

# DORSET

*News from and about members*



## Privilege and pleasure

**A**S I write, my shrieval year is coming to its conclusion, and so this provides a welcome opportunity to reflect on a very busy and rewarding time as High Sheriff.

The early months were full of many varied events from royal visits to Civic Days, accompanied by detailed insights into the work of voluntary groups and initiatives within Dorset, often unheralded but so effective. The ability to glean such insights is undoubtedly a key part of the privilege and pleasure of being High Sheriff, a role I believe is very valuable in supporting, and ultimately sustaining, the infrastructure and traditions of county life. The long, hot summer provided a delightful context for shrieval duties in Dorset, with momentum gathering through the autumn towards Christmas.

While I cannot highlight all the many events attended, some bear extra emphasis.

The High Sheriff has a clear focus to support strong values in our society as represented by the judiciary, emergency services, voluntary organisations and civic responsibility. It was particularly inspiring, therefore, to be able to



Photo: The Stour and Avon Magazine



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attend the Dorset Police Annual Awards Ceremony, where I presented the Teenage Award to the Sir John Colfox Anti-bullying Ambassadors. An effective anti-bullying policy is realised through the work of the students, which is truly impactful, involving presentations to school leadership teams and sharing new ideas on how to reduce bullying. They were thrilled to be recognised for their work.

The legal service was held in the county town of Dorchester, at the historic St Peter's Church. It was a very special moment and the parish could not have been more welcoming. I am grateful to the judiciary for their support, and for the opportunity to attend court during the year. The proud and fascinating history of Dorset was similarly reflected in such events as the annual dinner of the Society

**Above:** The High Sheriff and Councillor Robin Cook, Chairman of East Dorset District Council, at the Commonwealth Flag Ceremony

**Left:** Launch of the Crimestoppers rural crime campaign in conjunction with Dorset Police with representatives of Crimestoppers, Dorset Police and other agencies.

**Right:** The High Sheriff presenting the Teenage Award to the Sir John Colfox Anti-bullying Ambassadors



of Dorset Men, and Civic Days which illuminated county life, whether in an urban or rural setting. The theme that consistently shone through was the dedication and enthusiasm of all those engaging so actively in the local life of the community.

Christmas carol services provided many opportunities to reflect on the meaning of the season while listening to the most moving music. As the New Year was ushered in, there were further reminders of conflict and the ravages of war with the marking of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and Holocaust Day. These ceremonies provided a compelling reminder of the need to ensure that memories are kept alive for future generations.

As spring beckoned, the themes of safety and communities working together were reflected in further engagements. The launch of the rural crime initiative was fun, with innovative material being utilised to prompt communities to work together to prevent crime.

Commonwealth Day, the raising of the flag, and Single Commemorative Act marking the centenary of the First World War, seemed to embody the ethos and values of the role of High Sheriff and my year, focusing on supporting those engaged in public and voluntary service within the county, and emphasising the values we hold dear, especially working together for safe communities.

It has been an immense privilege, and I am most appreciative of the support of the Under Sheriff Katharine Jones of Humphries Kirk, and her staff. I extend very best wishes to Jennifer Coombs, the new High Sheriff of Dorset, for a very successful year ahead.

◆◆ Jane Stichbury CBE QPM DL  
*High Sheriff of Dorset 2014-2015*



Photo: Dorset Police