



The High Sheriff

The Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England & Wales

SUMMER 2018



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safer communities*

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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

President J R Avery Esq DL
Officers and Council November 2017 to November 2018

OFFICERS

Chairman
The Hon H J H Tollemache
Email chairman@highsheriffs.com

Honorary Secretary
J H A Williams MBE
Gatefield, Green Tye, Much Hadham
Hertfordshire SG10 6JJ
Tel 01279 842225
Email secretary@highsheriffs.com

Honorary Treasurer
N R Savory Esq DL
Thorpland Hall, Fakenham
Norfolk NR21 0HD
Tel 01328 862392
Email treasurer@highsheriffs.com

COUNCIL

Col M G C Amlôt OBE DL
Canon S E A Bowie DL
Mrs E J Hunter
D C F Jones Esq DL
J A T Lee Esq OBE
Mrs V A Lloyd DL
Mrs A J Parker JP DL
Lt Col A S Tuggey CBE DL
W A A Wells Esq TD
(Hon Editor of *The High Sheriff*)
Mrs J D J Westoll MBE DL
Mrs B Wilding CBE QPM DL

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Hon Editor Andrew Wells
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The Association is not as a body responsible for the opinions expressed in *The High Sheriff* unless it is stated that an article or a letter officially represents the Council's views.

The Editor welcomes articles and news stories from High Sheriffs concerning their year in office.

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The High Sheriff
Heritage House, PO Box 21,
Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH
Email editor@highsheriffs.com

Advertisement enquiries
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Address as above

Tel 01462 896688
Fax 01462 896677
Email maz@hall-mccartney.co.uk

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7



12



21



36

Contents

4 From the Editor

5 Diary

6 From the Chairman

7 Wales Annual
Regional Conference
for High Sheriffs in
nomination

8 News – from and
about members

21

**National
Crimebeat @ 20:**

A special eight-
page supplement
to celebrate the
20th anniversary
of National
Crimebeat

29 News –
from and about members:
continued

42 High Sheriffs
of England and Wales
2018-19; new members;
deaths; nominations

44 Association
regalia and publications

46 Helpful Topics

www.highsheriffs.com
for answers to your questions

Front cover:

County Durham's Mini Police,
Winners of the National
Crimebeat Special Award



From the Editor

The Association's Council is grateful to High Sheriffs (and one shrieval husband) who have sent such interesting accounts of their year's activities to *The High Sheriff*. A recurring theme, central to the shrievalty, is involvement with both prisoners and prison officers. Three neighbouring High Sheriffs together presented awards to 51 prison employees, besides witnessing officers controlling a dangerous situation. Another High Sheriff presented awards to officers who had prevented a wing being wrecked. Others comment that prison staff deserve greater recognition – shrieval awards, to employees and to prisoners too, help to achieve this – while comparing the lack of squalid, chaotic or frightening conditions in prisons favourably with the horror of trials of violent criminals.

At the other end of the spectrum High Sheriffs recognise the lengths to which young people have used their often adverse experiences to help others. This is manifested particularly in inspiring projects submitted to National Crimebeat, the Association's charity, which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary. The eight central pages of this issue cover the remarkable achievements of young people and highlight this year's special awards ceremony graced by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester. While congratulating award-winning teams and those highly commended over the years, there must be other projects yet to come to National Crimebeat's notice. High Sheriffs are uniquely positioned to identify candidates for awards, which encourage good citizenship and help to nip anti-social behaviour in the bud. Nominations for 2019 awards close next January so please look out for deserving cases.

Loneliness, poverty and shrieval interaction with the emergency and public services are covered extensively by contributors. Several have organised conferences and events to tackle problems and promote and thank the agencies which can help with these.

Council members value attending regional meetings for those in nomination. These are good opportunities to ask seemingly trivial questions face-to-face in informal settings and can cover many subjects such as the judicial hierarchy, what to wear and when, and the pros and cons of fundraising – they aren't 'mini Burghleys' with a range of speakers often of national importance. It is clear that many High Sheriffs, serving and in nomination, are unaware that much, if not most, of the information covered can be found in the members' area of the website and in the printed 'Guide to the Office of High Sheriff', which the Chairman mentions are being updated and made more accessible. Many of these topics are listed on page 46 of this issue and members should not hesitate to contact the honorary Secretary or this magazine if they have any questions.

On behalf of Council I welcome new members of the Association and wish all serving High Sheriffs well as they reach their quarter year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Wells'.

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor; Kent 2005-06

Diary 2018

of Forthcoming Events



JULY 2018 **Seminar for High Sheriffs** **in nomination for the** **years 2019 and 2020** *Friday 6 July*

The 2018 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3JY, on Friday 6 July 2018. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will have been sent in mid-May 2018 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2019 and 2020.

OCTOBER 2018 **The Red Mass** *Monday 1 October*

The annual Roman Catholic Mass will be held at 9.30 am at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the start of the legal year. High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination of all religious denominations are invited to attend and to join the judicial procession if they wish. There will be a ticket-only reception in the Throne Room after the Mass. To obtain further details about the Mass and Reception, please contact Stephen Hart by email at: stephenfhart@gmail.com.

The Ladies' Lunch *Thursday 11th October*

The annual Ladies' Lunch will be held in London at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge. Full details will be sent shortly to those ladies who are in nomination. The organiser is Council Member Juliet Westoll, whose email address is: juliet@glinger.co.uk.

NOVEMBER 2018 **47th Annual General** **Meeting and Luncheon** *Wednesday 21 November*

The Association's 47th AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall, London. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2018.

The Nomination of future **High Sheriffs**

Monday 12 November
probably at 2.00 pm

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Monday 12 November 2018 in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court) at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At this ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 will be read out in court. A tea party will take place afterward at a nearby venue.

The Secretary will be writing in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2019 and for 2020 inviting them to attend. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for a few 2021 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2021 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend.





From the Chairman

The High Sheriffs' Association Council has been busy with a number of projects that I would like you to know about; I can only mention three of these as there is not enough space to mention all.

I am glad to say that progress is being made on the subject of 'Affordable Sheriffing'. A year serving as High Sheriff is going to be demanding both in time and finance but we need to be aware of ways of keeping the cost down; it should not be seen as an ever-escalating cost that can deter good people from being able to accept the honour. Of course, there is a limit to what can be done but over the next few months John Lee (Devon 2013) will be collecting ideas from previous High Sheriffs as to where money can be saved without, most importantly, affecting the dignity of the Office.

Another project is to revise the *Guide to the Office of High Sheriff*. This was written in 2006 and certain parts need to be brought up to date. Martin Amlôt

(Merseyside 2012) is now on the home run having found the task a lot more demanding than he had thought when he first volunteered over a year ago!

A third project is to revisit the website. Amanda Parker (Lancashire 2015) has presented Council with a plan to bring the website much more up to date and we will make progress over the course of this year.

To those High Sheriffs who have taken office this year, may I wish you every success in your year and hope that you will be able to make a difference in your county? To those who have finished your year, no doubt with a mixture of sadness and some relief, I hope that you will wish to continue to be involved with some of your initiatives so that they continue to grow.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Hugh Tollemache'.

**Hugh Tollemache,
Chairman; Gloucestershire 2013-14**

“To those High Sheriffs who have taken office this year, may I wish you every success in your year and hope that you will be able to make a difference in your county?”

47th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon *Wednesday 21 November 2018*

The Association's 47th AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2018.

Wales: Annual regional conference for High Sheriffs in nomination, November 2017

❖ William T Hopkins MBE DL
High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2012-13

THE WALES REGIONAL MEETING was held at Llangoed Hall near Brecon, a fine country house hotel in Mid Wales and a convenient and pleasant meeting place for the eight shrieval counties of Wales.

We were delighted to welcome the eight current High Sheriffs and those in nomination plus consorts. We were pleased three Under Sheriffs were able to attend. Also joining us were High Sheriffs' Association Council members Elizabeth Hunter and Andrew Tuggey, and outgoing Council member Anne Morgan.

The Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, Byron Lewis opened the proceedings and gave us a valuable insight into the role of the Lord-Lieutenant and its interaction with the High Sheriff – a situation he understands well having held the office of High Sheriff 2004-05.

We also enjoyed entertaining and informative talks given by three of our current High Sheriffs: David Davies, Mid Glamorgan, told us about his Declaration and the experience of declaring the results of the parliamentary election; Susan Balsom, Dyfed, gave an amusing insight into her adventures to date and also gave the ladies in nomination useful and informative tips on sourcing a uniform; Sian Hope, Gwynedd, also told us about her more memorable moments and explained why she had chosen to support The Prince's Trust Wales during her year.

This neatly tied in with our next speaker, Philip Jones, Director of The Prince's Trust Wales. Philip explained the work of the Trust in Wales and the challenges facing young people today.

After a well-earned break for lunch Anne Morgan opened the afternoon session speaking

about the Association magazine and the help and support available from the Association Council. Questions and Answers provoked lively debate; many points of concern were raised including those perennial questions regarding fundraising and nomination panels.

Elizabeth Hunter kindly reviewed the day and it was only left for me to give a special thanks to our speakers for sharing their experiences and helping to prepare those in nomination for the hiccups as well as the glory.

We hope those in nomination left the meeting better informed and more confident about their forthcoming role as High Sheriff.

This was Anne Morgan's last meeting (in an organisational capacity) at an event she has developed and nurtured over the years. We in Wales owe her our thanks for making our regional meeting what it is today.

The next Wales Regional Meeting will be held on Thursday 22 November 2018 at Llangoed Hall.

Below: All smiles at Llangoed Hall





An honour to serve

WHAT AN enormous honour it is to reflect on this great experience as I come to end of my shrieval year. The second half of my term has proved every bit as pleasant as the first. I have met and engaged with so many individuals and services around the county who work tirelessly, doing extraordinary things to link people and organisations together for the mutual benefit of the citizens of Bedfordshire.

I particularly valued the opportunity of giving out court awards to courageous individuals in our community, visiting Bedford Prison and the numerous occasions sitting on the bench at the Crown Court, Family Court, Coroner's Court and the Magistrates' Court. One outstanding event involved students from a number of schools conducting mock trials, connecting the Shrievelty with

judges, magistrates and courts that are close to the Office of High Sheriff.

My focus on *Youth* led to helping to launch the annual Recognising Young People Awards, which involves schools in the county nominating students for their achievements. I was proud to present the National Crimebeat Award to Tokko for Hate Crime, being 'Highly Commended' by the judging panel, and presenting graduation awards to fashion students whose hard work was demonstrated in a spectacular fashion show.

It was a pleasure to arrange a Tea Morning at Kids in Action. This charity supports children with disabilities whose parents I met, and funds were raised for an extension to their building. A pleasure too, raising funds and presenting a cheque along with the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire to the charity Little

Miracles in Peterborough as their work had touched the hearts of some friends. In celebration of International Peace Day which brought together many faith groups, I took part in launching the Peace Garden, Peace Fountain and the Peace Walk.

I was able to show my gratitude to the many remarkable volunteers and voluntary organisations that I have had the privilege to engage with during my term of office by presenting them with the High Sheriff's Citizenship Award at a special 'Thank You' celebration evening in recognition of their great commitment, dedication and valuable service to the community. I have always considered my county a very special place but my year as High Sheriff has helped me appreciate the wonderful people who always put others before themselves.

At this point, I would like to thank our brilliant Community Foundation for its invaluable support. My chaplain held a Service of Appreciation, attended by HM Lord-Lieutenant, Helen Nellis, mayors within the county, past High Sheriffs, High Commissioners, representatives of voluntary organisations, friends and family. It was a truly emotional and humbling experience that left me lost for words. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve my county.

I appreciate the support of the past High Sheriffs particularly during the Justice Service. Most importantly, I thank my family who have endured my perpetual absence during this time.

♦♦ Vinod Tailor DL
High Sheriff of Bedfordshire 2017-18



Photo credit June Essex



Photo credit June Essex



Above left: High Sheriff's Awards evening
Left: Citizenship Awards celebration evening
Above: Presenting High Sheriff's Award to Mary Emeji for services to the community



Spreading hope

WITH MY fellow High Sheriffs of the Thames Valley, Jane Cranston of Oxfordshire, and Peter Kara of Buckinghamshire, I visited all the prisons in our region, as well as a Secure Training Centre for young offenders and Broadmoor Hospital. As we neared the end of our shrieval years, the three of us felt that some of the most impressive people whom we had met were those who work in these institutions.

We were particularly struck by the dedication, professionalism, warmth and empathy of the nurses, chaplains, kitchen staff, search teams, librarians, and of course the prison officers too. And, at the same time, we felt that these people were in some ways forgotten members of society, while nevertheless doing vital and valuable work in increasingly challenging environments.

We observed how they dealt with the problems that arise from budget constraints such as understaffing and overcrowding. They also had to face the challenges of drugs, the threat of assault, self-harm and suicide among those they watch over. Indeed in one prison, we experienced at first hand an alarming incident, which, but for the quick and brave actions of the prison officers and the governor, could rapidly have become highly dangerous for all of us.

For these reasons, we decided to instigate and organise a Prison Awards scheme across the Thames Valley, in order to recognise the work of individuals

or teams nominated from within their institutions by their colleagues. We presented these awards to 52 individuals who work in six prisons, as well as at Broadmoor Hospital, in ceremonies at the various establishments. Short speeches from the High Sheriff and Governors or Chief Executive topped and tailed the ceremony, during which each recipient had a citation read out, before being presented with a framed certificate.

The reaction of some of those to whom we gave awards was very humbling, with tears being shed and pride instilled at their being recognised, appreciated and properly thanked. Governors and staff members commented on how the awards had raised

morale which, in many of the places we visited, was sorely in need of a boost.

David Redhouse, Governor of HMP Huntercombe, said to us at the ceremony there:

'Your presence... and your idea of holding an award ceremony here in the prison demonstrate powerfully that you believe in what we are doing, and it is an encouragement for us all. But the awards themselves are then very particular encouragements to the individuals receiving them. And that's vital because one of the most powerful ways of spreading hope is to help hopeful people develop and implement their own ideas for making their environments better.'

'So I trust the award winners will be spurred on to do even more than they have done already. And then, because hope can be passed on from one person to another, I trust that the rest of us will be inspired by the examples of hope which our colleagues whom we see recognised today have shown, to develop hope for ourselves so that we too may go on to do more and better in our own work, also becoming the people we ought to be and making Huntercombe the prison it ought to be.'

It was a huge privilege to have been afforded the welcome and indulgence that we inevitably received within these institutions. It is also wonderfully reassuring to know that such exemplary work is going on every day behind the scenes, on behalf of the wider public.

Top: Peter Kara (Buckinghamshire), Sarah Scrope (Berkshire), Sheila Hale, award winner of Broadmoor Hospital, and Jane Cranston (Oxfordshire), at Awards Ceremony at Broadmoor Hospital

♦♦ **Sarah Scrope DL**
High Sheriff of The Royal County of Berkshire, 2017-18



Sarah Scrope, Jane Cranston, Peter Kara, Ian Blakeman, Governor of HMP Bullingdon, and High Sheriff's Award recipients from HMP Bullingdon Photo credit: Marion Mason Images

CUMBRIA

News from and about members



To give rather
than to receive

Above: At the official launch of the mini police at Cumbria Police Headquarters

Below: Visiting the multi-cultural Bazaar group

THE SECOND half of my year passed by very quickly with a packed schedule – ensuring few idle moments. The county has been well supported by the royal family with visits from HRH The Princess Royal, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, HRH the Duchess of Wessex and HRH The Prince of Wales. Royal visits always create great excitement within the local community and my experience has been that the royal visitors never fail to instil great pride

in those they meet. No other institution could have such a creative effect and these visits really help to promote belief and self-esteem within the communities they reach. It is great to witness this effect and so gratifying to see people recognised and thanked for their efforts in their places of work or in their local community.

In addition to the above we have spent a lot of time visiting charities and social enterprises. I believe that this is an important aspect of the role of a High Sheriff and is a natural extension of the emphasis on law and order. So much of the breakdown of law and order stems from the breakdown of family and home life and the more we can do to tackle this problem for young people at an early stage, the better off we all shall be. We have been really pleased to meet some excellent groups working in this difficult field, helping where the challenge is very significant in areas of considerable deprivation and low aspiration. There are so many unsung heroes who make a vital contribution to society and without whose efforts life would be very different for us all.

To celebrate the efforts of some of those we





News from and about members

were lucky enough to meet we held a small lunch gathering for 70 volunteers and hard-working members of the social services, at which I gave out a number of High Sheriff's Awards. This event was a great success with groups attending from all areas of the county and it provided a great opportunity for them to meet one another and discuss areas of common interest.

One of my final engagements was to see the official launch of the mini police at Cumbria Police Headquarters. This is a great initiative which can bring benefits on so many levels and is the brainchild of a County Durham police officer. The concept is being implemented nationally and I'm

sure it will be a great success.

Reflecting on my year I consider myself to have been most fortunate to have had this opportunity to really get to know and understand my county in all its fascinating layers. The role of High Sheriff affords one such great access and it is wonderful to be able to enjoy this privileged view without the burden of a political bias or a salaried sense of obligation. We must treasure this Office and defend its future since I believe it gives a great deal more than it could possibly ever take.

♣ Alistair Wannop

High Sheriff of Cumbria 2017-18

Below: With recipients of the High Sheriff's Awards at The Garden at Eden, Carlisle



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

High Sheriffs intending to lay wreaths during the Armistice period can order these with the High Sheriffs' badge in the centre from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Orders should be placed (quoting stock code H0018) by calling the Poppy Appeal on **01622 717172** and speaking to a Regional Organiser.

Please order in good time.





Above: High Sheriff's Award presented to the Wright family in recognition of valuable services to the local community

Picnics for the judges

I AM full of warm memories of my remarkable year as High Sheriff.

Supporting law and order is central to our role and I sought to ensure I took an active part, first, by joining on their bench many times the three High Court Judges on circuit, feeding them and their clerks with picnic lunches in an assortment of court offices and entertaining them at home. I was most fortunate to have dined with the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Burnett, and discussed the way forward for the judiciary and probation services. Additionally, I sat with several Circuit Judges in Devon's two Crown Courts and with our local magistrates, who play such an important role in

the criminal system without any payment at all. Visiting prisons was a challenge, spending time in the three in Devon and one on the Isle of Wight. Despite undeniable financial challenges, the governors, officers and staff dedicate themselves to improving life skills and future prospects for offenders, with the ultimate benefit of reducing re-offending. Visiting charities that support day-release prisoners and former offenders was very much part of this. I have witnessed the operations of those who keep us safe and secure: the probation, police, ambulance, and fire and rescue services.

Another great privilege was presenting five Sheriff's court awards to members of the public



News from and about members

who had demonstrated unusual bravery and integrity in assisting the police so leading to an arrest. I presented my own High Sheriff's certificates to those who merited special recognition. I was invited to other award ceremonies, including two Devon Lieutenancy investitures for recipients of the British Empire Medal and the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and the annual Lord-Lieutenant's awards for the County of Devon.

Tradition in Devon is for the High Sheriff to be assisted by a police cadet. Each cadet who applies is subject to a rigorous selection process before reaching the finals. My cadet, Charlotte Dicks, accompanied me on many occasions and invited me to her group meeting in Exeter, where I witnessed an enthusiastic youth organisation providing life skills and friendships. I watched their parade drill training – all very slick and professional. The cadets regularly parade at formal civic occasions and in processions. My cadet was appointed head cadet that evening much to my delight. The volunteer leaders do a most excellent job.

I also much enjoyed visiting the numerous remarkable community hubs, feeding, clothing and supporting the vulnerable in crisis, including addicts, the homeless, rough sleepers and the unemployed. In this area, the highlight of 2018 was hosting and sharing the launch of Operation Encompass in Devon and Cornwall with the High Sheriff of Cornwall, Sarah Coryton, and the Chief Constable, Shaun Sawyer. This initiative between the police and head teachers of our schools is the obvious way forward to support children with early intervention following domestic abuse. The prison authorities quoted that 80 per cent of offenders had witnessed or suffered domestic abuse as children.

As my year drew to a close, I attended the three legal services for the counties of Wiltshire,



“I witnessed an enthusiastic youth organisation providing life skills and friendships

Above: Air ambulance crew with centre (L-R) High Sheriff, Councillor Lesley Robson Lord Mayor of Exeter, and Grania Phillips High Sheriff in nomination

Gloucestershire and Dorset, held in beautiful but quite contrasting cathedrals. The pageantry of the processions, the beauty of the services and music, and the support of the judiciary will be unforgettable.

I thank all those who welcomed me and opened my eyes to the extraordinary variety of community support within Devon, the core strength being so much human kindness and compassion. I shall remain forever honoured to have held this appointment.

♣ **Heleen Lindsay-Fynn**
High Sheriff of Devon 2017-18

Below left: Launch of Operation Encompass, Pentillie Castle, with my police cadet Charlotte Dicks

Below: Queen's Award for Voluntary Service presented by the Lord-Lieutenant, David Fursdon, to the volunteer stewards of Devon County Show, of which the High Sheriff was a recipient as chief steward





That special feeling

I'LL ADMIT I was daunted. How, inside a single year as High Sheriff, can one validate a role that has existed for over a thousand? But here was a start: noticing my badge, a cocky young Londoner doing time at Deerbolt Young Offender Institution asked, 'So what are you, Miss?' I replied, 'High Sheriff of Durham, appointed by Her Majesty The Queen for one year to look after the Forces of the Law.' (This became my standard shorthand explanation.) His graphic comment was: 'F*****g hell!' He had a point.

Being High Sheriff is both an extraordinary privilege and an intimidating responsibility. Not coming from the judiciary, the prison service, the emergency services or the military myself, learning what it takes to keep us all safe has been an education, one shared at times with my husband Jonathan, my chaplain Canon Trevor Pitt or the Under Sheriff Helen Dexter, and one that has impressed us all.

In County Durham, relating both to Newcastle and Teesside Crown Courts, not to mention the Crown Court in Durham City, the High Sheriff sees plenty of judges. Joining them in court was both a privilege and a shock. To absorb the horror of a manipulative man making three others torture a fifth member of the household to death

over many months, or to see a father convicted of raping his own twelve-year-old daughter, were experiences I am glad not to repeat. Anyone who tells me again that judges are out of touch will get a very short answer. On the other hand, entertaining judges to dinner, which we did informally at home, and joining them on other occasions at their lodgings featured among the greatest pleasures of the year.

Visiting prisons (County Durham has five, including HMP Frankland – 'Monster Mansion' in the media) I didn't see squalid, chaotic or frightening conditions, although all admitted to occasional eruptions; instead I saw good work to detach prisoners from drugs, educate those of low previous attainment, and give training for future jobs. All the prison governors I met were most generous with their time, and these were some of the most fascinating conversations in the entire year.

Famously, County Durham's is the UK's only 'Outstanding' police force, a distinction held already for three years, and it was a revelation to see at first hand what that means. From all four emergency services I learnt much – for example how heavy, hot and frankly intolerable it is to

Below: Four speakers at an event in Bishop Auckland to celebrate the suffragettes: Durham County Councillor Joy Allen, the Lord-Lieutenant of Durham Sue Snowden, the High Sheriff, and Bishop Auckland MP Helen Goodman





News from and about members



wear full protective gear for even 20 minutes in a situation like the Grenfell fire or the Salisbury poisoning. The fitness requirements for both men and women are extreme, let alone the relentless training that goes into the level of organisation and discipline these jobs demand. Heroes indeed.

On the military front Durham has no army base or airfield to compete with North Yorkshire or Northumberland but I greatly enjoyed meeting Army Reserve members at their local bases, and seeing the work that goes on to educate cadets and care for veterans.

Throughout my year I focused strongly also on the voluntary organisations that underpin all the above: those who support prisoners and their families, who work with drug and alcohol addicts, who help women who have fled abusive relationships, and who care for the mentally ill and vulnerable. These often unrecognised people are the bedrock of society, and my admiration for them is boundless.

Today, I am repeatedly asked: 'Have you enjoyed your year?' My answer is a resounding 'yes'. It was the most rewarding, most interesting and most revealing year of my life. The magnificent service of Matins for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice in Durham Cathedral inevitably heads the list of highlights, and being granted another Cathedral Service of Thanksgiving shortly before I stood down was an exceptional privilege. Alongside these, other memorable events were the High Sheriff's Awards, three royal visits, and explorations in areas of County Durham I knew less well, kindly hosted by mayors and council chiefs.

One unexpected delight was an event in Bishop Auckland to commemorate the suffragettes, at which I was one of four speakers. Another



Far left: At my Declaration with His Honour Judge (Christopher) Prince and the Chief Constable of Durham, Michael Barton

Left With Seaham Coastguard Station Officer, Dean Cassidy

was citizenship ceremonies. I asked one Iraqi candidate why he had chosen to become British. 'Because your country, out of several I have lived in since leaving Iraq, most closely matches what I believe in.' Asking him to explain, I got this very heartening answer: 'Good race relations, honesty and justice.' 'I don't think we do any of those things perfectly.' I said, 'but perhaps we do them better than some countries.' 'Correct,' he said.

As to whether, in a single year, any High Sheriff can make a difference, I quote an email from a voluntary organisation I visited in Hartlepool: 'I just wanted to say, on behalf of all our members, a huge thank you for taking the time out of your busy diary to visit and see what we achieve with our members. They (as well as the volunteers) were ecstatic that you took the time to speak to them on an individual basis. It made them feel very special.' That, in a word, justifies entirely the High Sheriff's role. I am honoured, and humbled, to have occupied it for a year.

❖ Caroline Peacock

High Sheriff of the County of Durham 2017-18



Left With my husband Jonathan and, in the centre, Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team Leader, Steve Owers



Dyfed women make Welsh history

AS BEFITS the centenary of women's suffrage, my Declaration as High Sheriff at Cardigan Castle was also a Dyfed 'first' for a lady Lord-Lieutenant and Wales's first female bishop, the new Bishop of St Davids!

Dyfed is Wales's largest county, comprising Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire so this year I have busily traversed its mountains, rivers and spectacular coast road.

Small wonder two of our three royal visitors this year came by helicopter – HRH The Prince of Wales during his summer 'Wales Week' at his Dyfed home, Llwynwernmod, and subsequently to Llanelli to open the new Wales Air Ambulance Station in March; HRH The Princess Royal landed in January snow for a Motor Neurone Disease Association event in Aberystwyth. However, HRH the Earl of Wessex came by road for a Duke of Edinburgh Awards day at the National Botanic Garden of Wales in October.

During my year I was privileged to attend ceremonies at three university campuses in Aberystwyth, Lampeter and Carmarthen, perhaps the most exotic being a grand Buddhist 'Veneration of the Ancestors' ritual at Lampeter's Academy of Sinology with my chaplain Rev Canon Enid Morgan.

July saw West Wales Freemasons donating a new St John ambulance, followed by visits to the Army, HMS Pembroke in Milford Haven, and the



Royal Welsh Agricultural Show where Carmarthenshire was the host county.

My husband Denis and I attended memorable legal services in the Inner Temple and Llandaf Cathedral; also World War One commemorations and carol concerts in local chapels, as well as Remembrance Day.

The tremendous camaraderie among the Welsh Shrievalty past and present has been a real joy. With no Crown Courts in Dyfed we were most grateful to be invited by the High Sheriffs of Glamorgan to legal dinners with distinguished visiting Circuit and Appeal Court judges in Cardiff.

Visits to Dyfed's many charities were both humbling and inspirational, especially our hospices, including a moving presentation of a BEM to a patient by the Lord-Lieutenant Ms Sara Edwards.

As the NSPCC was one of my charities I had briefings by Dyfed Powys Police

Above: High Sheriff's Declaration all-women line-up (L-R) Gwen Burgess JP (witness), chaplain Revd Canon Enid Morgan, HM Lord-Lieutenant Sara Edwards, the High Sheriff Susan Balsom, the Bishop of St Davids, Rt Revd Joanna Penberthy

child protection teams and their impressive cybercrime unit. My admiration for our police and fire and rescue services is immense. They serve a vast rural area with very diverse towns and a long coastline where they are responsible for security aspects of ferries to Pembrokeshire and the UK's strategic energy supplies to our Milford Haven deep water ports, not to mention the seasonal influx of tourists. It was therefore a pleasure to attend the Dyfed Powys Police Awards with BBC newsreader Huw Edwards.

My other charity was the West Wales Sea Cadets for whom we raised funds for two new training boats, including kind donations from local societies after talks about the history of the Shrievalty.

Finally, it was an enormous honour and very salutary to preside over a number of Citizenship Ceremonies; also to serve as the returning officer for Ceredigion at the 2017 general election – despite three recounts and the final declaration at 6.30 am the next day!

♦♦ Susan Balsom

High Sheriff of Dyfed 2017-18

Below left: Naming *Sheriff*, one of two new training boats donated to Aberystwyth Sea Cadets

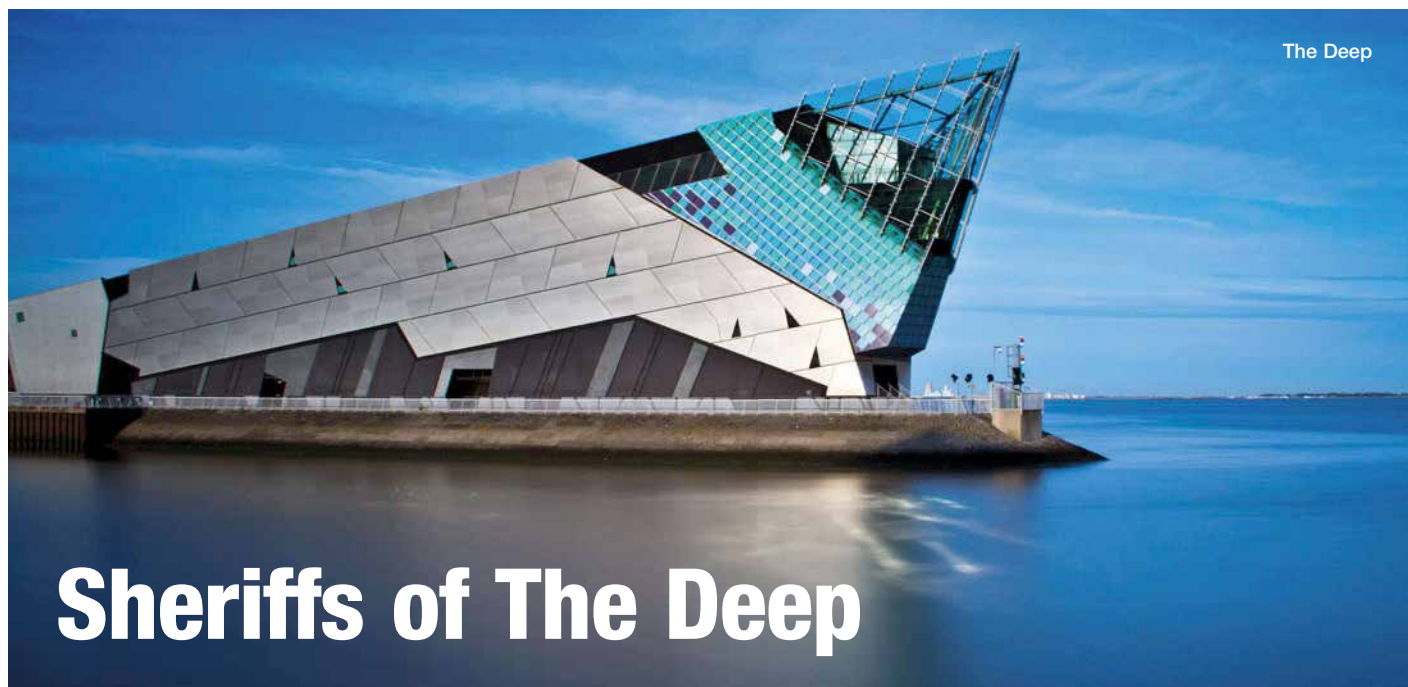
Below right: Visit by HRH the Earl of Wessex to Duke of Edinburgh Awards at the National Botanic Garden of Wales





EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

News from and about members



The Deep

Image courtesy of Hull City of Culture

Sheriffs of The Deep

A MOST agreeable feature of my year of office has been the companionship and camaraderie that developed quickly among my fellow High Sheriffs in the North East of England. We have met on a number of occasions and shared our experiences and stories. To deepen our friendship, I invited all the Sheriffs and their spouses to the City of Hull for an afternoon's engagement and dinner. Sadly, not all were able to accept but Stephen (South Yorkshire) and Anne Ingram, Terry (West Yorkshire) and Liz Bramall and John Dickinson (Northumberland) made the journey.

We rendezvoused at The Deep, the impressive 'submarium' located at the junction of the River Hull and the Humber Estuary. My husband, Professor David Drewry, had been a board member of The Deep for ten years and organised a private tour. The Deep was constructed between 1999 and 2002 and has been one of the most successful of the Millennium Lottery projects – a partnership between the City and the University. The 'aquarium' is home to sharks, rays and northern Europe's only pair of green sawfish along with many other fish. Other marine life on display include fish that glow in the dark, corals, turtles, jellyfish, frogs, an Amazon flooded forest and many species of insects.

Freya Cross, the business manager, briefed us in the Observatory, an eyrie at the high apex of this futuristic building designed by Sir Terry Farrell. From this vantage point we could view the city, the impressive Humber Bridge to the west and the burgeoning green energy developments eastwards. The Deep welcomes between 400,000 and 500,000 visitors a year, twice as many as in its original plan. Our tour commenced in an area not available to the public – the hydraulic research facility of the University of Hull. Here we were shown the 16m-long flume that can simulate river flows, tidal reaches, generate waves up to 0.3 metres and be deluged by tropical rain. It is one of the largest facilities in Europe and is in constant



An aquarist describes some of the fish species in the tanks. (L-R): John Dickinson, Terry Bramall, Gill Drewry, Liz Bramall, Stephen Ingram, Anne Ingram

demand from international investigators. We witnessed experiments related to stabilising braided river channels in semi-arid regions using vegetation.

We then went into the public areas of massive tanks commencing with a lift that took us 10m through the largest tank, viewing the fish as we ascended slowly. Thereafter we were briefed by one of the aquarists regarding coral reefs and threats to them, entered discussions on sharks as we viewed a number in the largest tank, and were shown the very novel display of Gentoo penguins against the backdrop of South Georgia. An important objective of The Deep is a commitment to engaging with our local community – helping to raise learning aspirations among young people and inspiring future generations of pioneering scientists, researchers and conservationists.

We left The Deep having experienced a fraction of what it can showcase. We returned to my home just south of Beverley where we enjoyed a convivial dinner exchanging views and tales; in this way we were able to reinforce both our friendship and our commitment to involvement in our communities.

♦♦ Gill Drewry

High Sheriff of The East Riding of Yorkshire 2017-18



Working as one

ON 22 May 2017, Manchester suffered a horrendous terrorist bomb attack. Twenty-two innocent children and adults lost their lives and hundreds were injured. Twenty-four hours later, a vigil took place in Albert Square outside Manchester Town Hall, the most emotional experience of my shrieval year.

On this poignant, painful and respectful day, the city was sombre and reflective. People of all ages, ethnicities, faiths and cultures came together. In the midst of sorrow was pride, passion, defiance and the true diversity of Manchester. In the following days and weeks, the City authorities, the emergency services, the medical profession and the people of Manchester worked as one – with grit, determination, efficiency, empathy and togetherness.

During these traumatic times, Greater Manchester Police were taken to people's hearts. As High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Her Majesty The Queen's appointee upholding all aspects of law and order, I felt strongly that their good work needed to be acknowledged by my office. As a citizen of Greater Manchester, I wanted to stand together with my fellow Mancunians and show my respect and gratitude to GMP – those feelings took me to the chief constable's door.



The Lady Mayoress of Manchester, the late Mrs Sheila Newman, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman, the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Chief Constable of GMP, Ian Hopkins, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Mr Andy Burnham

There was no way to thank the 1,000 officers and staff involved in one go – there would be no bobbies left on the beat – so it was agreed that four GMP Staff Arena Recognition Events would be organised, and everyone would be invited.

As this High Sheriff happened to be in the restaurant business, the choice of venue was straightforward. However, much thought, consideration and meticulous organisation was put into the events – timing, scale and most importantly ensuring that the tone was right to show respect for the victims and their families.

The dates were set for the beginning of February 2018 and I went out to friends, business associates and the Chinese community to look for sponsorship. The response was overwhelming and heart-warming. The

events were attended by the Lord Mayor of the City of Manchester, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the Chief Constable of GMP, and myself. We all spoke movingly of our respect for the officers and the staff of GMP and BTP; their sacrifices, their professionalism and their care and compassion.

Chinese Lion Dancers performed – traditionally used on important occasions and what could be more important than to say thank you to such incredible people. From their feedback, it appears that we delivered what we intended:

'The thought that all the businesses and the High Sheriff provided everything as a thank you to the emergency services is really wonderful and the speeches reinforced that message.'

'What a lovely gesture and so very generous and much appreciated.'

'Lovely evening, fantastic food, very respectful.'

'Last night was brilliant – it allowed staff to come together, relax and support each other. For me it provided some "closure" and allowed me to think and refocus... I am really grateful.'

Heartfelt thanks go to all my friends, colleagues, the chief constable and the awards team at GMP for making these events possible.

♦♦ Kui Man Gerry Yeung
OBE DL

High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2017-18



The Manchester Chi Mo Kung Fu Dragon and Lion Dance Group



'999 show' in Hampshire

ON 29 May I helped organise and stage a '999 show' celebrating the work of the emergency services at the National Motor Museum visitor attraction at my family home in Beaulieu, Hampshire. We had a large turnout of organisations and charities including the Hampshire Fire and Rescue service, Police Roads unit, Police Special Constables, South Central Ambulance, Hants Search and Rescue, St John Ambulance, Police Rescue Dogs, Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Speedwatch team, Police Cadets, Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officers, Police Countrywatch unit, Coastguard, Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, the Special Operations Regiment (Military Police), the Rifles' Band and Bugles, and more. We promoted the event extensively and around 2,000 people came to watch, learn and give generously to the organisations.

There was an excellent and popular public demonstration with a live commentary of an extrication from a road traffic accident demonstrated by a combined team from the police, ambulance service and our local retained fire service. We had a murder mystery trail in the house, with the Special Operations Regiment forensics investigators showing visitors their latest fingerprinting techniques and a fictitious murder victim taped out on the library floor. Visitors had to work out who had 'done it' using clues and evidence and entered a prize draw at the end of the day. We also had the Close Protection unit demonstrating how to protect and rescue a 'VIP' in a crowd. We had the help of a local famous Southampton FC footballer to be our 'VIP' and he was 'attacked' and 'rescued' from a crowd.

The Hampshire Fire and Rescue service demonstrated some of their new equipment, and their investigating arson fire dogs stole the show with their amazing performance.

The charity Prison Me No Way! had its prison cell van on display and raised awareness of its work in education throughout the county in informing young people about life 'inside'.



About 30 authentic old police cars, ambulances and fire engines turned up to add to the displays as well as a wonderful actual 'Law and War' 1945 police station, complete with uniformed re-enactors.

The New Forest has unusual road problems with ponies and cattle allowed to roam across all the roads resulting in around 80-100 road traffic accidents and deaths to animals a year. We had a pony and foal to raise awareness of this problem and local experts gave driving advice.

Throughout the day I was able to meet many members of the public and explain the role of High Sheriff and I hosted a reception for members of the Hampshire law and order community and many civic leaders.



Above left: At the 999 Show with Hampshire Special Constable Rachel West and Acting Special Sergeant Mike Elkins

Above right: Law at War – Re-enactors at the 1945 police station

Throughout my year I have been particularly impressed by the training and high standard of service of all the emergency services alongside the police and all the voluntary groups which support and work with them. They are under constant pressure and perform their duties with great care and dedication. I hope I never have an accident but if I do, I will know that I will be in the best possible hands.

♦♦ **Hon Mrs Mary Montagu-Scott DL**

High Sheriff of Hampshire 2017-18



Winchester Law Sunday in October: 10 High Sheriffs outside the judges' lodgings (L-R): West Sussex Lady Emma Barnard, Surrey Robert Napier, Bristol Anthony Brown, Somerset Richard Hickmet, Berkshire Sarah Scrope, Dorset John Young, Isle of Wight Ben Rouse, myself, Wiltshire Lady Marland and Gloucestershire Andrew Tabor, with the Hon Mrs Justice May and Hampshire Lord-Lieutenant Nigel Atkinson and Mrs Atkinson and the Under Sheriff Rachel Brooks



A vicar's life

THERE HAVE been few ordained High Sheriffs, and very few ordained female High Sheriffs. Although I was delighted to have a background in rural ministry in taking on the role, I did not expect suddenly to be faced with an interregnum, which meant that I had to take charge of eight parishes while at the same time – in the words of the Declaration – having to ‘take charge of the county’. It was quite a challenge of diary management!

I chose as my theme for the year *Tackling Loneliness and Isolation*. Loneliness is more widespread and more debilitating than any of the more fortunate can imagine, and dealing with it transforms lives as well as strengthens communities. The amounts of money needed to make a difference – especially when local government is so strapped for cash – are

not large, and parish councils can play a vital part, complementing the work of volunteers. Lunch clubs, community transport, good neighbour schemes and social prescribing all have a role, and they complement the work of the police and fire and rescue services in identifying and supporting vulnerable people.

I convened a half-day conference for parish councils and all those with an actual and potential role. It was chaired by the Bishop of Hereford, and I was also hugely grateful for the powerful personal support that the Archbishop of Canterbury gave to my campaign. If any High Sheriff, in office or in nomination, would like a copy of my how-to-do-it handout on tackling loneliness, I will be happy to share it. This is a cause in which the ability of High Sheriffs to bring people together and energise them can have wonderful results.

The theme of loneliness was reflected in the hymns and liturgy of my Legal Service in Hereford Cathedral (for which I exercised my privilege of having my sword carried before me rather than wearing it – in this case, appropriately, by the County Colonel of The Rifles). Continued access to local justice in a rural county such as Herefordshire is a matter of increasing concern, so it was good to have such a splendid turnout of judges.

The legal theme was continued in my High Sheriff's Lecture to a packed house, in which Lord Judge, the former

Above: Before my Legal Service in Hereford Cathedral in October 2017. L-R: Stephen Betts (Worcestershire), Charles Lillis (Shropshire), His Honour Judge Plunkett QC, His Honour Judge Overall QC, Rt Hon Lord Justice McFarlane, Dowager Countess of Darnley JP (Lord-Lieutenant, Herefordshire), Revd Lady Lisvane (High Sheriff, Herefordshire), Rt Hon Lord Hughes of Ombersley, Rt Hon Lady Justice Thirlwall DBE, His Honour Judge Cartwright QC, Mark Davies CVO (Warwickshire), Air Vice-Marshal Michael Smart OBE DL, His Honour Judge Hilliard QC (Recorder of London), Jeremy Wilding (Under Sheriff, Herefordshire), Col Andrew Taylor OBE DL (County Colonel, The Rifles) Photo credit: Sally Corrick

Lord Chief Justice, reviewed the health of our largely unwritten constitution and identified threats to its proper working.

When I appointed my wonderful High Sheriff's Chaplain, the Reverend Ruth Hulse, I did not realise that I was going to have to share her with millions of television viewers; but Ruth was a star of the BBC series *A Vicar's Life*, which did a splendid job of showing the challenges and rewards of rural ministry as well as showing off our beautiful county.

The combination of ‘Reverend’, ‘Lady’ and ‘High Sheriff’ gave rise to quite a few protocol moments, and I got used to ‘Reverend Sheriff’ and ‘Lady Sheriff’; but the prize (at a rather grand occasion which shall remain anonymous) must, I think, go to ‘Reverend Mother’.

♦♦ Jane Lisvane
The Reverend Lady Lisvane
High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2017-18



A Vicar's Life: my Chaplain, Revd Ruth Hulse, with the Bishop of Hereford Photo credit: Sally Corrick

NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT @20



National Crimebeat then and now

◆ Barbara Wilding CBE QPM

*Chair, National Crimebeat,
Mid Glamorgan 2011-12*

WHY CELEBRATE the 20th year of National Crimebeat? Well, why not when the Shrievalty, Association members and National Crimebeat have a remarkable story to tell, one that perhaps we should have shouted about much more than we have over the those 20 years.

It is a fact that the role of the High Sheriff has changed much since National Crimebeat was incorporated on 3 December 1997. A major repository of evidence of how High Sheriffs have evolved over these 20 years to meet the needs of a different kind of civic mission lies in the National Crimebeat archives. The reach of the projects High Sheriffs have identified and submitted to this national competition is truly astounding. For instance, the 2018 winning and Special Award projects had at the time of the ceremony a combined reach of well over 100,000 young people, with many more in the pipeline. Multiply that over 20 years and you will understand the scale of impact the Office of Sheriff has had in supporting young people creating safer communities. What outstanding evidence to counter those doubting Thomases who question whether the High Sheriffs are relevant in the 21st century.

Julian Avery's remarks, therefore, are a resounding endorsement of the foresight of the then Shrievalty Association to establish National Crimebeat as the Youth Crime Prevention Charity of the Association.

This over-arching body was created to support the increasing number of High Sheriffs who wished to start a local Crimebeat scheme in their counties. In 1997 there were 12 county schemes under the founding Chairman David Wigglesworth (Derbyshire 1992-93) and trustees; this grew to 33 by 2003. They also introduced the annual competition to which High Sheriffs could submit youth crime prevention projects, mainly from County Crimebeats. Following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act other organisations, over time, became involved

“Wednesday's award ceremony was not only the best ever, it was a wonderful showcase of the value of National Crimebeat and its importance to the Shrievalty.”

◆ Julian Avery,

*President, High Sheriffs' Association,
20 April 2018*

in community safety initiatives with young people. Recognising this development the trustees reinforced to High Sheriffs that they could submit a project from any organisation in their county.

This remains the case today. Though modelled differently this annual competition continues to attract projects from a wide range of sectors. After reading the descriptions of the 2018 winners we are sure you will agree that they provide prime examples of the various sectors High Sheriffs engage with during their term of office.

So there is a lot to celebrate and we were delighted when HRH the Duchess of Gloucester GCVO, Senior Master Barbara Fontaine, Queen's Remembrancer and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Cressida Dick CBE QPM accepted our invitation to join us on this very special day. The Duchess graciously agreed to stay for



HRH the Duchess of Gloucester GCVO, being greeted by David Jones DL (right) on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, the Hon Hugh Tollemache, Chairman, High Sheriffs' Association and Barbara Wilding, Chair National Crimebeat

the whole ceremony and expressed a desire to have the opportunity to talk to the young people. From the photographs you will see just how enthusiastically she and the young people engaged together. Senior Master Fontaine said of the ceremony: 'It was such a worthwhile and uplifting occasion... But most impressive, and moving, was the realisation of the underlying work put into the schemes devised by each group, and the very valuable role they are playing in helping other young people with many different problems.'

Every year we invite High Sheriffs who submitted the winners together with county supporters to attend the ceremony to cheer their young people's achievement. Of course we also hope those attending will encourage High Sheriffs in nomination to consider National Crimebeat during their year, ensuring our archive of evidence continues to grow. But, just as importantly, that the projects will gain publicity which might also inspire others to become engaged with youth crime prevention projects.

Having attended the ceremony, James Furber (Greater London 2017-18) said: 'These awards and ceremony are impressive. I do hope more High Sheriffs will nominate projects in the coming years.'



Barbara Wilding, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, David Jones DL and James Furber, Greater London 2017-18

We agree with Leah Sareen, programme officer for Nottinghamshire County Council, *Dragons' Den* project, who said: 'The ceremony and presentations should... receive national news coverage especially given the current focus on the media and youth violence. People need to hear the amazing work being led across the country by young people.'

This year we invited a number of BA Illustration students from Cardiff Metropolitan University to illustrate the crime prevention landscape as seen through the eyes of our 2018 project winners. The illustrations you see in this supplement aim to depict the role of the National Crimebeat Awards in that landscape.

We hope you agree with us that it is also a stunningly accurate illustration of the role the Office of Sheriff in the 21st century. Further on in the supplement you will find out not only how the illustrators approached their work but also what an impact the projects had on them as well.

Before moving on to the 2018 winning projects we must say a big thank you to our sponsors, without whom we would struggle to find the money for the prizes, hold the ceremony and provide the exciting trips for our prize winners. The prize sponsors are identified with each of their winning projects. Imperial Hotels Group, our long-term sponsor of the venue, lunch and the London Eye Pods,

was represented by Alex Walduck son of our Hon President Richard Walduck. Unfortunately, Richard was unable to join the ceremony but we sent our very best wishes to him for a speedy recovery through Alex. Big Bus Tours has every year provided an open-top bus tour of London for the winners. To them all we really are most grateful – they have helped to create many wonderful experiences for some very special young people. It really means so much.

'The open-top bus tour of London was thoroughly enjoyable and many pictures were taken; pictures that will be embedded in their minds for a long time...' Natalie Walsh and Peter Ball, leaders *FAITH 2017*, Merseyside.

20th anniversary awards ceremony 2018

THIS YEAR'S ceremony was of course much, much more than just celebrating 20 years of National Crimebeat. As ever it was about young people creating safer communities through their projects, whether they or an adult had the initial idea, which the young people developed, managed and delivered.

High Sheriffs in 2017-18 reached new levels. Having submitted the same number of projects as in 2016, which was at the time the highest number since National Crimebeat was restructured in 2012, 2018 saw more counties engaged with this national competition and for the first time every High Sheriffs' Association region participated. Tremendous achievements which we must all strive to attain if not surpass in the years to come.

Judging was certainly difficult, so much so that the shortlist was a very long list indeed. On final judging day, however, there was unanimity; the finalists of both categories were selected and the winning order decided. In addition, the judges awarded 16 Highly Commended and Commended Certificates.

In keeping with tradition none of the finalists knew the winning order until the ceremony itself. Before the announcement each team came on to the stage in alphabetical order and gave a seven-minute



presentation, which was judged to decide which one best kept to time, explained the need for the project, how it was delivered and the outcomes already achieved. This year the presentations were very well rehearsed, plenty of notice having been given of the VIPs in the audience. A real tour de force with no evident nerves – everything really was all right on the night.

We were entertained by humour coupled with serious issues presented by young people in a manner that reaches out to their peers. We were asked by Nottinghamshire's *Know Your Rights* team to take part in a quiz, and watched an experiment conducted by Warwickshire's *Street Aware* team on volunteers from the Tower Hamlets Volunteer Police Cadets who, as it turned out, were right to be rather reluctant! The Commissioner was

observed making copious notes and the Her Royal Highness asked well-informed questions about the projects.

With tension mounting in the room His Honour Shaun Lyons, Independent National Crimebeat Panel Judge, took to the stage and announced the winners in reverse order starting with the Youth Led category. The ceremony this year had to keep to strict timing which meant that Shaun could say only a few sentences about each project. We have therefore reproduced here the key aspects recognised by the judges of each project. We hope that you will find this interesting.

As announced each project team returned to the stage for the prize sponsor to present a certificate and a cheque made out to the organisation and medals to the team members.

YOUTH LED AWARDS

These awards are for a group of young people (5 to 25 years) who have the idea for the project and who are then responsible for running it.



Presentation of first prize to the *MiLife* project team by Chris Driver on behalf of the sponsors Oldfield Partners



HRH the Duchess of Gloucester chatting to winners *MiLife*

Winner: Essex, *MiLife*

This project was submitted by the Epping Forest Youth Council (EFYC) which is made up of 25 young people elected by their school or college, including those in education and those who are working.

The project was conceived by the EFYC following extensive research which demonstrated the need for young people to have access to tools to help **build their**

resilience to deal with mental health issues, stress, bullying and prevent them turning to a life of crime and/or substance abuse.

The EFYC decided what they wanted to deliver and produced the tools – they wrote the script; acted and filmed it for an interactive website and an interactive forum theatre production; created a resource pack for teachers which they co-hosted, together with lunchtime follow-up sessions which they also delivered. *MiLife* is now being rolled out to the 13,000 pupils in Essex Secondary Schools.

Mental health issues concerning young people have been the subject of a number of projects submitted in very recent years. The judges took the view that no previous project in the youth led category had made the link so clearly with crime, antisocial behaviour and lack of community cohesion as *MiLife*. The quality of the resources produced by the project team was excellent which demonstrated their commitment and determination to make a difference for other young people.

Runner-up: Derbyshire, Project Zao

Project Zao was submitted from the Da Vinci Academy, Derby, by a small number of student ambassadors from the school, years 7-10, who wanted to raise awareness of the horrific impact knife crime can have. They decided to produce an immersive dramatisation showing the **consequences and devastation that can occur when knives are carried by young people.**

They planned the day and delivered it in their school; they carried fake knives, were arrested, handcuffed and placed in a police van. Ambulance crews and Blood Bike staff gave aid to two knife-carrying victims (ambassadors) made up with realistic life-changing injuries. Armed Response Officers demonstrated the use of Tasers and other disarming methods. To reinforce the key messages all the school's pupils attended an assembly where a sniffer dog detected an imitation knife in an actor pupil's bag.

The whole day was videoed and at the date of submission had over 20,000 hits on Facebook not just from the school but the wider community. At the ceremony the team revealed that this figure had been more than trebled. What a tremendous achievement which has attracted great comments including: 'please roll this out to as many schools as possible'.

The prevalence of knife crime among young people inevitably means that nearly

every year projects to deter knife crime are submitted by High Sheriffs. The judges had the benefit therefore of being able to judge the Da Vinci approach against the background of other such projects. They recognised that Da Vinci youth ambassadors had produced a very innovative day of scenarios which allowed their fellow pupils the opportunity to see and appreciate the effects of knife crime in real-life settings. It was clear from the information submitted that this project would have a lasting impact on young people.



Zao receiving their award from sponsor Sally Bowie, Council Member, High Sheriffs' Association (Leicestershire 2013-14)



Project Zao with (back centre) Senior Master Fontaine, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, and Lucy Palmer (Derbyshire 2018-19); far right, sponsor Sally Bowie, Council Member, High Sheriffs' Association (Leicestershire 2013-14)

Third Place: Nottinghamshire, Know Your Rights

This was submitted by the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission on Crime and Policing – 27 young people aged between 14 and 25 years working with other young people. The youth commissioners discovered that young people have difficulty in communicating with the police. **One of the reasons behind that is confusion – not understanding or having knowledge of their rights when stopped by the police.**

To tackle this the youth commissioners decided to produce a film, so they wrote the story and acted and filmed it. They took the film on a road show with an associated workshop which they also developed and delivered. This involves role play, quizzes and discussion groups held in youth clubs, schools, colleges and other such gatherings of young people.

The aim was to reach 500 young people in Nottinghamshire; at the time of submission they had reached 379 of which 81 per cent stated they had more confidence in dealing with the police as a result of the programme. At the time of the ceremony it was revealed that their target had been surpassed. The model is now being replicated in other regions of the country.

The judges recognised that this is a very difficult and topical issue, being tackled in an innovative way which has already demonstrated considerable impact. Further, the judges took the view that for the youth commissioners to be so visibly involved in such a potentially divisive subject took great strength of character.



Know Your Rights with (L-R) the Countess of Erroll (High Sheriff Bedfordshire 2015-16, Chair of sponsors Bedfordshire Crimebeat), Senior Master Fontaine, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester and Col David Sneath, submitting High Sheriff



Know Your Rights recipients with HRH the Duchess of Gloucester

ADULT LED AWARDS

This category is for groups where the project was developed by others (adults) but where the young people have a significant role in the management and delivery of the project.

Winner: Greater London, Breck Ambassadors

The Tower Hamlets Volunteer Police Cadets learnt of the horrific murder of Breck, aged 14, by a paedophile, and also of his mother's drive to use Breck's story to warn young people about **online grooming**. Breck, an air cadet, and his friends met the offender on line. Following intervention by their parents, who worked



Breck Ambassadors making their presentation



Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick congratulating two Breck Ambassadors

together, all but Breck ceased contact with him. Unbeknown to his parents Breck went to meet him and he was murdered.

Having met Breck's mother and triplet siblings, 15 Tower Hamlets Volunteer cadets produced a PowerPoint presentation lesson and three videos, and commenced delivering the lessons in Tower Hamlets schools. They then trained 98 other Met Police Volunteer Cadets to become 'Breck Ambassadors' and deliver the lessons across London. Within eight weeks the lessons were delivered to over 6,000 pupils.

The Tower Hamlets cadets are now engaged with other forces' Volunteer Police Cadets hoping to train them to become Breck Ambassadors to deliver the lessons across the UK.

The judges were overwhelmed by the maturity of the approach taken to this emotional subject, which is universally acknowledged as very hard to combat. Using a real-life experience which ended in such tragedy was hard hitting, as were the videos, lesson notes and the overall delivery strategy of using cadets to communicate the difficult messages in schools. The reach of the project extended from Tower Hamlets across London and at the time of submission was being presented to other VPC schemes in the hope it would be adopted by them. The continued involvement and support of Breck's mother told the judges that the project had stayed loyal to her vision and Breck's memory.

Subsequent to the awards ceremony we have learnt that *Breck Ambassadors* will feature in the BBC's *Crimewatch Roadshow* in June.

Joint runners-up (county alphabetical order): Merseyside, FAITH 2017

After the Brexit vote a six-month programme of inter-faith activities was developed by young people in Alsop High School. The activities were designed to inspire young people in the school and local community to be compassionate, responsible citizens who would appreciate and respect the values of other faiths. The young people wanted to **prevent hate crimes and create community cohesion**.

They held a Hillsborough Justice Day; held workshops with leaders of different faiths following up with visits to mosques, synagogues and cathedrals; worked with a number of primary schools; led a pilgrimage of teddy bears around Liverpool; and produced a series of posters as a positive response to terrorist attacks. *FAITH 2017* won the Educate Community Partnership Award (across Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire) for having an impact on the lives of so many.

Community tension after the Brexit vote was frequently featured in headlines which cited increased reporting of hate crimes. The judges were impressed by the speed with which the school had recognised this and responded in such an inclusive manner. In addition, for the young people to be willing to be associated with the project both in their school and in the wider community demonstrated a deep understanding of the subject's importance. Further, engaging the primary schools and leading a 'Teddy Pilgrimage' round the community of Liverpool was a shining example of young people creating a safer community.



FAITH 2017 with submitting High Sheriff Stephen Burrows DL and Charlie Clark from award sponsors Linklaters



FAITH 2017 with HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, sponsors and leaders



Dragons' Den with (centre L-R) Charlie Clark from award sponsors Linklater, Senior Master Fontaine, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester and (far right) submitting High Sheriff Col David Sneath TD DL (2017-18)



The Dragons' Den project team presenting

Nottinghamshire, Dragons' Den

Year 10 pupils in Nottinghamshire secondary schools were tasked with producing a range of innovative ideas for a campaign in schools to raise awareness of young people's mental health problems. This would also produce interventions leading to young people dealing with their issues so that they gained emotional well-being and resilience.

The pupils from six schools presented ideas to a panel based on *Dragons' Den* as to how they would promote emotional health, well-being and build resilience to **prevent bullying, cyber-bullying, relationship abuse, child exploitation and hate crime**. The young people's ideas ranged from songs they had written, online apps they had created, videos they had designed, acted in and filmed, and a hashtag #fineisneverenough. Each idea had to be supported by a financial business case.

The two winning schools received cash prizes to use in delivering their winning innovations across all schools as part of a mental health campaign. It is intended that the outcomes will inspire others to roll out the messages to communities both locally and nationally.

The judges took into account that although the idea came from adults the young people rose to the challenge with innovative ideas underpinned by a business case. Further, each of the approaches taken by the winning teams showed just how much the young people understood the subject area and its relevance to crime, community cohesion and safety. The likelihood of reaching a wide audience for the winning ideas was clear.

Warwickshire, Street Aware

This project was inspired by a father whose son had become involved with legal highs. His vision was that schoolchildren would be more receptive to their peers talking about drug abuse rather than a teacher. He funded a programme for peer educators to be trained who then trained youth ambassadors aged 16 -20 years to go into schools with them to deliver lessons on drug abuse.

The peer educators who volunteered for this training were often NEETS and, once trained, they arranged awareness days in schools, colleges and local community events. This produced a number of potential youth ambassadors, aged 16-20 years, and they now total 45. A peer educator and a **youth ambassador go into a school together to talk to pupils about drug misuse**. The sessions are informal, and full of lively discussion with excellent rapport between the youth ambassadors and the pupils.

The sessions started in Nuneaton but due to their success they have been

introduced to all schools in the county. Over 6,000 pupils have benefited to date from these youth ambassadors' input.

Over the years many projects submitted by High Sheriffs have dealt with this issue, using ex-users to talk to young people in an attempt to deter them from becoming involved with the drug scene. The judges were impressed by the quality of the interaction in the classroom depicted in the supporting video and also that the reach of the project has been extended across the county, which clearly demonstrates the impact it is having.

The Warwickshire presentation also won the **Hugh Burnett Prize** of £100 cash.

NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT SPECIAL AWARD

Occasionally a project is submitted which the judges consider is worthy of a National Crimebeat Special Award. It is usually a project which is both innovative and has a major impact on crime prevention across England and Wales and is recommended and agreed by the trustees.

The 2018 National Crimebeat Special Award was presented by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester to Durham Constabulary who initiated the Mini Police project in primary schools. Children identified as suitable by their teacher apply, obtain references (from their teacher or parent), and are interviewed. All are accepted and are provided with coats, caps and high visibility jackets by the police. They then undertake a seven-week intensive training programme, followed by three engagements per term.

They deliver talks to the whole school on topics such as water safety, internet safety, illegal money lending, online fraud and cybercrime.

They identify an issue in their community and with support they problem-solve – helping with community speed watches, bulb and flower planting, litter picking, and visiting local mosques.

The scheme builds the children's self-esteem and confidence and understanding of how to contribute positively to those living and working near their school and in their community. They also learn to trust the police. These improved relationships lead to positive engagement with their families and the wider community.

The success of the Durham project, at the time of submission, led to seven other police forces adopting the model, with around 3,500 mini police officers taking part in each academic year at 130 schools,



Street Aware enlist the help of the Tower Hamlets Volunteer Police Cadets for their experiment during their award-winning presentation



HSA Chairman Hugh Tollemache handing over the Hugh Burnett prize of £100 cash to Street Aware



Street Aware with Charlie Clark (centre left) from award sponsors Linklaters and (far right) Street Aware founder Mr Richard Smith

with indirect engagement with over 40,000 children. This has inspired 10 more police forces to adopt the model and by April 2018 285 schools were delivering the scheme and 85,000 children were indirectly engaged. Since that time these numbers have increased to over 100,000 children.

The Mini Police team were supported at the ceremony by the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary Michael Barton, the Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg and the submitting High Sheriff of Co Durham, Caroline Peacock (2017-18).



HRH the Duchess of Gloucester congratulates County Durham's Mini Police



Mini Police with PC Craig Johnson, National Crimebeat Chair Barbara Wilding, the submitting High Sheriff Caroline Peacock

HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AWARD

The High Sheriffs' Association Council, in recognition of National Crimebeat's 20th year celebration, made a one-off presentation of a £750 prize with conditions – the project had to be capable of being replicated across England and Wales; the prize money had to be spent achieving replication; the submitting High Sheriff had to agree to continue to support the project going forward; and a report on progress had to be submitted to Council after six months.

The judges reviewed all the projects and identified five which were capable of replication, and a recommendation was made to the Association's Chairman who agreed the High Sheriff of the project should be contacted to ensure agreement to the conditions. We were delighted when James Furber High Sheriff of Greater London undertook to support the *Breck Ambassadors* replication going forward. These are his reflections post the ceremony:

'I was absolutely delighted when *Breck Ambassadors* won the High Sheriffs' Association's special award. I was on the table with Lorin LaFave and she was genuinely moved that her efforts on behalf of her son were recognised in this way, as she has been totally enthusiastic and grateful about how the police cadets have been spreading the word and potentially saving many young people from the fate which befell her son.

'We will keep an eye on progress with the project with a view to reporting to members further later in the year.'



Breck Ambassadors, Lorin LaFave and Breck's sisters with sponsors from the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, Mrs Barbara Ide, Deputy Almoner and Mr Anthony Komedera, Master, Senior Master Fontaine, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick



HRH the Duchess of Gloucester with Lorin LaFave

Breck's mother Lorin LaFave and two of his triplet siblings, sisters, were able to attend the ceremony and talk to Her Royal Highness.

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, on hearing not only of the success of the *Breck Ambassadors* in winning first prize in the adult led category which they sponsored but also of this additional award, was so delighted that they invited two of the cadets' police officer leaders and a cadet to the company's spring dinner. Taking place six days before the ceremony meant that secrecy was the order of the day, which was difficult as Barbara Wilding, Chair of National Crimebeat, was the after dinner speaker.

Reflections after an inspiring milestone

THERE IS normally no stipulation on how prize money is spent, other than this year for the High Sheriffs' Association's prize. It is therefore so rewarding when we learn that it has been used to expand a project.

There are many examples we could quote but two stand out as noteworthy: Mencap Cumbria whose service users in 2014 made a video for other Mencap service users nationwide on 'Standing up to

Hate Crime'. They were category winners and using this success they were able to attract more funding; and with this and the prize money they made more videos. One of these the High Sheriff submitted to the 2017 competition – 'Is it OK?' – dealing with sex abuse; again, another winner. We were very proud to learn that the 2014 submission was the first time Mencap had entered a mainstream competition and to be winners was beyond anything they had experienced. What an

important *raison d'être* for the Office of High Sheriff.

'Kumon Y All' a youth club for Muslim boys from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire first entered a project in 2013. This concentrated on using a sports day with youths, elders and supporters to break down the barriers that existed between two communities divided by racial violence. Returning in 2015 they were again winners and over the years they have kept in touch with updates of their projects, one of which was an inspirational initiative for Muslim young women. Disappointingly this was not the subject of a submission.

We were delighted this year when Gaby Jones of Nottingham's *Know Your Rights* indicated that they too would keep up this tradition, saying: 'We're absolutely ecstatic to get this far and it's amazing to

come third and receive prize funding to go towards the project in the future.'

Although these examples are further evidence of the ongoing reach of the National Crimebeat winning projects, it very important that we all recognise the impact of the ceremony and day in London on the young people. Many are vulnerable themselves, have never left their town or village – in the case of Wales their valley – and nor been to London or won anything before.

Comments from primary school children through to young adults after the ceremony are inspirational for us all. They demonstrate the value of time spent by High Sheriffs encouraging applications and endorsing and submitting them, attending the ceremony where their county's finalists are receiving awards, and presenting Certificates of Commendation to teams achieving these.'

We think that primary school pupil Finley from the Mini Police encapsulates it all: 'I felt honoured to be a special award winner as I've never had the chance to do something like that before. Spending the day in London was fun because I had never been but the highlight of the ceremony was meeting the Duchess. It was a once in a lifetime experience.' His friend Eve had this to say: 'The whole experience was really fantastic and I couldn't wait to get back to Ebchester Primary School to tell all my friends.'

Leonora Troshupa, aged 17 from *MiLife*, said: 'I will be forever grateful for being part of such a brilliant day.' Another member of her team Matthew Tinker, aged 17, said: 'It was fantastic to share the successes of our project in front of other amazing young people.'

Leah Sareen of *Dragons Den* reported that one of the students from the project went home and '... shared his experience with his mum and said how inspired he had been and how moved he had been by Breck's story. I know because his mum made a point of telling me.'

Tower Hamlets Volunteer Police Cadet Uno Baker summed up the feelings of the *Breck Ambassadors* project: 'It's my last week as a cadet and this is the best day of my cadet career.'

We are always delighted when High Sheriffs in nomination contact us to check out their plans for attracting suitable projects to submit to us, especially where they do not have a local Crimebeat scheme, or where the county has either not engaged before or for some time. Earlier in the year Caroline Nicholls DL, now High Sheriff of West Sussex, contacted us and explained that West Sussex had not entered the awards for some years and she wanted to reverse this. We invited her to the ceremony and these are a few of her reflections:

'One of my favourite photos from my High Sheriff album so far is a picture of four Mini Police, standing proudly in their uniform next to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick and their Chief Constable at the National Crimebeat Awards.'

'In anticipation of my own visit to the awards I had been following Twitter – and these mini marvels from County Durham had been blazing a trail on their visit to the capital... How fantastic, I thought, if we could give our local youngsters that opportunity of a lifetime.'

'That's why I'm teaming up with

the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Major General John Moore-Bick, to launch the Sussex Crimebeat Challenge – essentially a campaign to encourage a host of entries for next year's National Crimebeat Awards from our two counties. We have also laid down a side challenge with the High Sheriff of Surrey Jim Glover!

'We will be engaging with our police and other emergency services, local youth and community organisations, the judicial service and local authorities to spread the word about the Sussex Crimebeat Challenge.'

Raising money for the awards is an essential role of the trustees and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows of any potential grant-making bodies or donors whom we might approach. An email via the website details will ensure a speedy response. Equally, queries or comments arising out of this special anniversary supplement will be welcomed.

Finally, thanks must go to all our VIPs, sponsors and trustees for making the 2018 celebration so successful and a key milestone in the Office of High Sheriff.

Planning for the 2019 ceremony is already under way and details are on the website. After all we MUST keep extending the reach of National Crimebeat projects so that our evidence base of the relevance of the High Sheriffs' civic mission stays fresh. The last words of our 20th celebration remain with HRH the Duchess of Gloucester: 'I should like to congratulate all the young people who have taken part and also congratulate National Crimebeat on your 20th anniversary. I do wish you all the best for the next 20 years.'

Out of the dark: our 20th anniversary celebratory illustration

WHY AN illustration?
Because in keeping National Crimebeat relevant to the issues currently facing young people today we must utilise all methods to communicate their outstanding contributions to crime prevention in a way that speaks to the relevant generations.

You will recognise that all the projects used different mediums to communicate with their various audiences. Shaun Lyons

acknowledged this when announcing the winning order at the ceremony saying: 'You have all identified with immense clarity the very problems affecting your generation and the people you are addressing.' Announcing the *Breck Ambassadors* he said: 'A perfect example of peer-to-peer work.' Taking the young people's lead in communication we have in the past 12 months revamped our website, videoed the 2017 and 2018 ceremonies for the website, and engaged

in social media – yes, we even have Twitter and YouTube accounts!

This year, in keeping with our principal objective of supporting young people, we asked students from Cardiff Metropolitan University School of Art and Design to consider how they might illustrate the crime prevention landscape through the eyes of our finalist projects.

The intention was not only for National Crimebeat to have an original record of the 2018 ceremony but for



the undergraduate students to study an unusual topic, experience different concepts and gain knowledge they could develop in their studies to achieve their degrees.

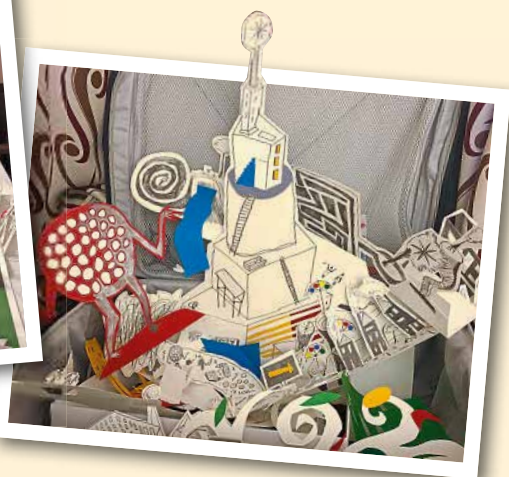
None of us realised what a powerful tool we had introduced. The introductory illustration 'NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT AWARD – out of the dark' is hugely thought-provoking and encapsulates the soul of the Shrievalty and every aspect of justice. We hope that when you read the extract below you too will agree the relevance of the High Sheriffs' raison d'être today has been captured in stark relief for posterity.

From an article written by Chris Glynn, Senior Lecturer of Illustration at Cardiff Metropolitan University, who oversaw the production of NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT AWARDS – out of the dark:

A team of BA Illustration students at Cardiff Metropolitan University took part in creating a pop-up panorama to illustrate and celebrate the work of shortlisted projects for the 2018 National Crimebeat Awards.

First-year students George Goom and Lucie Graham-Smith travelled from Cardiff to London to attend the ceremony, with ready-made elements for the pop-up packed flat in a suitcase. The team continued to illustrate scenarios during the awards presentations, in the presence of HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, the Queen's Remembrancer Senior Master Barbara Fontaine and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Cressida Dick.

The colourful 3D narrative presented a metaphorical journey: from a crime-ridden landscape, through a maze of Challenges, over bridges to a Forest of Positive Ideas, culminating in a Celebration of the shortlisted projects. Amid the excitement of the awards, some younger winners made time to contribute drawings of

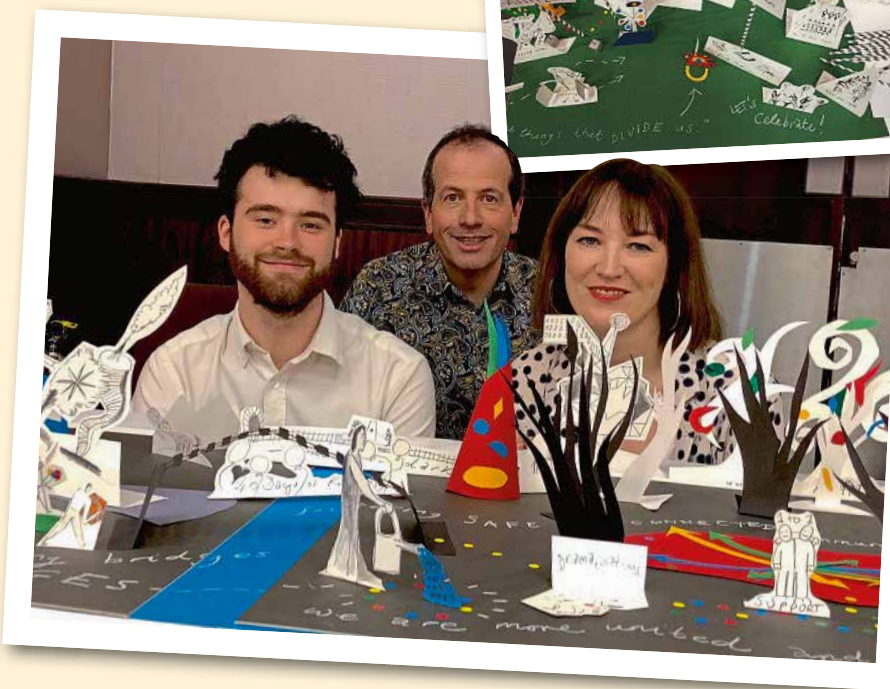


their project ideas, and towards the end of the event several guests and dignitaries engaged in lively conversation around the illustration. Image conversations

Lucie Graham-Smith reflected: 'I found it very challenging to turn these difficult, sometimes harrowing concepts into a visual. But it was inspiring knowing that the children we were going to meet had engaged in these situations and come up with original solutions for the problems. After seeing George's brilliant sketches, we decided to stick with his style. It became like a production line... many-eyed monsters, never-ending towers, un-escapable mazes were all flowing effortlessly from him; it was wonderful to watch! I helped cut out and add splashes of red, green and yellow with brightly coloured card and stickers. I think the style of drawing worked so well in conveying the young people's ideas. It was immediate, and fresh, with loads of energy.'

Chris Glynn said: 'It was a great honour for our students to contribute to a UK-wide initiative with such powerful reach and importance in the everyday lives of young people. George and Lucie handled the difficult subjects with sensitivity and imagination, reflecting the creativity and resourcefulness of the award-winning teams. It gave us new insight to meet participants, educators and stakeholders in crime prevention. We were inspired by the teamwork and commitment with which nominated teams developed their projects, using video, drama and a range of design methods, and we're looking forward to further visual conversations in this field.'

'Nothing I have seen to date so vividly records the world of crime and community tension which is very relevant to High Sheriffs' civic mission of today,' said Dr Wilding (Chair, National Crimebeat).





Looking after our own

IT HAS been an immense privilege being High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 2017-18. When I accepted the role it was with little understanding of what it involved and even less of where it might be possible to make a difference. Now that it is over, I am often asked: 'What next?' Good question... (It would have been good to have given this more thought!)

We all fulfil the High Sheriff's role a little bit differently and in that there are great opportunities for us to focus where we choose and to serve our communities in diverse ways.

The highlights are many: events and relationships with the Abbey in St Albans, Building Effectiveness programme at Hertfordshire Community Foundation, the relationship with the Hertfordshire Constabulary, charity bake-offs at the garden party, meeting so many great volunteers doing great things in the county, the sheriff knitted 'dolls' and the High Sheriff's Awards, the enthusiasm and passion which so many organisations apply to issues they really care about, the friends we have made across the county and in so many different communities, discovering so much more within Hertfordshire.

The most sobering activity was two days spent with Meals on Wheels in Stevenage and Rickmansworth (run by Hertfordshire Independent Living Services). On both days we saw over 20



High Sheriff dolls knitted by a group of ladies from St Michael and All Angels Knit and Natter group – all the more impressive as a number of the ladies are visually impaired



Tackling the Peace Plunge
Abseil organised by Peace
Hospice Care in Watford

Photo credit: Don Bennett

clients and each one had less than five minutes of interaction as we delivered and sometimes served the meal. For many of the clients this was the only human contact made that day. Of the 20 on each trip, about a third were single widows or widowers (mostly widows) who were living life as best they could in clean surroundings they could be proud of; a third 'managing', and then the rest with lives that seemed simply miserable: abandoned by families, lonely, often chain smoking, often cold, often eating and drinking badly.

The elderly in many parts of the county have local charities and groups which offer respite, company and the occasional meal or get together which helps enormously. For many others old age really does not appear to be life worth living. This issue is only going to become

more serious – there are lots of local districts in Hertfordshire where those over 50 will make up more than 50 per cent of residents in the near future.

If there has been one particular learning point, it is this: the state simply cannot take care of all the issues that arise in society. The welfare state was spelt out in the Beveridge Report of 1942 offering nothing less than a state that looked after us citizens 'from cradle to grave'. It is increasingly obvious that this cannot be fulfilled.

Instead, it is up to us as individuals, families and communities to 'look after our own' and spend whatever time and money we can looking after each other, volunteering and being prepared to get involved and be there to help each other.

♦♦ Will Hobhouse
High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2017-18



A bird's-eye view

I AM without doubt a different person from the one who stepped into the role of High Sheriff a year ago. I hope I'm an improved version, more aware – that I am, to use a popular new term, 'woke'.

In many respects, as a High Sheriff, you can hardly avoid becoming more aware of your community and the issues it faces, and through my year the Island has reinforced its position – in my mind at least – as the UK in microcosm. All the issues that face communities around the country are here; in smaller numbers certainly but they're here. One of the benefits of the unique position afforded by the role of High Sheriff is that it enables a panoramic view.

I made it a priority to meet as many people working in emergency and support services as possible. Achieving this goal helped me understand what motivated those individuals and also what they considered the barriers and difficulties they faced. It also allowed me to hear their stories from different perspectives but they all had a common aim: to support the community, make it stronger, and simply help people live their lives.

As the one with the bird's-eye view, I saw my opportunity as High Sheriff to

facilitate the different services working together: the police, the probation service, and the courts, or community and volunteer groups supporting different age groups and sectors.

With its links to law and order the office of High Sheriff also enabled me to visit HM Prison Isle of Wight. I could see first-hand the incredible work that prison staff do under increasing budget pressures. It's all too easy to dismiss the role of prison staff as just gaolers or crowd control but the knowledge and care that go into the day-to-day work of the governor and all the prison staff deserve greater recognition. I was very pleased to have been joined on one visit by the High Sheriffs of Devon and Cornwall. They found it interesting to reflect on prison work from a wider perspective, having visited facilities in their own region.

I also aimed to take the office of High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight on a social media journey, using these channels as a way to make it more accessible. Since the role has young people at its heart, it made sense to communicate in a manner appropriate to them. I may not be a Kardashians just yet but progress has been made!



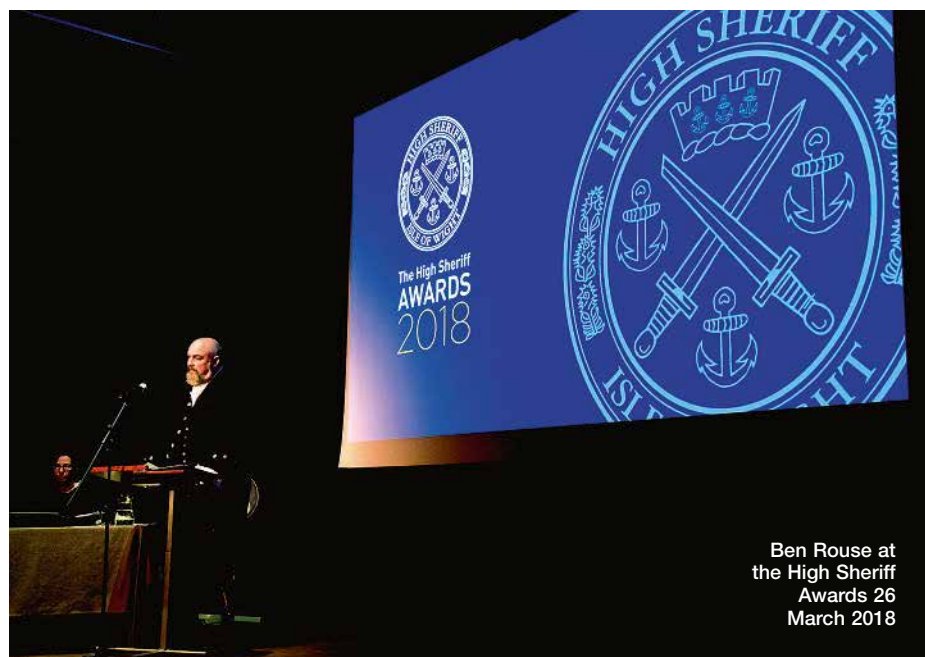
Photo credit: Heleen Lindsay-Fynn

High Sheriff of Cornwall Mrs Sarah Coryton, Ben Rouse, High Sheriff of Devon Mrs Heleen Lindsay-Fynn

This takes me neatly to the High Sheriff's Children and Young People's Awards, which were held at the end of March. I'm happy to report that we had the highest number of nominations in recent years. While it is sad to think that there are so many young people on the Island who have faced, or are facing, tough times in their lives, what is worth acknowledging and celebrating is that these young people are inspirational heroes to those who care for them and love them – and that extends to the wider Island community. Despite their own issues they all looked at the positive ways they could turn their adversity into help for others. It was a wonderful evening and I was honoured, and humbled, to meet them all and help celebrate their achievements.

It is very overwhelming when your year as High Sheriff starts but as it whips along it seems to be too short to do all the things you'd like to do. It has been a privilege to have served the Island over the last year and I wish every success to my successor, Gioia Minghella-Giddens.

♦ Ben Rouse
High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight 2017-18



Ben Rouse at the High Sheriff Awards 2018 March 2018

Photo credit: Robin Crossley, Isle of Wight County Press



A Kentish tale

IN APRIL 2017, I donned my court dress for the first time and followed in the footsteps of my grandfather and great-grandfather, who were both High Sheriff of Kent, with my own memorable Declaration service in Wye Church.

From the cab of a tractor it is quite impossible to imagine the thriving network of community-based projects quietly making a difference to lives across the county. One of my first invitations was to give out Local Community Awards to volunteers in tiny villages. Arriving in court dress made a bold statement and, not surprisingly, I was given a much warmer welcome once I explained that the role of High Sheriff was entirely self-funded!

Although I set out in my year to support rural activities and education, I have also spent many hours with judges in both Maidstone and Canterbury Crown Courts, sitting with them while they dealt with complex and harrowing cases. This led to the privilege of making Court Bravery Awards to those whose lack of concern for their own lives has been breathtaking. I am glad that for a brief moment their gallantry was recognised.

Early in my year I was invited to a Kent Police dinner where 300 special constables gathered to celebrate a year of achievement in the prevention of crime across the county. This initiated a valuable relationship with the chief constable and I attended several passing-out parades and award ceremonies. My time in various fast-moving squad cars

has taught me that our police are indeed stopping criminals in their tracks.

I have visited all of the prisons in Kent on a number of occasions to see the work of the governors and the prison officers. A young man, to whom I gave a High Sheriff's mentoring award, has now been released and with his award has secured a job.

The High Sheriff's Charity Awards held with Kent Community Foundation saw six worthwhile organisations receive certificates, cheques towards their work, and valuable PR. I also hosted a 'Causes that Matter' tea party for the managers and leaders of over 70 charities in Kent to meet each other and discuss challenges they face.

I have shared a silent toast with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and witnessed the presentation of their new colours; I watched 36 Royal Engineer Regiment march down Maidstone High Street with bayonets fixed and the Royal Engineers invited me to watch an explosives exercise on Rochester Bridge.

At a packed Easter Service this year, I was reminded of the moving occasions I have enjoyed in our two great cathedrals. The Justice Service with its pomp and circumstance, supported by our judiciary, formed an important part of my year. Kent is home to a mosaic of religions and I have

Below left: High Sheriff with representatives of the Kent Fire and Rescue Service, HM Coastguard and Reserve Forces at the Blue Light service

Below right: At the High Sheriff's garden party, L-R Lt Col Will Betts, Lt Col Will Robinson, Assistant Chief Constable Jo Shiner, Mr Andrew Shiner



Abbeyfield Kent Society celebrating its 50th anniversary in Canterbury Cathedral, (L-R) High Sheriff, Lance Sgt Johnson Beharry VC and Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Lord-Lieutenant

visited the Jewish Synagogue, the Gurdwara Sikh Temple and the Nazir Mosque, and was warmly welcomed by them all.

A first for Kent was the Blue Light Service that I held in Rochester Cathedral. We created a magnificent choral evensong and gathered a congregation of representatives from the emergency services. A police sergeant summed it up for me: 'Thank you,' he said, 'for thinking of us; it was nice to be appreciated for a change.'

I welcomed members of the royal family to Kent on several occasions: HRH The Princess Royal on the coldest day, HRH the Countess of Wessex on the hottest, HRH the Duke of Kent on the wettest and HRH Prince Michael of Kent in the fog. The royal family are indeed staunch supporters of our county!

A Man of Kent, I thought I knew so much about my county, but from the year I have just experienced, I can honestly say I have just scratched the surface.

♦♦ **George Jessel DL**
High Sheriff of Kent 2017-18





A strictly wonderful year!

AFTER SEVERAL months of varied and engaging experiences, I received in November an unexpected request to 'open the voting' when *Strictly Come Dancing* visited Blackpool. After considerable debate and analysis of the situation, and having been emboldened by 007's parachuting companion, I accepted. This turned out to be another unique and wonderful engagement, although being introduced with Sir Lenny Henry as part of 'the country's best loved comedy duo' was somewhat surreal.

Every year in Lancashire the High Sheriff has the honour of hosting the Young Citizen of the Year Awards. This year we had a very impressive list of winners who demonstrated a passion for improving their communities that was quite extraordinary. The young people of today often do not get proper credit for their actions, and it was a most uplifting experience to hear of their dynamism, creativity and compassion, and to meet them all. Like many of my shrieval experiences it was memorable.

In March I invited 15 voluntary organisations to come to a High Sheriff's Award Ceremony in County Hall where I

Top right: With the winner of Lancashire's Young Citizen of the Year Award Jessica Basquill, Joel Arber of the sponsor UCLan, and Andy Rhodes, Chief Constable

Below: Preparing to open the voting on *Strictly Come Dancing* with Claudia Winkleman and Sir Lenny Henry

Below right: Recipients of the High Sheriff's Awards at County Hall



presented them with Commendations. It was an extremely happy occasion and they all took great pride in being recognised for their outstanding work, as well as enjoying listening to the citations of their peers and having an opportunity to network afterwards over tea and cakes!

One of the themes I became aware of when visiting our public services throughout the county was the need and desire to develop better ways of delivering their objectives through closer partnerships with each other. In an attempt to promote and encourage this theme of collaborative partnering I hosted an event (supported by the University of Central Lancashire) for all the leaders of

our public services at which we had an intense interactive day together to identify opportunities and ways of making faster progress. I am hopeful that this initiative will gain traction and bear fruit in the near future.

My shrieval year has been a delightful blend of insightful visits and special events in wonderful venues, together with the opportunity to meet so many fine people who make such a positive impact on our county. It has been a great honour and privilege to hold the office and one which I will never forget.

♦♦ Robert Webb JP DL
High Sheriff of Lancashire, 2017-18





High aspirations and reflections

WHEN I made my Declaration as High Sheriff in April 2017, I had no idea of the adventure which was about to begin. It was a tremendous privilege to take on this ancient and historic role; while I learnt about the job – and also wrestled with wearing spurs – I also learnt an awful lot about the people of the region which has been my home for 25 years.

One of my most memorable nights was in a police patrol car when I saw the amazing work our police officers do day in, day out. It has been a privilege to work closely with the police and the cadets throughout my year. In my encounters with them, and with the fire and rescue service and the ambulance service I have met some remarkably gifted and talented people.

Of course, I have seen what happens in the judicial process as well. In addition to providing hospitality to visiting High Court Judges and getting a glimpse into the difficult job which they and other judges do, I have sat in court with them a number of times. I am full of admiration for the way in which they fulfil a difficult job, but maintain their humanity and good humour throughout.

As returning officer I declared the results at the general election; I have attended graduation ceremonies, visited prisons, attended several civic occasions and citizenship ceremonies, witnessed the swearing in of new magistrates; and visited all statutory services as well as many charities and voluntary organisations, all doing brilliant work.

The word 'duty' has cropped up many times this year, and I will admit that I have felt utterly humbled by what I have seen in the charitable and voluntary sector. So many people in this sector give time and money with unstinting generosity because they see it as their 'duty' and I have seen people taking that sense of duty way beyond what is expected of them.

The effects of poverty on the region have sometimes shocked me, and I believe that we all have a duty to tackle this. It is not just the individual impact of poverty, but also the economic impact it has on



Above: Outside Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas, Liverpool on Armed Forces Day

the region. It is in everyone's interests that we should do something to combat what we see around us and I have engaged with local officials to see how this problem can be addressed.

It has been a privilege to assist the Lord-Lieutenant in welcoming members of the royal family to Merseyside. One of those occasions was National Armed Forces Day when we were able to honour those who serve today in the armed forces, but there have been many occasions as well when we have remembered those who have served in the merchant navy or armed forces in the past.

Finally, I continue to be humbled by the tireless work carried out by the enormous number of volunteers within our county. The selfless help and assistance that they provide to so many people in need is a great inspiration to us all, and the welcome they have given both to me and my wife Gillian wherever we have visited has been very warm.

I have been both honoured and humbled during my year to serve as High Sheriff of Merseyside.

◆ **Stephen Burrows DL**
High Sheriff of Merseyside 2017-18



Above: The Queen Elizabeth Law Courts, Liverpool prior to the 'Signing of the Roll'. L to R: The Hon Mr Justice King, His Honour Judge Goldstone QC, Hon Recorder of Liverpool, Mrs Gill Burrows, the High Sheriff, Mr David Cam DL, Under Sheriff of the County Palatine of Lancaster, the High Sheriff's Chaplain the Revd Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Church of Our Lady and Saint Nicholas, Liverpool



Above: Inspecting the police cadets at Police HQ Liverpool



Life is not all about taking

MY YEAR serving my county as High Sheriff has been the busiest and most exciting and rewarding of my life so far. As I set out in April 2017, I undertook to set charity organisations in my sights and to a large extent that has been achieved with an assortment of fundraising events for Help for Heroes, Headway and ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

In the second part of my year in office my days got busier with various court cases in both Teesside and York Crown Courts. One particularly shocking trial was that of David Dearlove who murdered his young stepson in 1968; the victim's brother witnessed the killing but was told by Dearlove not to mention what he had witnessed. In 2015 the defendant posted a photograph on Facebook of him holding the 18-month-old whom he was to murder a couple of weeks later. The brother of the victim could not keep the secret for any longer and reported the crime to the police. Dearlove, aged 71, was sent down for 15 years.

On a lighter and more positive note I had the privilege of giving awards to officers in the North Yorkshire Police. One such was to Kimberley Copestake of Firearms who had performed a very brave act under the radar. In the line of duty she uses a Glock machine pistol, a good weapon made in Austria. As I presented her with a fairly hefty cheque in an envelope I said, 'Kimberley, you'll be able to buy yourself a good firearm with this.' She replied, 'High Sheriff, I'll ask North Yorkshire Police to buy one for me.'

I attended several briefings at Yorkshire's RAF stations and left each of them comfortable and safe in the knowledge that we are in good hands. One briefing outside the county was to RAF Bulmer in Northumberland. This station tracks every aircraft whether military or civilian, friend or foe within 250 miles of the UK. Persistent offenders are the Russians. One such incident was when a Blackjack Bomber could have been heading for London, so was duly intercepted by a squadron of Typhoons from RAF Lossiemouth. The pilot backed off and once our radar locked on to him he flew north over the Shetlands, the Western Isles, Ireland, The Bay of Biscay,



Attending Matins and the North Eastern Circuit Annual Legal Service at York Minster in October 2017



News from and about members



Gibraltar, the western and eastern Mediterranean heading for Syria, where he discharged his bomb load. 2018 is the centenary of the founding of the RAF and I congratulate them on a fine effort in difficult situations.

In December my wife and I attended the opening of Scruton Station on the Wensleydale Railway. Several hundred thousand pounds had been spent on the station thanks to an English Heritage grant to bring it back to its former glory. Everyone who works on the line does so entirely voluntarily. With charities in my sight I have offered some help. I am not sure in what capacity: a fireman or The Fat Controller more likely...

In March 2018 I elected to be imprisoned in HMP Kirklevington in aid of Headway and the ABE. Various friends donated a magnificent £16,616.25. I ate supper with a murderer and a petty offender. Angie Petit the governor is doing sterling work in this prison, as is being done in the Category A prison at Full Sutton; my wife and I came away from both establishments with a feeling that there was a great deal of respect and trust between the authorities and the inmates and vice versa. It quickly taught me that people serving sentences are not to be abandoned and every help is given to enable them to fit back into society once they are released. The prison authorities are doing a first-class job at both prisons and deserve congratulations.

“ *When I look back at this unique experience I am forever grateful for all the doors that have opened*

Throughout the year my wife and I have entertained many of the judges on the North Eastern Circuit at relaxed Sunday lunches and the occasional dinner with several of our friends joining us which we found gave the occasions a personal touch.

When I look back at this unique experience I am forever grateful for all the doors that have opened – among others – to the courts, the military bases, the many services at York Minster and Ripon Cathedral, and the North Yorkshire Police Force ably commanded by the terrific Dave Jones, who proudly admitted that North Yorkshire is the safest county in which to live in Britain. I recommend a year as High Sheriff to anyone because it can be so fulfilling. My late father once said to me that life is not all about taking but giving, and how right he was.

♦ **Simon Wrightson**

High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2017-18



'Enjoying' a night at Her Majesty's pleasure

Photo credit: Darlington & Stockton Times



An illuminating year

Above: VPC Eve Corbett certificate presentation at Legal Service

'NOT MANY people know that,' as Michael Caine once famously remarked. The *that* in this case is the north Nottinghamshire origin of many of the Pilgrim Fathers. But it all started with Martin Luther in 1517 with his 95 theses nailed to the door of Wittenberg Church and the beginning of Protestantism, an event celebrated in this county with a service at Attenborough St Mary's Church at which the preacher was the local Lutheran Pastor Paulina Hlawiczka. Two months later my wife and I attended the 'Illuminate' Service at St Swithun's Church, Retford, a town near the Pilgrim Father villages. Students from the local secondary

school performed a series of tableaux about the 54 women, or 'Pilgrim Mothers', who sailed on the Mayflower, most of whom did not survive to see the first Thanksgiving. After the service we formed the numeral 500 armed with tea lights.

Meanwhile in October, I joined over 100 others on the side of the pitch at the ground of Notts County Football Club at the CEO Sleepout to raise money for local homelessness charities, including the Friary, a community funded drop-in centre that provides food, cooked meals, shower facilities, GP services and IT support for benefit claimants. I was joined on the grass by the Bishop of Sherwood,



News from and about members

Tony Porter, and Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich of Nottingham Liberal Synagogue, who had earlier sparred with Marcellus Baz. He runs a boxing club for young people and won the Unsung Hero award at the 2016 BBC *Sports Personality of the Year*. I returned to the Friary on Christmas Day to 'help' the Mayor of Rushcliffe carve the turkey and meet the volunteers who were giving up their time to serve up to 60 Christmas meals.

The second half of my year included several prison visits. In October I presented community awards to 10 prison officers who had prevented a wing being wrecked, in circumstances where not being involved had been a legitimate choice. Their courage would not otherwise have received wider recognition. In November we made a formal visit to Lowdham Grange, a Category B prison, to be briefed by the director (it's a SERCO prison) and to give awards to 19 prisoners who had completed a Sycamore Tree restorative justice course. In December we visited Whatton Prison, home to over 800 sex offenders, a solid middle-class cohort who do not give the governor any trouble. Shockingly, a few residents, as they are called there, are so dangerous that they cannot be released and will die in prison. During our tour of the site, the



Above: CEO Sleepout at Notts County FC with Bishop Tony Porter and Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich
Below: Luther 500 service with Pastor Paulina Hlawiczka

governor introduced me to the editor of the prison magazine *Whatt'on Earth!* as the High Sheriff; he promptly replied, 'Hi! Sheriff'. In March I talked to around 20 Whatton residents about a novel I had published on Amazon in 2015. I apologised for leaving slightly early because it would take me a little while 'to get out of here'; one wag replied, 'not half as long as it will take us!' Finally, with the help of my neighbour and friend the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Annie Hall, we visited the women's prison at Foston Hall with Halima Khaled, the first Muslim Mayor of Broxtowe, who is interested in helping Muslim women who end up in the criminal justice system.

It has been a wonderful year in which I have had amazing support from my wife, Under Sheriff Deborah Hutchinson, and many others, including my Chaplain, the Revd Chris Rattenberry, who came out of retirement to officiate at my March Legal Service. I managed an ecumenical and inter-faith event that saw an inspiring sermon by the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, the Rt Revd Paul Williams, secular texts read by the Imam Chaplain at Rampton Hospital, Farooq Mulla, and a performance of a song to words by the Christian Martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, sung by Pastor Paulina and accompanied at the piano by Rabbi Tanya. After the service I presented a certificate of service to one of my two High Sheriff's Volunteer Police Cadets, Eva Corbett, who had loyally supported me during my year.

David Sneath TD DL

High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2017-18





A view from the sideline

'I HOPE you'll give me a chauffeur's cap when you come into office,' I said to Sue when she told me she was going to be High Sheriff of Powys.

Powys is the amalgamation of Radnor, Brecknock and Montgomery covering over 100 miles north-south and up to 40 miles east-west. The communities are scattered and the average size of the market towns is under 3,000 people. With hardly any dual carriageways plenty of time has to be left to get to each function because of the chance of getting stuck behind a flock of sheep, herd of cattle or slow tractors.

But being consort is far more than driving the High Sheriff around. You are the person people want to talk to if they can't speak to the High Sheriff and, while



Philip Evans, Under Sheriff, Bob Thompson and Susan Thompson, High Sheriff, Elaine Price and David Price (in nomination 2018-19)

the High Sheriff is being introduced to local dignitaries, there is a chance to slip away and chat with the bystanders. Among your roles are dresser, the helper with speeches – both writing them and listening to them – the keeper of the diary, the calmer when stress mounts, the unofficial photographer. It is always worth checking up whether there is a parking space and a seat for you – not always the case.

My pocket camera has proved invaluable, because while there are plenty of official photographs, it is often the unofficial ones that go in the scrapbook; also the great thing about a camera is it doesn't ring at the wrong moment. During the visit of HRH The Prince of Wales to the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh in Brecon I got some good shots of Sue with a most impressive Zulu warrior guest, dressed in full regalia with his shield, spear and knobkerrie club. Powys also hosted a reception for the Queen of the Zulus at Theatr Brycheiniog which was followed by *King Cetshwayo*, a musical performed by Zulu actors in commemoration of the Anglo-Zulu War.

It has been a year of contrasts. One afternoon we attended the enthronement of John Davies, the Archbishop of Wales, with all the pomp and ceremony of the occasion. After a quick tea we drove to Builth Wells to a Young Farmers' pantomime where cries of 'He's behind you!' replaced the chanting of the cathedral choir. After a cool wet August the sun

Above left: Susan Thompson, High Sheriff, Eliot a Zulu warrior, Hon Dame Shân Legge-Bourke DCVO, Lord-Lieutenant, with two army cadets
Above: The High Sheriffs of Wales after the legal service at Llandaff Cathedral

came out for August Bank Holiday weekend when we hosted an art exhibition at our home – paintings, sculptures, ceramics and wood carvings – and were able to give a sizable donation to Sue's chosen charity Rekindle Small Steps, which helps young people from 16 to 25 years old who have mental health problems. I dread to think what would have happened to our carpets if it had rained.

I have had a fascinating time and learnt a lot about our county. It is still quite tribal. Most people say they come from one of the three old counties rather than Powys. There are also the Welsh and non-Welsh speakers, who are divided again between whether they come from the north or the south. Then there are the hill farmers and the lowland border farmers. An exciting mix. But above all the divisions are the volunteers and helpers who give their time so generously and without whom many of the organisations would not survive.

This year has been a privilege which I wouldn't have missed for anything, though I never got my cap.

♣ **Bob Thompson, husband of Susan Thompson**
High Sheriff of Powys 2017-18



The show went on

TRADITIONALLY THE Legal Service in South Yorkshire is held at Sheffield Cathedral or sometimes Doncaster Minster. This year I decided to have a multi-faith event, which required a few changes from tradition. The theme for my year of office was 'inclusivity'; I wished to embrace diversity and seek in my own small way to build bridges, and not barriers, in a world where far too many people feel excluded or uninvolved. It seemed incontrovertibly to follow that my Legal Service should be multi-faith. This would serve as a positive and active embodiment of inclusivity.

I enquired of the High Sheriffs' Association whether a multi-faith event had been held previously. I was informed that they believed that one had been held in the House of Lords in the early 'noughties'. I tried to track down the relevant past High Sheriff, regrettably without success. I had chosen Rabbi Yonosan Golomb of Sheffield as my chaplain and, as I know the Dean of the Cathedral quite well, it was easy to discuss the concept with the two of them. Fortunately they were both extremely supportive. I also involved the head of the multi-faith chaplaincy at Sheffield

Hallam University to advise me on how the event could be put together. I refer to this particular Legal Service as an event since different religions cannot (other than in the event of state occasions, so I understand) pray together. Accordingly it could not be held in a place of worship and so it was held in the Hadfield Room at The Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield. The venue is sufficiently large to allow for a normal procession to take place.

I woke on the morning of the Legal Service to several inches of freshly fallen snow. It was deep enough for me (momentarily) to ask myself whether the Legal Service should proceed, but of course the show must go on. This gave rise to two key questions: would all the speakers be able to get to the venue? This would not have been a problem as there was a contingency plan in place should anyone cry off at the last minute. The other question was how many people would be completely unable to make the journey?

There were inevitably a number of guests who apologised, and I fully understand and appreciate every single apology. In the main, however, the vast majority of guests, all of whom had to make a tremendous effort, were able to get to The Cutlers' Hall for what I believe was a highly memorable Legal Service.

Arranging the event had involved a huge amount of very careful planning. It symbolically comprised readings by representatives of five faiths: Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Moslem and Sikh. There were also readings by my daughter Jen Ingram and Mr Justice Goose.

All the feedback I have received tells me that it was a success and if my Legal Service is not remembered for being a multi-faith event, I can hope that at least it will be remembered for the snow. We also raised £11,901.31 for my chosen charity Whirlow Hall Farm Trust.

♦ Stephen Ingram

High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2017-18

Above left: Imam Sheikh Mohammad Ismail, Dr Vithal Patel, Very Revd Peter Bradley Dean of Sheffield, Rabbi Yonosan Golomb, Singh Dhillon, Rev Canon Christopher Burke

Left: Rabbi Yonosan Golomb, Stephen Ingram, Andrew Coombe, Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, and his wife Sue





Tradition in safe hands

BEING HIGH Sheriff of the West Midlands has been an intense but enjoyable year. From the onset, being involved with High Court and Circuit Judges, JPs and the judiciary in general has been most stimulating and what particularly stood out was what excellent company they all are. Very dedicated to their profession and hard working, they are under a lot of pressure but continue to press on regardless. Annual justice services in Birmingham and Wolverhampton were very well attended by the public and it became clear that there is much public appetite for tradition combined with support for the judiciary.

In Coventry on Remembrance Sunday, many thousands of people attended the service, queuing from early hours and bringing flasks of tea, and blankets; very touching indeed and indicative of the broad support that exists for the armed forces. To a great extent this experience was repeated at other ceremonies in the region.

We have been fortunate in attracting a number of royal visits during the year and it is notable that these visits are very popular and well attended. Inevitably those of TRH the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry and their charming partners would tend to attract most attention but the note of informality they struck was unexpected and disarming. Coventry is very much a student city and the degree to which students welcomed the royal visits there is a very good indicator for the future.



Above: School visit to the Safeside facility in Birmingham



At attention with West Bromwich Fire Cadets

Photos: Connie Hudson

We made five visits to West Midlands Fire Service HQ, Fire Cadets, and Safeside, learning centres inspiring visitors to think and act safely. High Court Judges accompanied one of the visits and left very impressed with the efforts of the service and volunteers. The Police and Crime Commissioner was helpful in explaining his office's mission and a visit to the armed response unit firearms range proved an eye-opener: a very efficient unit. I was invited to present awards at the ambulance service annual awards ceremony and a number of recipients said they were 'only doing their job', although to anyone else they were heroic in their deeds. This also applied to court award

recipients, where I was pleased to present awards to nine people at Birmingham Magistrates' Court.

There was a steady stream of invitations to cathedrals, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and the charitable sector in its broadest sense. The High Sheriff's uniform was particularly well received and therefore I wore it on as many occasions as possible as that is what people expect.

Although I attended around 200 events I also had to turn down many because of clashes, which was frustrating all round. I prioritised those events involved with my two themes – young people and social cohesion – and this proved a useful template for the year. A vast amount of voluntary effort is expended by many good people and this was a heartening aspect of the year as a whole.

It has been a great honour and privilege to have been the High Sheriff of the West Midlands and my wife Connie and I take away many happy memories and feelings of admiration for the efforts of others.



Above: Recipients of court awards at Birmingham Magistrates' Court

♦ John Hudson OBE DL
High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2017-18



WEST SUSSEX

News from and about members

It's about those we meet

DID YOU have fun? What was the best bit? These are the two questions I am asked most about my time as High Sheriff.

My answer to the first question is an excited enthusiastic yes, but to emphasise 'fun' is perhaps to devalue a little the whole extraordinary experience. Instead, two adjectives could describe my year; it has been humbling and life-enhancing in equal measure. My answer to the second question needs explaining.

Five days before my Declaration ceremony, PC Keith Palmer was killed outside the Houses of Parliament. His death focused my mind very sharply on the largely unnamed, courageous, modest and selfless people who put their health and their lives in danger daily to keep us safe and our society glued together. My vow to myself, on the day I declared, was to try to meet as many PC Palmers as I could, from whichever path in the life of West Sussex they might come. Those in charge kindly made that possible. Sadly, three weeks before I took off my High Sheriff's hat for good, DS Nick Bailey became critically ill from nerve agent poisoning, another quiet hero 'just doing his job'. So it goes on, a rolling tide of events in the face of which, it seems to me, the expression of gratitude and encouragement becomes more and more important.

I spent many hours with the men and women of Sussex Police and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. We talked seriously and honestly, and laughed a lot. I was told much, shown much, and above all trusted; I'm profoundly grateful. The magistrates – unsung heroes all – and judges (who welcomed me across the 'border' in East Sussex) were unfailingly kind. The charities I encountered, big and small, moved me profoundly. Many beautiful and varied religious services brought welcome moments of stillness and time to reflect, dedicate and give thanks. The governors of the two Sussex prisons gave me generous chunks of time and facilitated access to staff and inmates. My contact with the Armed Forces was splendid; they were forgiving and patient with a rather nervous novice in matters such as medal-pinning! In every corner I've met kindness, gritty determination and dedication to doing good, often in the face of great difficulties. I've learnt so much.

To future High Sheriffs, I would say that the office is a special honour, and a weighty, worthy responsibility. It isn't about us. It is about those we meet, those we can encourage and those to whom we can say thank you. To be able to say these simple words, and in so saying make a difference – for it does – has been the greatest gift of the year for me.



Above: With Firefighters Kevin Knight, Andy Grindlay and Chris Revell, Crew Manager Neil Davey and Watch Manager Paul Wykes
Below: Sussex Police award ceremony at Arundel Castle

I have cut up a car, scrambled into the deepest recesses of a lifeboat, been driven at high speed with the police on 'blue lights', laid a wreath... I could go on. But my 'best bit', apart from the honour of meeting HM The Queen when she visited Chichester, has been the people I've met. They would all describe themselves as 'ordinary'. My goodness, they're not. West Sussex 'behind the scenes' – just amazing, and hurray for that!

◆ Emma Barnard

The Lady Barnard, High Sheriff of West Sussex 2017-18



Photo credit: Paul Archer on behalf of WSFRS

Photo credit: Stephen Lawrence ©Southern News & Pictures Ltd

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND and WALES FOR 2018-19

England

BEDFORDSHIRE	A J G Polhill Esq
BERKSHIRE	G E Barker Esq
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Professor R S Farwell CBE DL
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Dr A C Harter CBE
CHESHIRE	Mrs A J Redmond MBE
CITY OF BRISTOL	R G Opie Esq DL
CORNWALL	P Young-Jamieson Esq
CUMBRIA	S F M Berry Esq
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs L B Palmer
DEVON	Mrs G T Phillips
DORSET	Mrs J A Swift DL
DURHAM	Dr S M Cronin
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	Mrs D J Rosenberg
EAST SUSSEX	Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL
ESSEX	B R H Burrough Esq
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	C Martell Esq
GREATER LONDON	C A E Spicer Esq
GREATER MANCHESTER	Dr Robina Shah MBE DL JP
HAMPSHIRE	M E Thistlethwayte Esq
HEREFORDSHIRE	T N Hone Esq DL
HERTFORDSHIRE	Mrs S R Harvey
ISLE OF WIGHT	Mrs G M Minghella-Giddens
KENT	Mrs S J Ashton
LANCASHIRE	A J W Attard Esq OBE DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	Mrs D Thompson
LINCOLNSHIRE	I H Walter Esq
MERSEYSIDE	P D Woods Esq DL
NORFOLK	C J Watt Esq
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	J M R Saunders Watson Esq DL
NORTHUMBERLAND	M W Orde Esq
NORTH YORKSHIRE	C J C Legard Esq
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	N R B Ebbs Esq
OXFORDSHIRE	R Venables Esq
RUTLAND	Mrs M S Jarron
SHROPSHIRE	R M Swire Esq DL
SOMERSET	D A S Burn Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	B R Eldred Esq DL
STAFFORDSHIRE	Mrs P J Gee DL
SUFFOLK	G M W Vestey Esq
SURREY	W J Glover Esq
TYNE AND WEAR	P M Callaghan Esq CBE DL
WARWICKSHIRE	Mrs C A I Sawdon JP
WEST MIDLANDS	C T Loughran Esq
WEST SUSSEX	Mrs C S Nicholls DL
WEST YORKSHIRE	C R Jackson Esq MBE DL
WILTSHIRE	Mrs N Alberry DL
WORCESTERSHIRE	C B L L Roberts Esq

Wales

CLWYD	Lady Hanmer
DYFED	S M E Davies Esq
GWENT	Mrs S E L Linnard
GWYNEDD	Mrs K K G Ellis
MID GLAMORGAN	J H Wall Esq
POWYS	D R Price Esq
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	B C Lakin Esq
WEST GLAMORGAN	H M Gilbert Esq

Only honours, awards and appointments emanating from the Crown and the office of DL have been included.

NEW MEMBERS

The Association welcomes the following as new members

Name	County	Year of Office
The Hon R C Assheton TD DL		
S Azeem Esq DL	Surrey	2020
Commander C J Bagot- Jewitt RN DL	Staffordshire	2020
Mrs J E Barton	Cumbria	2020
Mrs B Biddell	Surrey	2019
A J Blackman Esq DL	East Sussex	2020
P H Candler Esq	Durham	2019
R A Cole Esq	Rutland	2020
Revd S E Colman	Hampshire	2020
Mrs R M Duggan	Powys	2020
J M Edwards Esq	Mid Glamorgan	2020
T P Fairfax Esq TD	Northumberland	2020
A D Farncombe Esq	Buckinghamshire	2020
Dr T J C Fooks	West Sussex	2020
Mrs J A Fosh	Essex	2020
Dame Elizabeth Fradd DBE DL	Nottinghamshire	2020
D A Gray Esq	Durham	2020
J Greenwell Esq CBE DL	Warwickshire	2020
Mrs A N Harris JP	Shropshire	2020
G W V Hine-Haycock Esq	Devon	2020
The Hon H T Holland-Hibbert	Hertfordshire	2020
E W P Holloway Esq	Worcestershire	2019
N P Hopkinson Esq MBE	Cheshire	2020
A R Howell Esq	South Glamorgan	2020
Lt. Col M L Jackson OBE	Worcestershire	2020
D A Kerfoot Esq MBE DL	North Yorkshire	2020
M Kuo Esq	West Midlands	2019
Lady Lloyd MBE DL	Sussex	1994
Mrs S J Lousada	Bedfordshire	2020
W C Lyn Esq CBE	West Midlands	2020
Dr J C Manley	City of Bristol	2020
Captain S C Martin, LVO OBE RN	Devon	2019
Mrs B F McIntyre	Suffolk	2020
Mrs R E Millwater	Kent	2020
P T S Parsons Esq	Northamptonshire	2020
Mrs C J Peel	Isle of Wight	2020
Mrs C Penny		
Mrs A Ponsonby MBE	Oxfordshire	2020
Mrs M E Riall DL	Berkshire	2020
Lady Roberts DL	Norfolk	2020
His Honour J H Roberts DL		
Mrs M-C H Rodwell	Somerset	2020
T M S Russen Esq	Gwent	2020
M J Scott Esq	Lincolnshire	2020
Mrs A V Smith MBE	Leicestershire	2020
K G Smyth Esq	East Sussex	Under Sheriff
Mrs S L Stewart OBE	Tyne and Wear	2020
G H Streatfeild Esq	Dorset	2020
K O C Taylor Esq	Sussex	Under Sheriff
Mrs P C H Thomas	Herefordshire	2020
J H Thornton Esq	West Yorkshire	2020
Major General A E G Truluck CB CBE	Wiltshire	2020
G P Underwood Esq	Isle of Wight	2019
A J Walker Esq CBE DL	Derbyshire	2020
Mrs V M Wightman	South Yorkshire	Under Sheriff
D E F Williams Esq	Gwynedd	2020

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY

BEDFORDSHIRE
BERKSHIRE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
CHESHIRE
CITY OF BRISTOL
CUMBRIA
DERBYSHIRE
DEVON
DORSET
DURHAM
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
EAST SUSSEX
ESSEX
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GREATER LONDON
HAMPSHIRE
HEREFORDSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
ISLE OF WIGHT
KENT
LEICESTERSHIRE
LINCOLNSHIRE
NORFOLK
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NORTHUMBERLAND
NORTH YORKSHIRE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
OXFORDSHIRE
RUTLAND
SHROPSHIRE
SOMERSET
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
STAFFORDSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SURREY
TYNE AND WEAR
WARWICKSHIRE
WEST MIDLANDS
WEST SUSSEX
WEST YORKSHIRE
WILTSHIRE
WORCESTERSHIRE

2019/2020

Mrs C M Dolling
Mrs L V Zeal
Mrs J A Upton MBE
His Honour N A McKittrick DL
M S Mitchell Esq DL
C J C Wyld Esq
Ms M E Reid Fotheringham JP
Earl of Burlington
Captain S C Martin, LVO OBE RN
P H Warr Esq
P H Candler Esq
Mrs S M L Stephenson
Mrs V L Hancock
Dr F J A Bettley JP DL FSA
R C G Berkeley Esq
I Wahhab Esq OBE
Mrs C S Le May
J F S Hervey-Bathurst Esq CBE DL
Mrs S M Beazley
G P Underwood Esq
P J Barrett Esq
T R Hercock Esq
R W Day Esq
The Lady Agnew of Oulton
N A N S Robertson Esq DL
The Lady Joicey
Mrs L L Fenwick
His Honour J J Teare
The Lady Jay of Ewelme CBE
Mrs M A Miles
Dr J J Dixey
J A N Halliday Esq
J Pickering Esq
A E Brough Esq
Mrs R T Eminson
Mrs B Biddell
Mrs C L Moran OBE
S J V Miesegaes Esq
M Kuo Esq
Mrs D Irwin-Clark
P D Lawrence Esq
D B Scott Esq DL
E W P Holloway Esq

2020/2021

Mrs S J Lousada
Mrs M E Riall DL
A D Farncombe Esq
Brigadier T J Seal TD DL VR
N P Hopkinson Esq MBE
Dr J C Manley
Mrs J E Barton
A J Walker Esq CBE DL
G W V Hine-Haycock Esq
G H Streatfeild Esq
D A Gray Esq
Mrs J E Dawson OBE
A J Blackman Esq DL
Mrs J A Fosh
E W Gillespie Esq OBE
Alderman John Garbutt JP
Revd S E Colman
Mrs P C H Thomas
The Hon H T Holland-Hibbert
Mrs C J Peel
Mrs R E Millwater
Mrs A V Smith MBE
M J Scott Esq
Lady Roberts DL
P T S Parsons Esq
T P Fairfax Esq TD
D A Kerfoot Esq MBE DL
Dame Elizabeth Fradd DL
Mrs A Pensonby MBE
R A Cole Esq
Mrs A N Harris JP
Mrs M-C H Rodwell
Mrs C D O'Neill
Commander C J Bagot-Jewitt RN DL
Mrs B F McIntyre
S Azeem Esq DL
Mrs S L Stewart OBE
J Greenwell Esq CBE DL
W C Lyn Esq CBE
Dr T J C Fooks
J H Thornton Esq
Major General A E G Truluck CB CBE
Lt. Col M L Jackson OBE

**Note: Names for nominees in Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside are only published shortly before the nominated High Sheriff assumes Office.*

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

COUNTY

CLWCLWYD
DYFED
GWENT
GWYNEDD
MID GLAMORGAN
POWYS
SOUTH GLAMORGAN
WEST GLAMORGAN

2019/2020

Mrs S L Catherall
Mrs A H J Lewis
Dame Claire Clancy DCB
Mrs S M Jones
Colonel W C J Donnelly CBE TD DL
D L Peate Esq JP
Dr I M Graham
Ms S R Goldstone

2020/2021

D H Wynne-Finch Esq
D J Jones Esq MBE
T M S Russen Esq
D E F Williams Esq
J M Edwards Esq
Mrs R M Duggan
A R Howell Esq
M L Pope Esq

DEATHS

The Association has learnt with regret of the deaths of the following former High Sheriffs and members:

Rear Admiral Sir Peter Anson Bt CBE

Date of death: 17/04/2018
Age: 93
County: Surrey
Year of office: 1993

R J G Berkeley Esq

Date of death: 16/11/2017
Age: 86
County: Gloucestershire
Year of office: 1982

H F A Engleheart Esq

Date of death: 19/11/2017
Age: 87
County: Suffolk
Year of office: 1986

Colonel D E Gibbs CBE TD JP DL

Date of death: 10/06/2017
Age: 91
County: Greater Manchester
Year of office: 1980

Dr R B Godwin-Austen

Date of death: 03/12/2017
Age: 82
County: Nottinghamshire
Year of office: 1994

M D M Keddie Esq JP DL

Date of death: 18/02/2018
Age: 88
County: Essex
Year of office: 1986

Mrs M C Lloyd MBE

Date of death: 14/01/2018
Age: 83
County: Rutland
Year of office: 2003

C H Mitchell Esq CBE DL

Date of death: 10/12/2017
Age: 85
County: Staffordshire
Year of office: 1993

Major Sir Hereward Wake Bt MC DL

Date of Death: 11/12/17
Age: 101
County: Northamptonshire
Year of Office: 1955

A J G Winter Esq OBE

Date of death: 30/03/2018
Age: 62
County: Tyne and Wear
Year of office: 2012

A E Woodall Esq

Date of death: 09/03/2018
Age: 86
County: Hertfordshire
Year of office: 1986

A J L Worth Esq DL

Date of death: 09/11/2017
Age: 77
County: Lincolnshire
Year of office: 1990

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS



The High Sheriff's Badge

(for wearing round the neck) **£185.00**
41mm x 74mm



Tie Navy blue, green or maroon in pure silk (only to be worn by members of the Association) **£32.00**



Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

Single **£27.00**, 2+ **£20.00** each
(2 for preaching scarves)



Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

Gilt for serving and retired High Sheriffs, silver for High Sheriff's spouses/escorts **£14.50 each** 15mm x 25mm



Enamel and gilt cufflinks

available with a chain or T-Bar fitting. Each pair comes in its own presentation box **£38**



Ladies Pure Silk Scarf

Navy blue, maroon or green. 14oz dye printed – pure silk twill with multiple copies of the Association's badge overprinted in gold. Size 140cm x 30cm (56" x 11 3/4") **£20.00**



The Lady High Sheriff's Badge

£185.00
45mm x 74mm



High Sheriff's Car Pennant

(mast not included) **£30.00**



High Sheriff's March

A CD of the March (playing time approximately 8 1/2 minutes) **£7.00**

STOP PRESS: Association blue and white ribbon for badges and hats, **£10 per metre**

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.
Cheques etc. payable to 'The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales'

Remittances with order please, to:
The Secretary
The High Sheriffs' Association
Heritage House, PO Box 21
Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH

Tel: 01462-896688 **Fax:** 01462-896677 **E-mail:** shrievalty@hall-mccartney.co.uk

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS

HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD CERTIFICATE

The High Sheriff's Award Certificate was introduced by the Association in 1992 to meet the request of High Sheriffs who wished for some means of recognising and rewarding the many 'unsung heroes' they encountered in their county during their year of office. The High Sheriff's Award Certificate over the years has provided High Sheriffs with a popular and practical method of achieving this goal.

The certificate can be provided in two different styles:

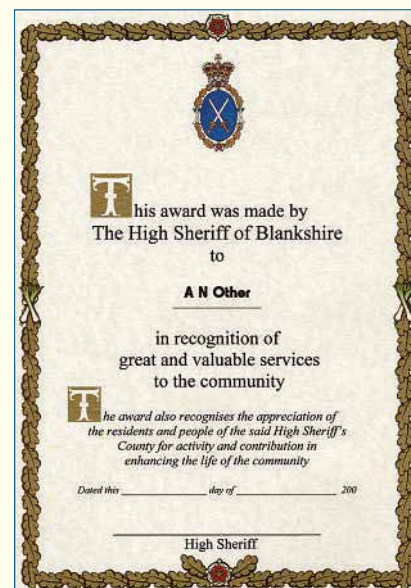
STYLE 1 comes with the name of your county already printed on it and blanks in

which you insert the name of the recipient, the date details and then your signature.

STYLE 2 allows you, when placing your order, to supply the name of the recipient and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script before they are supplied to you.

The price for each certificate, which includes the cost of postage and packing, is:

Style 1: £4.00, Style 2: £5.00



CROWN COURT AWARD CERTIFICATE

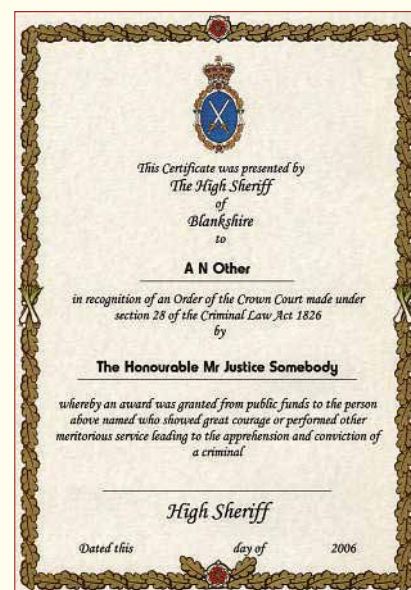
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

STYLE 1 comes with the name of the county already printed and blank spaces provided for the High Sheriff in which to enter the name of the recipient, the name of the Judge, or Recorder; and the date of presentation.

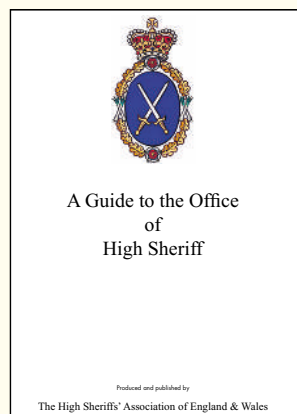
STYLE 2 lets the High Sheriff, at the time of placing an order, supply the name of the recipient; the name of the Judge or Recorder; and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script.

The price for each certificate, which includes the cost of postage and packing, is:

Style 1: £4.00, Style 2: £5.00



PUBLICATIONS



Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

This 27-page guide, published in 2006, outlines the key elements of the role of High Sheriff in the 21st century and gives practical advice to those preparing to take Office

£2.00



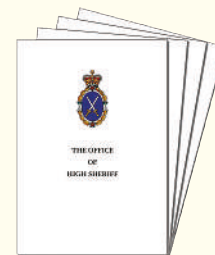
Back issues of the Association magazine The High Sheriff

£2.00



A History in Commemoration of The Sheriff's Millennium (1992)

£1.00



Notes on the Office of High Sheriff (per pack of 50 folded cards)

£7.50

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	11

The High Sheriff

The Editor welcomes articles and news stories from High Sheriffs concerning their year in office.

The next edition of *The High Sheriff* will be published in **December 2018**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 21 September 2018**.

Items for inclusion should be sent to:
The Editor, *The High Sheriff* magazine
c/o Hall-McCartney Ltd,
PO Box 21 Baldock, Herts SG7 5SH
Email: editor@highsheriffs.com

To advertise in *The High Sheriff* please contact Maz Oakley
Tel: 01462 896688
Email: maz@hall-mccartney.co.uk
www.hall-mccartney.co.uk

HELPFUL TOPICS FOR MEMBERS

Full details on the Association's website (www.highsheriffs.com)

If you have forgotten your password, please email webmaster@highsheriffs.com giving your year and county

The following list of topics is not exhaustive and is revised and amplified as members seek advice:

*Chaplains to High Sheriffs – their appointment, duties and insignia

*Citizenship Ceremonies

*Court Awards recommended by judges to be made by High Sheriffs (Criminal Law Act 1826)

*Court dress

*Courts System Structure

*Death or resignation of High Sheriffs in office – procedure

*Declarations by High Sheriffs and Under Sheriffs (English and Welsh)

*Eligibility for nomination as High Sheriff

*Forms of Address covering the judiciary, and civic, military and other office holders (and even High Sheriffs)

*Heraldic insignia of the Association and High Sheriffs and how this may be used

*National Anthem – deportment when this is played (and when taking parades; [not] saluting)

*Politics – High Sheriffs' returning officer duties (Representation of the People Act 1983, s 24(1); non-involvement in politics; not entertaining politicians during a pre-election period)

*Proclamation of the Accession of a New Sovereign by High Sheriffs

*Senior Judiciary – list of current judges of the higher courts



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If you require any further information or would like to make an appointment to see me,
please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey D Golding Managing Director

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