



Surrey 2013-14

It has been a very interesting year to be High Sheriff at a time of change within the criminal justice system. Given the current emphasis upon reducing reoffending I have particularly valued getting to know Surrey Youth Support Service which includes the former Youth Offending Team and have visited a number of their projects. Its approach to Integrated Offender Management has achieved some impressive results with an 80 per cent reduction in first-time entrants to the youth justice system over the last two years. Over the last five years the Service has saved an estimated 5,000 young people from a criminal conviction, making effective use of a restorative justice intervention.

The success of this programme rests upon very productive inter-agency collaboration, in particular, with Surrey Police. I had the opportunity to observe the weekly panel that takes place at Guildford Police Station between officers of both agencies, analysing in detail each case of youth offending and agreeing a course of action. I have been



Left to right: Helen Bowcock; Perdita Hunt, Director of Watts Gallery; Dame Sarah Goad, Lord-Lieutenant; and guest speaker John Nickson at a reception at Loseley Park to thank the many organisations and people who contributed to the shrieval year.

greatly impressed by the culture of our police force, observing the dedication and professionalism with which they managed an unprecedented crisis in the

form of the winter floods. They were supported by members of Sussex Police and it was a pleasure to acknowledge this effort at the High Sheriff of East



Welcoming Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to Reed's School in honour of the bicentenary of its founder, Andrew Reed.



News from and about Members

Sussex's most enjoyable reception when I met senior members of that force.

As Surrey's High Sheriff I have had some exposure to the question of female offenders as around one third of all women prisoners in the country serve their custodial sentences here within our county, although if recommended reforms are implemented women will not be sent far from home. One of the absolute highlights of my year was taking a group of guests into HMP Bronzefield to see a Pimlico Opera musical production in which many of the parts were played, to a high standard, by prisoners. This experience also reinforced the critical role that

charities play within the criminal justice system, providing an opportunity for these women to experience teamwork, discipline and success in a way that can turn lives around.

Although in Surrey we do not normally receive High Court Judges I have learnt just how much some of our judges in the Crown and County Courts value the relationship with the High Sheriff and the importance of taking an interest in their work. The demands upon the judiciary are great and I was very struck by the gratitude I received when I hosted a dinner for our judges and their spouses in keeping with our traditional role of providing hospitality.

I am writing this reflecting back upon a shrieval year that ended many weeks ago. It took me some time to fully appreciate the uniqueness of the role of High Sheriff, in its non-political way providing the opportunity to view our system of justice in all its complexity. From police stations to courts, prisons, schools and charities we see the interrelationships that hold our society together and within it I have seen more trust, compassion and goodwill than I could ever have imagined. □

Dr Helen Bowcock DL
High Sheriff of Surrey 2013-14

A High Sheriff's Adieu

Goodbye jabot, goodbye tights,
Goodbye cruising round the streets at nights;
Goodbye breeches, goodbye laces,
Goodbye to all those quizzical faces;

Goodbye to racing between the County boundaries,
And no more quick changes in tree-shaded lay-bys;
Goodbye to buttons and their threat to my sanity
Goodbye to buffets and their strain on my vanity

Goodbye to sitting in the front row pews,
Goodbye to buckles and to shiny shoes;
Goodbye to grandeur, goodbye to prudence
(Now it's 'Hello humility' and say 'hi' to indulgence).

So I'm free to burst out of my velveteen shell,
Leave my recycled speeches on the road signs to Hell,
And hit the high spots in a new shrieval low:
My twelve months is up, and I've got to go!

But it's *farewell* to our helpers and the Clerks we can't rattle,
Fare thee *well* to our regiment returned, lean, from battle,
Fare thee *well* to the wondrous, quiet doers of good works,
Fare thee *well* to the chain gang, who serve, and get no perks.

And my thanks to the County, Police, everyone:
There is sorrow in parting, but, Sweet Jove, we've had fun!

Patrick Burgess MBE
High Sheriff of West Sussex 2013-14