



## Isle of Wight 2012-13

Though the Isle of Wight is the smallest county geographically, it has nearly 160,000 inhabitants rising to half a million over the peak season. Its particular demographic is a disproportionate number of elderly and young, along with pockets of wealth adjacent to areas of deprivation. Having been in the people business all my life I enjoy introducing and connecting individuals and groups with common interests.

My wife, who happened to sit next to a charming retired Circuit Judge, Tim Milligan, made the first link. Since then Tim has worked tirelessly to help me set up an individual Island version of the Mock Trial Competition, because exorbitant ferry costs have prevented local schools from taking part in the national competition. With the help of the courts, local magistrates and two presiding judges and representatives from the Bar Association, we held the trials in November. It was a great success with stiff competition and the prevailing team winning by the finest of margins. Also thinking of the young and concern over student debt, I introduced the head of a local financial services company to CreditAction and



Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh landing at Cowes on the Isle of Wight on 25 July during her countrywide Jubilee tour.

they took up the cause, visiting all the schools with very positive results. Then with regard to our elderly population, I worked with Age UK's Care4Care scheme and trained as a volunteer to help the elderly. With all the agencies both statutory and voluntary pulling

together, home care allows the elderly the joy of living safely in their own homes for much longer. Unfortunately my first call was to a charming but totally deaf 93-year-old who was having problems with her telephone. I had to take my wife, Nicky, as I cannot work our telephone, let alone fix hers. Nicky sorted the technology while I listened to the fascinating tales of this stoic old lady's work in Fighter Command's headquarters during the Battle of Britain.

Working with the statutory agencies I have been amazed by the achievements of the police and fire and rescue in their efforts to help the vulnerable and disadvantaged youth in our community. It is a pity that this is not common knowledge. I also enjoyed sitting with all the judges and having the opportunity to gain an insight into the consequence of broken childhoods. It was interesting to hear from the YMCA that so many cases of addiction and crime are the result of unaddressed bereavement, and working with youth



Nick Hayward, High Sheriff, and Nicky Hayward visiting The Way Forward, a charity helping vulnerable adults with learning difficulties, of which the High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight is Patron.



# News from and about Members

groups in trying to tackle these and many other problems has been edifying.

While visiting our three prisons I became involved in their Faith Forums. This is where representatives from seven or eight faiths discuss their various beliefs. What is quite clear is the mutual respect they have for each other, and it is such a pity this cannot be replicated worldwide.

Her Majesty The Queen visited on a glorious day in July. It was a proud day for the Island with a jam-packed Cowes seafront, fluttering Union Jacks and the Squadron's cannons firing a royal salute. I will never forget my year and it has been a privilege to support the Island and an honour to serve Her Majesty.. □

**Nick Haywood Esq**  
*High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight 2012-13*



Nick Hayward High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight at the passing-out parade of the LIFE Awards (Local Intervention Fire Education).