriff's life. The media bombard us with bad news. Our High Sheriffs' brief is to represent Her Majesty in supporting law and order. I expected to be made more aware of the ills of society but not to be inspired by the amount of good.

I now know how hard the army is working in 40 different countries, preventing threats to the UK by providing advice, understanding cultures and working alongside governments. I have seen members of the police, ambulance and fire services working together to embed themselves in a community – helping turn that community away from using 80 per cent of resources while comprising only one per cent of the

Above left: Casting red roses into Rutland Water commemorating Battle of Jutland
Above: Rutland apprehended villain at the Hue and Cry
Below: Rutland Morris Men at the Hue and Cry





News from and about members

“I have seen members of the police, ambulance and fire services working together to embed themselves in a community

area for which the services were responsible – great stuff Braunstone Blues!* Ninety-seven per cent of trial cases start in the Magistrates’ Court. Magistrates are highly trained, experienced volunteers.

Big charities make the news but there are many small local ones relying on voluntary activity, quietly transforming lives with little media coverage. Examples abound from a cancer research charity, Hope Against Cancer, which has helped turn the Leicester University Hospitals into a centre of excellence, to hospices and advice providers. For me a particularly striking example of transforming lives has been the Sustainable Land Trust. It takes secondary school boys facing expulsion and weans them off their computers by getting them working outside on the land. They arrive barely speaking to anyone and leave looking others in the eye, often with a career outside in mind.

A troubling issue that has arisen repeatedly in meetings with school heads, the police, the coroner, magistrates, prison governors and charities is the way childhood has changed because of the internet. The mental pressure from constant communication cannot be underestimated. A child can be cyber bullied 24/7. Research and mental resilience training is being pioneered in Rutland through Health Watch Rutland, staffed by volunteers. Warning Zone, a charity also largely staffed by volunteers, serves both Leicestershire and Rutland. It includes all 10-year-olds and warns them about the dangers of modern life including the internet.

The work of the public sector and the altruism of the voluntary sector underpin the stable society in which we live. The High Sheriff’s role can bring recognition and celebrate the ‘glue’ which provides our society’s stability, allowing it to meet human needs and rights. It is such an honour to hold the role – the best way to hit 60!

♦♦ **Dr Sarah Furness**
High Sheriff of Rutland 2016-17



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Still time to complete the puzzle

I ENTERED the Legal Service at Wells Cathedral on 13 March with a fairly good idea of what the High Sheriff stood for – I was following in my father's footsteps, as he had been High Sheriff of Avon in 1993. I was less sure of exactly where to stand, and over the last six months I have found myself at the front and back, left, right and centre and at the top of a very tall building for a topping-out ceremony. On leaving the Cathedral I was confronted by a large number of tourists, one of whom was heard to say: 'Oh look, they must be filming the next episode of *Wolf Hall*.' I have been able to walk through Bath in full velvets without a comment or glance. Every day is a Jane Austen re-enactment, and I am just another aspiring Darcy. My appearance in other parts of the county has been met with some bemusement and amusement. Somerset is a very large county made up of seven districts, each with its own chair, to complement the multitude of mayors. The weight of the chains is quite staggering, and the official cars outshine my old Volvo.

I have tried to regard the county as a whole and my first half has been spent identifying the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle

in preparation for forming a fuller picture. Somerset is blessed with many impressive and inspiring institutions, organisations and individuals, from the World Heritage City of Bath, to small charities (making big differences), to one-woman bands. I sense that they do not all know or identify with each other, and I have taken upon myself the role of matchmaker. In the year of Brexit I am encouraging partnerships, at least on a local level. Perhaps twinning should be taking place closer to home.

I held my garden party at the American Museum at Claverton – I am not giving up on international relationships! It was an ideal occasion to make introductions, and I also used the opportunity to present awards to seven super PCSOs who do so much for their local communities. The emergency services are often too modest, or busy, to blow their own trumpets, but we were able to celebrate 100 years of women in policing in Somerset. Recruitment of women officers is now at 50 per cent, three of the four Assistant Chief Constables are female, and male High Sheriffs are currently in a minority in the West Country (and I am blessed to have Annie Maw as Lord-Lieutenant).

On occasions I have possibly not performed with the competence, or confidence, of my forbears. I discovered vertigo halfway up the old Cadbury Building in Keynsham, while being filmed by the local television company. I was startled to find a mouse ascending my tights in a parish church. A bishop had to reposition me in a procession (with the wise words 'The first shall be last, and the last shall be first'). And in an effort to stay within the speed limits I have not always been the first to arrive. But it has all been such fun and I have six months to redeem myself and complete the puzzle.

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

Below: The High Sheriff with Prince Michael Mekonnen, the grandson of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, on the Prince's visit to Bath in May 2016. This marked the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Emperor in the city which gave his family refuge after they had been made homeless by the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1936

Bottom: The High Sheriff with the Chief Constable's PA wearing a 100-year-old policewoman's uniform to mark the centenary of the introduction of females into Somerset Constabulary



Above: Presentation of the High Sheriff's Awards to seven police officers and police community support officers at the American Museum in Britain



Photo credit Guy Joynton





SOUTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members

Enjoy the experience!

I KNOW that it has been said many times before, but I really cannot believe that I am halfway through my term of office. The first six months were a whirl – partly of mine own making, but I was determined to accept every invitation that I could during my year because I was unlikely ever to be in this position again. Consequently, to date, I have attended over 120 events ranging from a royal visit to serving breakfast at a homeless project.

One of the more unusual events was a ceremony to mark the repatriation of some Maori bones. Like many museums, Sheffield Museum holds a number of human bones that were collected by nineteenth-century travellers. Among these was a skull identified as belonging to a person of Maori origin. After much research, representatives of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa agreed to come and collect the skull and return it to New Zealand. These representatives – Te Herekikie Herewini, Repatriation Manager at Te Papa, and Ms Hema Temara, Te Papa's Maori Cultural Practice Adviser – conducted a most moving religious ceremony which included the playing of a putatara or conch trumpet, chants, greetings and songs including the Waiata Tangi, a traditional lament which acknowledges the passing of a Maori ancestor. The skull was then reverentially placed in a box for the journey home to New Zealand.

I have also enjoyed officiating at citizenship ceremonies which are held in Sheffield Town Hall every week. If any High Sheriffs in nomination know that they will be asked to participate in one of these ceremonies, I would strongly recommend that they attempt a 'Life in the UK' practice paper (<http://www.theuktest.com/life-in-the-uk-test/6>) – they are not easy!

Undoubtedly the most memorable event that I have attended (so far) has been a trip to the Somme battlefields. Over 80 people from South Yorkshire were on the trip including the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, the Mayors of



(photo courtesy of Seaman Photographers)



(photo courtesy of Seaman Photographers)

Top: Declaration Day with Mr Justice Males and my chaplain, Father John Cooke

Above: The High Sheriff with the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and a family of new British citizens

Left: The High Sheriff with Ms Hema Temara

Barnsley and Rotherham, and the Bishop of Sheffield. For five days, we toured the battlefields and cemeteries (including the cemetery where my great-grandfather was buried) and on 1 July we attended a special and very moving ceremony in Sheffield Memorial Park, which is located where men from the Sheffield Pals and the Barnsley Pals fought on 1 July 1916. Afterwards, we were invited to a civic reception which was hosted by the Mayor and townspeople of Bapaume.

Being High Sheriff of your county is a huge honour and privilege. It is, at times, hard work, but the opportunity to meet people and to visit places in your county

you might not have heard of, make it all worthwhile. Perhaps the biggest surprise has been that people really appreciate the fact that someone 'important' (and they are not always sure who that someone is!) is visiting or talking to them – especially if you are in court dress. The best piece of advice that I was given, and one that I would pass on to any High Sheriff in nomination, is 'be prepared, be organised and hit the ground running' – and ENJOY the experience.

♦♦ **Dr Julie MacDonald DL**
High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2016-17



Back to basics

MICHAEL ROSEN wrote a wonderful children's book called *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and as the family search for the bear, they go through all obstacles with the lovely words, 'We can't go over it, we can't go under it, Oh no, we've got to go through it!' My two-year-old grandson, Harry, loves the book. I sometimes feel that as High Sheriff, we can go through it and that's my inspiration for my theme for the year, literacy. In our region, there is clear evidence that disadvantaged children fall behind their classmates in reading and writing. If they arrive at primary school behind others in these skills, they often don't catch up all the way through school. They are inhibited when it comes to further and higher education for the simple reason that they haven't got basic skills to read and fill in forms. At the other end of the scale, some businesses often ignore

this lack of basic skill as they don't need it or they want to avoid embarrassing their employee. It means, however, that the parents don't have the skills themselves to take back to their children.

One of my strengths in business was connectivity and the ability to connect partners in all places and at all levels. Being High Sheriff is an ideal opportunity to do just that. I've spent the first few months just talking to a range of amazing people and organisations which do some fabulous work around literacy. I've been exploring the idea of bringing everyone together to find better solutions in partnership rather than individually. Schools North East was my first call representing schools across the region, but then came Live Theatre, Seven Stories (the National Centre for Children's Books), New Writing North, University of Sunderland, North East Chamber

"I've been exploring the idea of bringing everyone together to find better solutions in partnership rather than individually"



of Commerce and others. Finally, I contacted the Education Endowment Foundation, which is leading and funding a five-year £10 million North East Primary Literacy Campaign!

So what is the plan? Everyone says the idea is right and before I finish my year I plan to bring those organisations working in this area together alongside schools, colleges and businesses for one day to see if there are innovative ways of working that can change lives and help young people reach their potential. March 2017 also sees World Book Day and this should fit perfectly! It's a huge privilege to be the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear for 2016-17 and if I can use the position to make just a small dent in this issue or change one life, the year will be special.

That's my theme, but beyond that everything – from making my Declaration at St Peter's Church (birthplace of the Venerable Bede) and reception in the National Glass Centre, both in Sunderland, to visits to Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire Service, Sea Cadets, community groups and many more – has been inspirational. So much so that in October I will walk 20 miles around the districts of Tyne and Wear to raise funds for the High Sheriff's Fund.

♦ John Mowbray OBE
High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2016-17



Photo by James Tolley

Top: Showing support for Sunderland as UK City of Culture 2021

Left: High Sheriff's Declaration at St Peter's Church, Sunderland – Harry thinks the cocked hat will help the bear hunt

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A glass-half-full man

ONE OF the most enjoyable aspects of my role is the interaction with colleagues in surrounding bailiwicks. We have combined together to support various initiatives where there is a cross-border interest, and have spent a number of very pleasant evenings together.

I felt very much the new kid on the block, being merely the 43rd High Sheriff of the West Midlands – many of my colleagues in the likes of Worcestershire, Shropshire and Warwickshire have predecessors going back over 1,000 years. This year is particularly special for Pam and me, not only for having the privilege to represent this region in which I have lived all my life, except for a few years in West Africa, but also because we are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary.

I spoke to as many predecessors as possible in preparation for my year of office, and they all emphasised the importance of supporting the judiciary, some lamenting the fact that this role was to some extent taking a back seat. They stressed their admiration for the judiciary, and I have to say that my experiences so far have supported that view.

Contrary to popular misconception, all the judges I have met are doing an incredibly challenging and demanding job, have been dedicated, hard-working, very much aware of the considerable powers

placed in their hands, and also excellent dining companions. So much so that some, if they were to leave the judiciary, could contemplate a career as stand-up comedian.

I have had the privilege of meeting and supporting two Lord Mayors and five Mayors and their consorts within the region. They come from all political backgrounds, and to a man and a woman I have found them to be hard-working and dedicated to serving their communities, having done so over a long period of time.

I am equally cognisant of the responsibility to promote the role of the High Sheriff and its relevance today. I cannot be sure how impressed people are with me or the role itself, but I have certainly been impressed by the many wonderful and generous people whom I would never have had the opportunity to meet – they really are the glue that holds so many of our communities together.

Community cohesion is important to me, having grown up in a district that became one of the most culturally varied in Birmingham, especially at a time when there is a great deal of uncertainty and tension both nationally and internationally. The West Midlands is home to a rich diversity of cultures. Diversity enriches our lives for the better, but at times it can bring problems and it is important that we redouble our efforts to promote



Above: A fitting tribute to the Black Patch gypsy community, finally commemorated more than 100 years on

mutual understanding. To this end, I am working with the Heart of England Community Foundation, The Feast and Birmingham Churches Together, to encourage community groups to begin a dialogue that will lead to mutual respect and understanding, and ultimately reduce tension. It will be a long journey. However, I am a glass-half-full man and my optimism is reinforced by the knowledge that most people, regardless of their faith or upbringing, are fundamentally good.

So far this year I have attended numerous diverse events and one in particular I would like to share. This was a commemoration at Handsworth's historic church, dedicated to the gypsies of the 'Black Patch' who were buried in unmarked graves, many of them very young children. The Bishop of Aston who presided over the service put me on the spot in her sermon. Apparently one of my predecessors at the turn of the last century was responsible for driving the gypsies off the Black Patch – a space where Matthew Boulton dumped his foundry waste, and interestingly, the birthplace of Charlie Chaplin – in order to create a public park. I was privileged to lay a wreath at the commemorative stone in the churchyard and I am pleased to say I got away unscathed.



Above: The High Sheriff's garden party on the hallowed turf of Edgbaston Stadium presented a rare opportunity for all of the region's Lord Mayors and Mayors to get together

◆ **Keith Bradshaw DL**
High Sheriff of West Midlands 2016-17



A happy chain of events

'I WRITE to thank you for the wonderful day I had this week fly fishing. I had never fished before and it was an education for me which I thoroughly enjoyed. The fly fishing itself was a more than pleasurable experience, but the food and hospitality you brought to the river bank reminded me of the better times I have had in the army. Please also pass on my thanks to your daughter Rowena for her hard work and for the generous quantity of delicious Bakewell tarts. Once again, please accept my huge thanks for a day that reminded me of the better things in life and took me away from my problems.'

This is an extract from a charming and moving letter of thanks I received after providing a picnic for a couple of veterans who were receiving treatment for PTSD at the Recovery Centre (H4H) at Tedworth House. I would like to share with you the background to this happy day on the River Nadder.

Last summer I was invited to attend the unveiling at Highworth near Swindon of a memorial to Rex Warneford VC*, the first man to destroy a Zeppelin; an amazing feat of aviation, as Rex, with no crew, had to get above the Zeppelin and drop a bomb from his biplane on to the target below. Sadly, this brave young man was killed some weeks later, but his courage and flying skills have been an inspiration to generations of young people from his home town ever since.

At the ceremony I met and spoke to many local residents, one of whom contacted me a few weeks later and offered to give a talk at any fundraising event which I might be planning. I had already had a busy schedule organised for the months ahead, but decided to accept this generous offer. The main focus of my year was young people, helping and encouraging them to achieve their potential, but as my husband had been in the army and I had followed the drum for many years, it seemed appropriate to seize this opportunity to do something for injured soldiers.



After a peaceful day by the river

“The main focus of my year was young people, helping and encouraging them to achieve their potential, but as my husband had been in the army and I had followed the drum for many years, it seemed appropriate to seize this opportunity to do something for injured soldiers”

We invited 90 people for a tour of the amazing facilities at Tedworth House. This was followed by supper and a very interesting and amusing talk entitled the 'Life and Times of Rudolph Hess'. We had two good raffle prizes, so there was a small element of fundraising involved for the Recovery Centre. One of these prizes was day's fishing for two rods on the River Nadder. The recipient generously donated the prize back to H4H so that a couple of veterans could benefit from a day on this lovely stretch of water.

This took a little time to set up, so my shrieval year had ended before we gathered on the river bank last June. The two veterans were accompanied by two

ex-servicemen who work at Tedworth House, both of whom are fishermen and provided rods and fishing flies as well as expert instruction.

The weather was kind, not too bright nor too windy. The water was perfect, clear and limpid, and there were fish to be caught. It was a perfect English summer day which we all enjoyed in equal measure. The peace of the river has a magic of its own and we all fell under its spell that day. I think Rex Warneford VC would have thoroughly approved – this was, after all, the England he had been fighting for.

♦♦ Sarah Gooch
High Sheriff of Wiltshire 2015-16

*Flight-Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Warneford, RNAS (1891-1915), whose VC is displayed at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovil, Somerset. Ed.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE	The Rt Hon the Countess Bathurst
GREATER LONDON	Sir Nigel Knowles
GREATER MANCHESTER	The Lady Smith of Leigh DL
HAMPSHIRE	T H Floyd Esq DL
HEREFORDSHIRE	W J Jackson Esq
HERTFORDSHIRE	S H Stefanou Esq OBE DL
ISLE OF WIGHT	R V Courage Esq MBE
KENT	Mrs K F Smallwood
LANCASHIRE	J M Barnett Esq MBE DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	Professor S Sharma
LINCOLNSHIRE	Mrs J G A Hughes DL
MERSEYSIDE	J C M Davies Esq OBE DL
NORFOLK	Major General Sir William Cubitt KCVO CBE
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	Mrs C C Brocklehurst
NORTHUMBERLAND	W Browne-Swinburne Esq
NORTH YORKSHIRE	J W Furness Esq
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Mrs J L Naake
OXFORDSHIRE	Mrs S J Taylor
RUTLAND	Dr S H Furness
SHROPSHIRE	Mrs C M Holmes JP
SOMERSET	E W G Bayntun-Coward Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Dr J MacDonald
STAFFORDSHIRE	Colonel D L Leigh TD DL
SUFFOLK	W B Kendall Esq DL
SURREY	R Whittington Esq
TYNE AND WEAR	J D Mowbray Esq OBE
WARWICKSHIRE	R M D Samuda Esq
WEST MIDLANDS	Dr K G Bradshaw DL
WEST SUSSEX	D M Spofforth Esq OBE
WEST YORKSHIRE	C J Brown Esq
WILTSHIRE	D K Hempleman-Adams Esq LVO OBE
WORCESTERSHIRE	Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt

Wales

CLWYD	J P O'Toole Esq DL
DYFED	Professor M Hughes DL
GWENT	A J Clay Esq
GWYNEDD	Dr P G Harlech Jones
MID GLAMORGAN	G J George Esq
POWYS	Mrs A Tudor JP
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Professor J D Williams OBE
WEST GLAMORGAN	Professor D M Mead OBE

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

NEW MEMBERS

The Association welcomes the following as new members

Name	County	Year of Office
Mrs S J Ashton	Kent	2018
D A S Burn Esq	Somerset	2018
P M Callaghan Esq	Tyne and Wear	2018
Dr S M Cronin	Durham	2018
Professor R S Farwell CBE DL	Buckinghamshire	2018
W J Furber Esq	Greater London	2017
P B Kara Esq	Buckinghamshire	2017
C T Loughran Esq	West Midlands	2018
M S Mitchell Esq DL	Cheshire	2019
D L Peate Esq JP	Powys	2019
Mrs A J Redmond MBE	Cheshire	2018
J H Wall Esq	Mid Glamorgan	2018

DEATHS

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

S D Arbuthnott Esq JP DL

Date of death: 24/06/2016
Age: 74
County: Herefordshire
Year of office: 2011

M V T Hill Esq

Date of death: 26/09/2016
Age: 58
County: Leicestershire
Under Sheriff since 2013

J A Boddy Esq DL

Date of death: 16/03/2016
Age: 76
County: South Yorkshire
Year of office: 1989

P M Luttmann-Johnson Esq TD

Date of death: 01/10/2016
Age: 96
County: West Sussex
Year of office: 1978

J G P Crowden Esq CVO JP

Date of death: 24/09/2016
Age: 88
County: Cambs/Isle of Ely
Year of office: 1970

J D Nicholas Esq

Date of death: 18/07/2016
Age: 65
County: Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Year of office: 2004

Lt Col C H Elston TD DL

Date of death: 01/09/2016
Age: 99
County: Merseyside
Year of office: 1984

K H Sach Esq JP

Date of death: 30/07/2016
Age: 68
County: Warwickshire
Year of office: 2013

B N Gibbs Esq DL

Date of death: 24/05/2016
Age: 91
County: Wiltshire
Year of office: 1989



THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
BEDFORDSHIRE	V B Tailor Esq DL	A J G Polhill Esq	Mrs C M Dolling
BERKSHIRE	Mrs S P Scrope DL	G E Barker Esq	Mrs L V Zeal
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	P B Kara Esq	Professor R S Farwell CBE DL	Mrs J A Upton MBE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	R F A Pemberton Esq	Dr A C Harter	The Hon N A McKittrick
CHESHIRE	Mrs S A M Callander Beckett	Mrs A J Redmond MBE	M S Mitchell Esq DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	A R E Brown Esq	R G Opie Esq DL	C J C Wyld Esq
CUMBRIA	A G M Wannop Esq	S F M Berry Esq	Ms M E Reid Fotheringham JP
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs A H Hall	Mrs L B Palmer	The Earl of Burlington
DEVON	Mrs H Lindsay-Fynn	Mrs G T Phillips	Captain S C Martin RN
DORSET	S J Young Esq MC JP DL	Mrs J A Swift DL	P H Warr Esq
DURHAM	Mrs C P Peacock	Dr S M Cronin	P H Candler Esq
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	Mrs G E Drewry	Mrs D J Rosenberg	M C S Hall Esq
EAST SUSSEX	Mrs M J Chowen	Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL	Mrs V L Hancock
ESSEX	S A D Hall Esq MBE	B R H Burrough Esq	Dr F J A Bettley
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Lt Colonel A J Tabor JP	C Martell Esq	R C G Berkeley Esq
GREATER LONDON	W J Furber Esq	C A E Spicer Esq	I Wahhab Esq
HAMPSHIRE	The Hon Mrs M R Montagu-Scott	M E Thistlethwayte Esq	Mrs C S Le May
HEREFORDSHIRE	The Revd the Lady Lisvane	T N Hone Esq DL	J F S Hervey-Bathurst Esq CBE DL
HERTFORDSHIRE	W A Hobhouse Esq	Mrs S R Harvey	Mrs S M Beazley
ISLE OF WIGHT	B M A S Rouse Esq	Dr N J England DL	G P Underwood Esq
KENT	G E Jessel Esq DL	Mrs S J Ashton	P J Barrett Esq
LEICESTERSHIRE	T P Maxted Esq	Mrs D Thompson	T R Hercok Esq
LINCOLNSHIRE	A S Clark Esq DL	I H Walter Esq	R W Day Esq
NORFOLK	A J S Bagge Esq	C J Watt Esq	Lady Agnew
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	R Fordham Esq	J S Watson Esq	N A N S Robertson Esq
NORTHUMBERLAND	J R Dickinson Esq	M W Orde Esq	The Lady Joicey
NORTH YORKSHIRE	S M Wrightson Esq	C J C Legard Esq	Mrs L L Fenwick
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Colonel David R Sneath TD DL	N R B Ebbs Esq	The Hon J J Teare
OXFORDSHIRE	Miss J E Cranston	R Venables Esq	Lady Jay of Ewelme CBE
RUTLAND	C L Mitchell Esq	Mrs M S Jarron	Mrs M A Miles
SHROPSHIRE	C E Lillis Esq	R M Swire Esq DL	J J Dixey Esq
SOMERSET	R S Hickmet Esq	D A S Burn Esq	J A N Halliday Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	D Grey Esq MBE	S Ingram Esq	B R Eldred Esq
STAFFORDSHIRE	H D S Scott-Moncrieff Esq DL	Mrs P J Gee DL	A E Brough Esq
SUFFOLK	G T C Probert Esq	G M W Vestey Esq	R T Eminson Esq
SURREY	R S Napier Esq CBE	N J S Wood-Dow Esq DL	W J Glover Esq
TYNE AND WEAR	Lt General R V Brims CB CBE DSO DL	P M Callaghan Esq	Mrs C L Moran OBE
WARWICKSHIRE	M E T Davies Esq	Mrs C A I Sawdon	S J V Miesegaes Esq
WEST MIDLANDS	Dr J L Hudson OBE DL	C T Loughran Esq	M Kuo Esq
WEST SUSSEX	The Lady Emma Barnard	Mrs C S Nicholls DL	Mrs D Irwin-Clark
WEST YORKSHIRE	Dr T G Bramall CBE	C R Jackson Esq MBE DL	P D Lawrence Esq
WILTSHIRE	The Lady Marland	Mrs N Alberry DL	D B Scott Esq
WORCESTERSHIRE	S A Betts Esq	C B L L Roberts Esq	E W P Holloway Esq

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

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

COUNTY	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
CLWYD	Mrs C H G Howard	Lady Hanmer	Mrs S L Catherall
DYFED	Mrs S C Balsom	S M Davies Esq	Mrs A H J Lewis
GWENT	J K L Thomas Esq JP	Mrs S E L Linnard	Mrs C E Clancy
GWYNEDD	Professor S Hope OBE	Mrs K K G Ellis	Mrs S M Jones
MID GLAMORGAN	D J Davies Esq JP	J H Wall Esq	Colonel W C J Donnelly CBE TD
POWYS	Mrs S E Thompson	D R Price Esq	D L Peate Esq JP
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	G C Lloyd Esq	B C Lakin Esq	Dr I M Graham
WEST GLAMORGAN	Mrs R L Fleet JP	H M Gilbert Esq	Ms S R Goldstone

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



Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

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



Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

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



Enamel and gilt cufflinks

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



Ladies Pure Silk Scarf

Navy blue, maroon or green. 14oz dye printed – pure silk twill with multiple copies of the Association's badge overprinted in gold. Size 140cm x 30cm (56" x 11 3/4") **£20.00**



The Lady High Sheriff's Badge

£185.00
45mm x 74mm



High Sheriff's Car Pennant

Complete with mast **£45.00**



High Sheriff's March

A CD of the March (playing time approximately 8 1/2 minutes) **£7.00**

PUBLICATIONS



A Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

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

Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

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

£2.00



Back issues of the Association magazine *The High Sheriff*

£2.00



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

£1.00



Notes on the Office of High Sheriff

(per pack of 50 folded cards)

£7.50

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS

HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD CERTIFICATE

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

The certificate can be provided in two different styles:

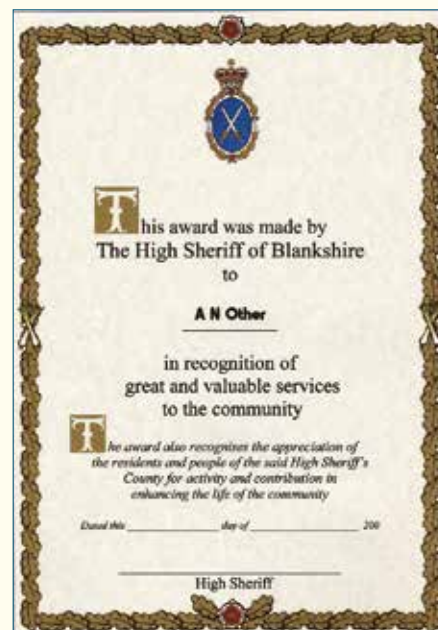
STYLE 1 comes with the name of your county already printed on it and blanks in

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

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

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

Style 1: £4.00, Style 2: £5.00



CROWN COURT AWARD CERTIFICATE

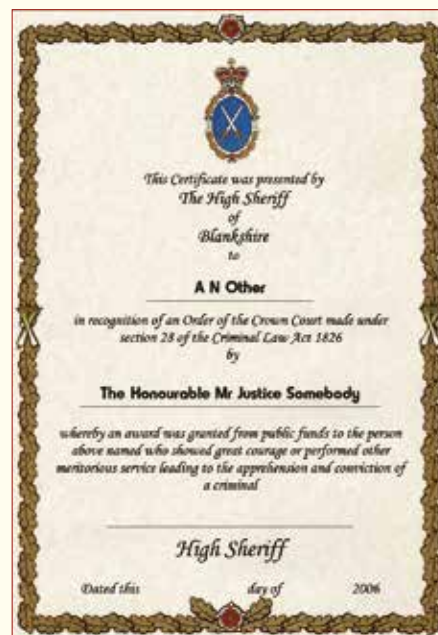
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

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

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

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

Style 1: £4.00, Style 2: £5.00



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

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

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

Questions and Answers

Q Can a High Sheriff present a foreign order, decoration or medal to a British citizen if invited to do so?

A *Such honours and awards can be presented only by an appropriate diplomat accredited to the Court of St James's or by an Honorary Consul, or in some cases by a foreign national who holds the same decoration. High Sheriffs can be present at such an investiture if invited and indeed officiate at a reception to recognise the recipient.*

Q Can High Sheriffs invite politicians to functions during a pre-election period?

A *Given the sensitivity of the non-political nature of a High Sheriff's appointment, where politicians have ceased to be Members of Parliament or of the Welsh Assembly after an election has been called but before re-election, they do not qualify for official invitations. The same applies to local government candidates. High Sheriffs are advised not to invite candidates in a personal capacity even if they are close family.*

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 2017**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 21 April 2017**

Items for inclusion should be sent to:

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

To advertise in *The High Sheriff*
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