



## Hampshire 2013-14

I focused on achieving three things during my year in office: helping initiatives to reduce reoffending rates, supporting groups working with vulnerable communities in Hampshire, and supporting volunteering in Hampshire through the High Sheriff Community Awards. The last three months of my year were extremely busy, with two major events initiated by me during the course of the year both happening within a week of each other in early March!

The first of these, on Saturday 1 March, was the High Sheriff of Hampshire Community Awards, honouring those volunteers or voluntary organisations within Hampshire who have contributed significantly to their local community. To achieve the greatest reach possible, I appointed a 'posse' of eight regional panel chairs who identified potential award winners in their area and who were a fantastic group with whom to debate and agree the final list of deserving winners. Hampshire County Council supported this initiative, and also generously provided the Great Hall in Winchester for the awards evening itself. *Hampshire*

*Life* magazine profiled the winners, giving them valuable publicity, and helped generate a buzz around the role of the High Sheriff during the course of my year in office. The awards evening was an inspiring showcase of the voluntary work being done in Hampshire, and had a great atmosphere as winners met each other, shared stories, and made connections which I hope are valuable to their ongoing work. I am also delighted that this initiative will be continued by the next three High Sheriffs of Hampshire in conjunction with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.

The second major event was a Reducing Reoffending Conference that I initiated and co-chaired with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on Friday 7 March. This initiative grew out of a conviction on my part that High Sheriffs should do what they could to help support the judicial process generally, but also specific concerns raised by the statutory and third sectors in Hampshire around the implementation of the Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda.

So, together with Simon Hayes, the Police and Crime Commissioner, we identified some key themes and brought together a group of local, national and international speakers to discuss the issues at stake. Over two hundred people from the government, local authority, commercial and third sectors attended and we have written up the findings from the conference in a White Paper that is being formally received by the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, the Justice Secretary, and also members of the Justice Select Committee who are responsible for the oversight of the Ministry of Justice. This conference has also been referred to in a debate on justice reform in the House of Commons and we hope that the White Paper will make a valuable contribution to the effectiveness of the Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda.

It has been a most fascinating year, and I feel proud and very honoured to have had the chance to hold such an ancient and unique office. □

**Rupert Younger**  
*High Sheriff of Hampshire, 2013-14*



Catherine Younger, Cllr Dan Putty (Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane) and Rupert Younger at the High Sheriff Community Awards.



A Citizenship Ceremony in Winchester.