



## West Glamorgan 2012-13

As I finish my year, I look back with great satisfaction and feel very honoured to have been given this opportunity.

I have met many hundreds of fantastic people who make a significant contribution to life in the county. They are the unsung heroes of our community, this hidden army who through their efforts make a considerable difference. I am happy to say kindness and compassion abound.

During my year of office the youth of the county have impressed me – how marvellous they are, full of confidence, and a credit to their families and communities.

I have been present at many award ceremonies with the air training corps, sea cadets, army cadets, St John Ambulance, Scouts, Guides and Brownies, where the young people have been recognised for a range of activities and skills.

I have attended many degree ceremonies at the Metropolitan and Swansea University, where hundreds of graduates are full of confidence and expectation as they leave their universities to start their chosen careers.

I presented 20 High Sheriff's Awards to a number of local organisations and individuals, both young and adult, who made an outstanding contribution. My special award went to the Revd Lionel Hopkins for his work in Swansea Prison. As part of its work, the chaplaincy contacts prisoners six weeks before release, offering support and guidance with their transition back into society; support continues for a further 12 weeks after release. This project has been responsible for a remarkable drop in reoffending rates.

I have attended 14 citizenship ceremonies – each one is different, they are always emotional and new citizens



PHOTOGRAPH: SOUTH WALES EVENING POST

Citizenship ceremony: Lt Commander Bruce Bagley DL; His Worship the Lord Mayor of the City and County of Swansea, Cllr Dennis James; and the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, William Hopkins, with the the Gundu family from Zimbabwe.



'A night in the cells' at Cockett police station, the High Sheriff with students from Gorseinon College fundraising for Crimebeat and other charities.



# News from and about Members

are very pleased to have recognition from the Lord-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and the Lord Mayor.

On 2 March 2013 Her Majesty The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Welsh, was due to come to Swansea to mark St David's Day, with a presentation of leeks to the 3rd Battalion.

Her Majesty unfortunately was unable to attend due to illness, and the ceremony was taken by the Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, Mr D Byron Lewis. Presentations of leeks were also carried out by the High Sheriff, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Swansea and the Leader of Swansea Council.

My wife, Elizabeth, and I have been fortunate to entertain a number of High Court Judges and two Law Lords at our home, occasions we have enjoyed. At the invitation of the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Dr Arun Midha, we have also co-hosted dinners for the Court of Appeal Judges in Cardiff.

I have had a wonderful year and as I pass on the sword of office to my successor, Mrs Gaynor Richards MBE, I wish her well and hope she too will enjoy her year. □

**William Hopkins**

*High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2012-13*



The Revd Lionel Hopkins, Prison Chaplain, receives his High Sheriff's Award.