

WEST GLAMORGAN

News from and about members



On board early for the mystery tour

Above: Swansea welcomes three new citizens with Mark Mathias DL, the Lord Mayor of the City and County of Swansea Councillor Ceinwen Thomas and the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan

MY SHRIEVAL year started significantly sooner than I had initially anticipated. I was originally due to take office during 2016-17. However, due to unforeseen circumstances I was shoehorned into the role for 2014-15. With hindsight, I think I have been most fortunate.

What a fascinating and memorable experience it has been. The office really does give one the opportunity to visit so many different parts of the county.

I remember a previous High Sheriff comparing his experience to travelling on a year-long mystery bus journey; not knowing where it was going and

visiting places he had never been to before, even though they were all in his county. I must say, this analogy is perfect.

At the beginning of the year everyone says, 'Do it your way'. However, what is one's way? When you have finished, you do recognise your way.

The past twelve months have been a succession of interesting and varied experiences, including award presentations, citizenship ceremonies, Remembrance services, royal visits and visits from High Court Judges.

Certainly for me, one of the highlights of the year was attending the monthly citizenship ceremonies. Everyone is so appreciative of the welcome they receive as they become new citizens



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of the United Kingdom and the City and County of Swansea. It is a very moving occasion and really worthwhile. It is such a positive ceremony and all the staff involved help to make it a special celebration for the new citizens.

With 2014 marking the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War I naturally attended many memorial services. Each one was a very poignant and emotional experience.

Another highlight of my year was the annual High Sheriff's Awards Ceremony. This year 25 awards were presented, all to very worthy recipients. One of my favourites was Rhodri's Rangers. This group of 11 year olds from Blaenymaes Primary School in Swansea tackle the problems of bullying, antisocial behaviour and also e-bullying, which is becoming increasingly common. They were delighted to receive their award and a few days later I was invited to the school to congratulate the whole team.

I have been fortunate to attend several Appeal Court dinners in Cardiff. I would like to thank my counterpart in South Glamorgan David Jenkins and his wife Sue for the enormous effort they made to ensure these dinners were always a success. One particularly memorable dinner took place at Fonmon Castle, the home of Sir Brooke Boothby, a past High Sheriff.

Throughout my year I have been supported by many people, particularly my predecessor Gaynor Richards, who was a superb mentor, and HM Lord-Lieutenant, Byron Lewis, whom I would like to thank for his continuous support and friendship. We are most fortunate in West Glamorgan to have such a close link with the Lieutenancy.



A huge thank you goes to my wife Valerie, who has attended almost as many engagements as I have. In fact, I'm sure many people in West Glamorgan thought Valerie was the High Sheriff and I was her consort!

It has been an honour and a privilege to have served as the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity.

I extend my very best wishes to my successor Robert Redfern.

♣ Martyn Jenkins

High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2014-2015

Above: Handing over to Robert Redfern (left), my successor as High Sheriff of West Glamorgan

Below: Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Rhodri's Rangers

