



# Celebrating outreach activities from universities and colleges

THE EXCELLENT seminar at Burghley House emphasised how helpful it is to identify a personal theme to provide focus for the year.

I was therefore delighted to agree with my predecessor, Robert Napier, that I would continue to focus on the number of permanent exclusions of pupils from schools across our county – a focus he began during his year. It is astonishing to learn that such exclusions occur not only at secondary level, but also in primary and even nursery schools. The destructive link between exclusion and future involvement with the police, courts and prison services is well known and, in addition to the many ruined lives, places considerable and long-lasting burdens on society. While the issue itself is highly complex, the powers of the High Sheriff to convene and connect have proved effective in highlighting this critical situation and also in promoting examples of best practice currently underway to address the many challenges.

Guidance from many willing professionals helpfully suggested two approaches to this sensitive matter. It is generally accepted that a focus on

appropriate intervention at the earliest possible opportunity will produce the greatest effect. Highlighting best practice in this area will therefore be the priority for the second half of my year as schools return from the summer break.

The other area of focus is on those young people already in secondary education who are struggling in their studies and are at serious risk of exclusion. This issue has occupied a large percentage of my time since assuming office, and I have been particularly impressed by the multitude of powerful outreach projects currently being undertaken by the dedicated academics, staff and students of our universities and colleges. These excellent initiatives target all disadvantaged young people within our community who face difficult challenges, and provide unique, inspirational and life-changing opportunities.

The High Sheriff's garden party offered the perfect opportunity for the institutions across Surrey to showcase their outreach and volunteering activities. The ten institutions all exhibited with great enthusiasm and impressed guests with the

impact of their substantial activities. The event was eagerly attended by over 200 representatives from support organisations, charities and schools who were all pleased to be able to use the evening to network together and identify further activities which would help maximise the effectiveness of this great work.

Each of the exhibitors received a High Sheriff's Award Certificate – many thanks to Kelly from the High Sheriffs' Association for her help – and I was joined by the Chairman of Surrey County Council, Peter Martin, in making the presentations. We were also supported throughout the entire event by representatives of the Surrey Volunteer Policy Cadets, and our university and college friends even provided the entertainment – superb dancing from Nishi (daughter of Meeta Joshi, Hindu Chaplain at the University of Surrey) and a brilliant acoustic performance from James Collins (student at the Academy of Contemporary Music).

**♦ W J Glover Esq**  
*High Sheriff of Surrey 2018-19*



**Above left:** The team from East Surrey College

**Above:** The team from Merrist Wood College

**Left:** The team from Royal Holloway, University of London

**Above right:** The team from the Academy of Contemporary Music

**Right:** The High Sheriff's garden party with Peter Martin, Chairman of Surrey County Council, and Police cadets and officers, including Sgt Graham Kerslake, Force Volunteer Cadet Co-ordinator, holding the certificate

