



'999 show' in Hampshire

ON 29 May I helped organise and stage a '999 show' celebrating the work of the emergency services at the National Motor Museum visitor attraction at my family home in Beaulieu, Hampshire. We had a large turnout of organisations and charities including the Hampshire Fire and Rescue service, Police Roads unit, Police Special Constables, South Central Ambulance, Hants Search and Rescue, St John Ambulance, Police Rescue Dogs, Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Speedwatch team, Police Cadets, Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers, Police Countrywatch unit, Coastguard, Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, the Special Operations Regiment (Military Police), the Rifles' Band and Bugles, and more. We promoted the event extensively and around 2,000 people came to watch, learn and give generously to the organisations.

There was an excellent and popular public demonstration with a live commentary of an extrication from a road traffic accident demonstrated by a combined team from the police, ambulance service and our local retained fire service. We had a murder mystery trail in the house, with the Special Operations Regiment forensics investigators showing visitors their latest fingerprinting techniques and a fictitious murder victim taped out on the library floor. Visitors had to work out who had 'done it' using clues and evidence and entered a prize draw at the end of the day. We also had the Close Protection unit demonstrating how to protect and rescue a 'VIP' in a crowd. We had the help of a local famous Southampton FC footballer to be our 'VIP' and he was 'attacked' and 'rescued' from a crowd.

The Hampshire Fire and Rescue service demonstrated some of their new equipment, and their investigating arson fire dogs stole the show with their amazing performance.

The charity Prison Me No Way! had its prison cell van on display and raised awareness of its work in education throughout the county in informing young people about life 'inside'.



Above left: At the 999 Show with Hampshire Special Constable Rachel West and Acting Special Sergeant Mike Elkins
Above right: Law at War – Re-enactors at the 1945 police station

About 30 authentic old police cars, ambulances and fire engines turned up to add to the displays as well as a wonderful actual 'Law and War' 1945 police station, complete with uniformed re-enactors.

The New Forest has unusual road problems with ponies and cattle allowed to roam across all the roads resulting in around 80-100 road traffic accidents and deaths to animals a year. We had a pony and foal to raise awareness of this problem and local experts gave driving advice.

Throughout the day I was able to meet many members of the public and explain the role of High Sheriff and I hosted a reception for members of the Hampshire law and order community and many civic leaders.

Throughout my year I have been particularly impressed by the training and high standard of service of all the emergency services alongside the police and all the voluntary groups which support and work with them. They are under constant pressure and perform their duties with great care and dedication. I hope I never have an accident but if I do, I will know that I will be in the best possible hands.

♦♦ **Hon Mrs Mary Montagu-Scott DL**
High Sheriff of Hampshire 2017-18



Winchester Law Sunday in October: 10 High Sheriffs outside the judges' lodgings (L-R): West Sussex Lady Emma Barnard, Surrey Robert Napier, Bristol Anthony Brown, Somerset Richard Hickmet, Berkshire Sarah Scrope, Dorset John Young, Isle of Wight Ben Rouse, myself, Wiltshire Lady Marland and Gloucestershire Andrew Tabor, with the Hon Mrs Justice May and Hampshire Lord-Lieutenant Nigel Atkinson and Mrs Atkinson and the Under Sheriff Rachel Brooks