



Celebrating the champions of our communities

I AM delighted to contribute an article to this edition of *The High Sheriff* as it has afforded the opportunity for me to reflect on an exceptional year as the High Sheriff of Dyfed. I feel very privileged to have served the Shrievalty of Dyfed, which represents the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire and is a region where the medieval laws of Wales were first brought together by Hywel Dda.

My Declaration was held on the 24 March 2016 in the Chapel of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Carmarthen campus. It was a great honour to welcome the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, to preside over the proceedings.

As I took on the role of High Sheriff, I noted that I would support law enforcement agencies, the emergency services and encourage more volunteering within the three counties. I soon discovered that volunteering is alive and well in the old county of Dyfed! My wife Fiona and I were privileged to meet so many outstanding people who are doing remarkable work in order to make a difference to the lives of others and to their communities. I established the Shrievalty of Dyfed Awards to acknowledge and celebrate the distinctive contribution made by such individuals and local charities. Some 800 people representing a hundred organisations attended a series of events to receive certificates. In addition, I was pleased to welcome eight recipients of the High Sheriff of Dyfed Young Persons Charitable Trust financial awards, established by Colonel Dai Davies in his year of office.

In July, I welcomed HRH The Prince of Wales to the University's Lampeter

campus to take part in a special ceremony celebrating the Prince's commitment to sustainability and harmony and which included an exhibition of excerpts of his inspirational speeches and articles.

Other highlights included the Concert of Remembrance, held at Carmarthen's Christ Church in November, which featured the premiere of *In Memoriam* composed by Eilir Owen Griffiths. I was also delighted to attend the consecration and enthronement of Wales's first female Bishop, Revd Canon Jo Penberthy, as the new Bishop of St David's.

My final event was the 'Blue Lights Service' which brought members of the emergency services together to reflect and to give thanks. My thanks to the Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths, High Sheriff's Chaplain, Revd Tom Evans of Dyfed Powys Police and Revd Canon Illtyd Protheroe of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service for officiating.

I am grateful for the many invitations that I have received to represent the Shrievalty of Dyfed at events across the region and to meet so many inspirational



Above: HRH The Prince of Wales, Royal Patron of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and Professor Medwin Hughes DL, Vice-Chancellor

Bottom: Back row: Mr Gwynndaf Tobias, Cllr Barry Williams, Mayor of Carmarthen, District Judge John Lloyd Davies, Cllr Wyn Thomas, Deputy Mayor of Carmarthen, Randolph Thomas, Mr Richard Morris, Under Sheriff, Mr Roland Lewis, Under Sheriff
Front row: Mr David Parry Williams JP, Dr Brinley Jones CBE, Professor Catrin Thomas, Mr James Lewis, High Sheriff 2015-16, Ms Sara Edwards, Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed, Professor Medwin Hughes DL, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Rt Revd Wyn Evans, Bishop of St David's, the Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths

people who are true champions of their communities. I am also grateful for the support of Mr Roland Lewis and Mr Richard John Morris the Under Sheriffs of Dyfed and Mrs Eirwen Nicholls.

◆ Professor Medwin Hughes DL
High Sheriff of Dyfed 2016-17

