



## Service above self

**Above:** First World War commemoration in Carmarthen with Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, the Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed, the Mayor of Carmarthen, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Williams of Oystermouth, the Bishop of St David's, Lord Morris of Aberavon KG, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, the Bishop of Menevia and Roman Catholic Knights of Saint Gregory and of Saint Sylvester

**WHAT A year it has been! I knew it would be busy, exciting and educational but it has been much more. It started with my installation at Aberglasney Gardens on 5 April. This is a special place for me as my husband and I are members of this enchanting place near our home in Carmarthenshire.**

My association with the Dyfed Powys Police and the Fire Service has given me a real insight into a world that is invisible to most people and I have been moved to learn many times of the incredible bravery of so many of these men and women – duty before self without question. I hope this close connection will continue. My husband and I have been fortunate enough to participate in many commemorative services for

the fallen in two World Wars. I believe I now know the relevant parts of the Apocrypha by heart! Services were held in Carmarthen where a specially commissioned sculpture was unveiled by Field Marshal Lord Guthrie with a sermon delivered by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams of Oystermouth, as well as several other smaller scale events throughout the three counties of Dyfed. A cake sale on a rainy Saturday in a car park in Narberth in Pembrokeshire was organised by the mother of a former soldier wounded in Afghanistan and raised a staggering £8,000 in one morning – and this is an annual event!

As a former broadcaster in both languages I have been fortunate to be able to gain access to the media and had the opportunity to talk about the history of the Shrievalty and the role of the High Sheriff in



Dyfed has a long history of welcoming members of the Royal Family. Last year was no exception with five royal visits by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who visited several businesses in Pembrokeshire last summer and were given a very warm welcome; as were TRH the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when they visited the Amoco oil refinery on a particularly stormy day last autumn, but their serenity shone through nevertheless. HRH The Prince of Wales has a home in the county and he made three official visits during my year in office – twice to visit and endorse local companies which sell their produce worldwide. He also visited Llandovery College which now boasts a brand new nursery school. I shall look back at my year in office with pleasure and particularly with admiration for those in our communities who quietly place service above self.

### ♣ Elinor Jones

*High Sheriff of Dyfed 2014-15*

**Below:** Prize-giving at White Horse Agricultural Society Competition with winner Mr Russell Thomas – the activities of High Sheriffs can vary enormously!

twenty-first century Britain. School children have been particularly fascinated and as the year has progressed calls have come from societies in all parts of the three counties to give after-dinner speeches.

As we have no High Court in Dyfed, it has been a pleasure to join other High Sheriffs in West Glamorgan and Cardiff to meet sitting judges and to attend a special dinner given for the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, the first Welshman to have filled the post in more than a century. Other notable events have included the service and dinner for presenting the Royal Charter to the Welsh Livery Guild, and visits to the Order of St John headquarters in Wales and the Welsh Language Society at a meeting in which language, culture and community interaction took centre stage. The year has also given me the opportunity to make Alzheimer's my chosen charity and I've been able to attend several fundraising events. The High Sheriff's Awards were also an excellent opportunity to highlight the work done by many individuals in their communities.

