



## Berkshire 2013-14

I am writing this having just completed my year as High Sheriff. I had been told that my year would go swiftly and it would be an exhilarating experience and this, indeed, has been the case. As I reported in the last issue, I had two themes for my year: improving mental health and learning disabilities awareness for JPs and also raising awareness of the UK services that the British Red Cross provides. I am now pleased to report that both appear to have been successful. The JP training I piloted within Berkshire has now gone forward to be part of a new national programme and our UK Red Cross services are now developing well. These include the Home from Hospital service where Red Cross volunteers undertake to take elderly frail people home, and settle them there, from Accident and Emergency Departments, thus preventing unnecessary admissions.

As with other High Sheriffs I have sat with Judges in the Crown, Family and Coroners' Courts and learnt much. Without exception, the Judges have been most approachable and generous with their time. I visited Broadmoor



Presenting the awards at the Thames Valley Police Shrievalty Award Ceremony with the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire (Sir Stuart Hampson) and the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire (Professor Graham Upton).

Hospital and was impressed with the level of care given to the very seriously mentally ill patients and I have visited charities providing varied and immense service to local communities.

On a lighter note I very much enjoyed

the Berkshire Mock Trials Competition where 800 school children took over five courts within Reading Crown Court. These children were aged between 12 and 14 and competed using a criminal case (receiving stolen goods) and acting as defence, prosecutors,



The High Sheriff visiting Royal County of Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and being fitted with breathing apparatus.



# News from and about Members

witnesses, magistrates and defendants. The enthusiasm and noise was infectious. I was very proud to be Patron of this competition.

My year has also had its fair share of royal visits. Aside from the Royal State visit I mentioned in my previous report I also attended Her Majesty The Queen at the unveiling of a stained glass window at Windsor Guildhall. HRH The Duke of Kent visited a disability

sports organisation in Maidenhead and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester visited Launchpad (Reading Homelessness Project). HRH The Duchess of Cornwall also went to a primary school in Slough as part of a 'growing your own food' project.

Throughout my year I have received marvellous help and support from many people, but I should like to express my particular thanks to my husband Clive.

We have both had an unforgettable year. □

***Professor Suzanna Rose JP DL***  
*High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire 2013-14*