



The High Sheriff

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



*New initiatives and challenges
also inside National Crimebeat Awards 2019*

SUMMER 2019



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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

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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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Mark Thistlethwayte,
High Sheriff of Hampshire
with Olivia Pinkney, Chief
Constable of Hampshire
and the Lord-Lieutenant of
Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson,
at the Chief Constable's
Award Ceremony.

Photo: Melissa Thistlethwayte

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for answers to your questions

From the Editor



THE SUMMER issue of *The High Sheriff* always attracts interesting reflections on their year in office by High Sheriffs who

have handed over the reins recently. I and Council are most grateful to all contributors. Sometimes we read the views of shrieval spouses and other supporters and this issue welcomes an account, the first, of her fascinating year by a High Sheriff's Police Cadet.

Every issue encouragingly showcases a new crop of initiatives and challenges with which High Sheriffs are involved. These are given prominence in the uplifting accounts of the National Crimebeat award winners' achievements, so often nipping crime in the bud. The scope for High Sheriffs to play a part in the rehabilitation of prisoners is wide-ranging and frequently reported in this magazine. One High Sheriff mentions the work by the national charity Clean

Sheet, which eases the difficult path to prisoners' re-employment on release.

Supporting the tasks and sharing the seaborne perils of the Border Force was something which fell to another High Sheriff. She participated in the Force's response to the difficult task of intercepting and rescuing migrants, a problem other coastal counties face and with which High Sheriffs **more and more could become involved.**

Several High Sheriffs report finding that police attention is given increasingly to 'non-crime', especially issues arising from mental health, a problem which affects half of police detainees and leads them into crime.

Given the Association Council's revised guidance on the eligibility and nomination of High Sheriffs, it is instructive to see the approach being taken by one county's nomination panel in its aim to promote diversity and inclusivity within the Shrievalty. Council's advice on affordability is not new as one contributor discovered in a document of 1846. The extensively revised *Guide to the Office of High Sheriff* is available to all members, not just those in nomination (see page 41) and ties in with the increasing amount of information available on the Association's website. A selection of website topics is listed on page 42.

The past six months have also seen some positive national press coverage of work High Sheriffs undertake. It was encouraging to read of the judge who directed a High Sheriff to make a £500 Court Award to a 15-year-old schoolgirl under the Criminal Law Act 1826, Section 28 (*The Times* 30 January 2019). One High Sheriff was described by her interviewer as 'a natural facilitator' when discussing her youthful Team High Sheriff 'ambassadors' promoting the voice and community involvement of their peers (*The Guardian* 5 March 2019).

It was interesting to read the reaction of Dr Benjamin Pohl, a medieval historian at Bristol University, on discovering a conveyance of 1200 bearing King John's Great Seal. He said the charter's importance was in tracking 'the movements of really powerful people: barons, bishops, sheriffs' (*The Times* 27 March 2019). I hope he would applaud the facilitating achievements of their 21st-century successors.

On behalf of Council I welcome new members of the Association and wish all serving High Sheriffs well as they get into their stride.

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06

From the Chairman



I AM delighted that many of the projects undertaken by the Association during the last year have now come to fruition. Among others:

- The Affordability Paper has been very well received, enabling more people to feel that they can accept the nomination without having to spend beyond their means yet being able to uphold the dignity of the office.

- The Nomination Paper is now accepted as the standard by which suitable nominees are chosen, resulting in a broader base for selecting from the whole county.

- The new website is now up and running and is well worth a visit, even from past High Sheriffs. It answers very many of the questions that are in the mind of those serving and in nomination. Those who have forgotten the password should email the Hon Secretary at webmaster@highsheriffs.com for a reminder.

- The new *Guide to the Office of High Sheriff* is hot off the presses and a copy can be ordered from the Hon Secretary (see page 41). It has been extensively revised and brought up to date.

- Council is looking for new members to join its ranks each year as others retire and hopes that some recent past High Sheriffs will consider joining. We are also in need of a Treasurer to take over from Nigel Savory, and an understudy to Andrew Wells, Editor of this magazine. Please email the Secretary or me if you would like to know more.

- Finally, this year's High Sheriffs have now had two or three months in office, and I trust that you have already discovered what a wonderful and fulfilling opportunity you have been given to make a real difference in your county, and I wish you every success.

Hugh Tollemache,
Chairman; Gloucestershire 2013-14

Diary 2019

of Forthcoming Events

JULY 2019

Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2020 and 2021

Friday 5 July

The 2019 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3JY, on Friday 5 July. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will have been sent in recently to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2020 and 2021.

OCTOBER 2019

National Crimebeat

Tuesday 1 October

Opening date for submissions for the 2020 awards. See page 10 for more details.

The Red Mass

Tuesday 1 October

The annual Roman Catholic Mass will be held at 9.30 am at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1P 1QW to celebrate the start of the legal year. Those High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination who wish to process will be invited to coffee beforehand from 8.30am. There will be a ticket-only reception in the Throne Room after the Mass. To obtain tickets, contact Stephen Hart by email at: stephenhart@gmail.com.

The Ladies' Lunch

Thursday 3 October

The annual Ladies' Lunch will be held in London at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge. Full details will have been sent recently to those ladies who are in nomination. The organiser is Council member Virginia Lloyd whose email address is: Virginia.Lloyd@d3uk.com.

NOVEMBER 2019

The Nomination of future High Sheriffs

Tuesday 12 November probably at 2.00 pm

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Tuesday 12 November 2019 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 2020 and 2021 and 2022 will be read out in court. A tea party will take place afterwards at a nearby venue.

The Secretary will be writing in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2020 and for 2021 inviting them to attend. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for some 2022 nominees to attend

as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2022 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend.

48th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday 20 November

The Association's 48th AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall, London EC4R 9EL. 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 2019.



RECENT EVENTS

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2018-2019

Regional Meetings 2018-19

❖ Elizabeth Hunter

*Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2010-11;
Council member*

IT IS now over ten years since regional meetings were inaugurated and, in that time, they have developed and expanded. They have become a significant part of the High Sheriffs' Association calendar with all nine regions now holding an annual meeting for the benefit of High Sheriffs in nomination.

As in all things shrieval, these meetings vary. Most have one, two or more outside

speakers. Others have none. The speakers add an interesting dynamic to the event and are able to explain to the audience how their particular profession liaises with the High Sheriff. Some meetings take place in the morning and end with a late lunch and others continue after lunch until halfway through the afternoon. There is nothing prescriptive and, as always, what works for each region should continue. It should be remembered that these meetings are primarily for those in nomination and so sufficient time should be given to hearing from those either currently serving or in the recent past. As long as the High Sheriffs content themselves

with providing tips and advice, rather than a list of engagements, this is arguably the most important aspect of the event.

The Association is grateful to all those outside speakers who give their time to bring to these meetings their experience in their professions and the link they have with the High Sheriff in their county. Speakers this year have included Lord-Lieutenants, Under Sheriffs, Community Foundation officers, judges, magistrates and police and crime commissioners.

Each year, after all regional meetings have been held, the regional coordinators and organisers gather in London to report

Wales: Annual regional conference for High Sheriffs in nomination November 2018

❖ William T Hopkins MBE DL

West Glamorgan 2012-13

THE WALES regional meeting, held in the beautiful surroundings of Llangoed Hall, is now a firmly established fixture in the High Sheriffs' calendar. The day was well attended by current High Sheriffs, those in nomination 2019-20, four Under Sheriffs, plus partners.

The day got off to a flying start with three of our current High Sheriffs giving the meeting the benefit of their experiences. This is an important part of the day and we are grateful to them for passing on their wisdom to those in nomination.

Brian Lakin, South Glamorgan, spoke about the importance of being prepared for the year ahead, of embracing the community and finding out what makes your county tick. Not only is Brian responsible for looking after the High Court Judges when they visit Cardiff but also the Court of Appeal Judges when they come to South Wales. Over the past few years the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan has kindly invited High Sheriffs from neighbouring counties to share the entertaining of the Court of Appeal Judges.

Katherine Ellis, Gwynedd, spoke movingly about the importance of conducting her Declaration solely in Welsh and entertaining everyone afterwards at her farmhouse, thus embracing the things she holds most dear: her community and her mother tongue. The Legal Service this year was held in Bangor Cathedral and High Sheriffs from across Wales joined

her at this important event. Kit also explained why she had chosen to work with The Community Foundation Wales. She finished off her talk with the highs and lows of her year with eloquence and good humour.

Henry Gilbert, West Glamorgan: the main emphasis of Henry's talk was communication in all its guises. He feels comfortable using social media, an important way to reach all sections of the community. Many people in the county have no idea of the Shrievalty and what it stands for but Henry is educating the citizens of West Glamorgan as to the purpose and importance of the role of High Sheriff. He very kindly distributed copies of his



Above: Attendees at the Wales regional meeting plus speakers

RECENT EVENTS

REGIONAL MEETINGS



Above: East



Above: South East



Above: South West



Above: West Midlands

on and discuss their own meetings. This year's meeting was also attended by the Chairman and Secretary of the Association together with the Chair of National Crimebeat and other representatives from Council who have an interest in a specific region. The regional meetings this year have been of a high standard and the coordinators gained useful information as to how others' seminars are arranged. John Lee is taking over as Council link to the regions as I retire this year and I know he will be made as welcome as I have been over these last two years.

The Association owes grateful thanks to all the regional coordinators and organisers who arrange the meetings and succeed in giving those in nomination the best help they can in seeing that those nominees are as well prepared as possible for their year.

'Reflections of a High Sheriff', an excellent account of his year to date. High Sheriffs are in a unique position to network with key people in the county, to open doors and to build bridges within their community.

Sarah Noton, Under Sheriff of Gwynedd, is a relative newcomer to the Association. Recently appointed to her post she kindly gave us her observations as a new Under Sheriff. She emphasised the importance of having a good working relationship with the High Sheriff and gave some fascinating insights into her work with Lady Hanmer (current High Sheriff of Gwynedd). One of the concerns raised by Sarah was the London Bridge question. As we are in Wales it is expected the Declaration be made in Welsh as well as English and to this end she had been in touch with Iona Wyn, Head of External Communications, Welsh Government.

Iona came well prepared for our meeting, with the text of the 1952 Declaration in both English and Welsh, pronunciation guidelines for the Welsh text, as well as an audio guide on a memory stick. She spoke about the brief she had been given and her dialogue with the Privy Council. Much discussion resulted after her talk regarding protocol, precedence and how comfortable non-Welsh-speaking High Sheriffs would be delivering the proclamation in Welsh. Time was called on this lively debate as lunch awaited.

Our keynote speaker for the afternoon was Matt Jukes, Chief Constable of South Wales Police. He gave us a fascinating insight into modern policing and the challenges of operating within fiscal restraints, a reduction in staff, and the increasing demand of dealing with non-crime especially that relating to mental health. Despite all these challenges he was pleased to report that South Wales Police continued to offer a very high standard of service.

The South Wales Police area covers the shrieval counties of South, Mid and West Glamorgan. The Chief Constable stressed the importance of working with the High Sheriffs in the community. He was especially delighted with the appointment of police cadets as such appointments help raise the profile of both Shrievalty and the force.

By coincidence our next speaker Barbara Wilding was also Chief Constable of South Wales Police from 2004 to 2009. Barbara has recently stood down as chair of National Crimebeat, a post she held for seven years. She spoke enthusiastically about the importance and relevance of the work of the charity. She encouraged everyone to support National Crimebeat even though some counties had their own Crimebeat associations. During her tenure Barbara has raised the profile of the organisation and the number of counties involved has steadily increased.

Elizabeth Hunter (Council member and link member to the regions) then took up the baton to deal with Association matters. She stressed the importance of nomination panels. It quickly became clear counties vary greatly, with some having well-established procedures while others were struggling to come to terms with the new guidelines.

Questions and Answers proved to be as stimulating and lively as ever. We could have talked into the night but some of us had long journeys ahead.

The success of the day largely depends on the quality of our speakers; this year we managed to cover a wide variety of topics squeezed into a few hours. We rely on Council members and past Sheriffs for help and are pleased by the support we receive from current High Sheriffs who are happy to pass on their expertise and helpful tips to those in nomination.

The next Wales Regional Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 November 2019 at Llangoed Hall.

National Crimebeat

◆ Nicky Weston DL

Trustee, National Crimebeat;
Nottinghamshire 2013-14

On 13 March eight prize-winning teams from around the country arrived at the Royal National Hotel near Russell Square, London for the 21st National Crimebeat Awards. It was a wonderful gathering of young people, with an impressive array of supporters from their counties, all coming together to celebrate and showcase their outstanding crime prevention projects.

National Crimebeat has gone from strength to strength and after the very special 20th anniversary ceremony attended by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, the charity's profile continues to rise. This year we had a record number of sponsors and the trustees are immensely grateful to the following for their generosity:

- Richard Walduck OBE DL (Hertfordshire 1997 and National Crimebeat President) and his son Alex for once again providing the excellent facilities of the Royal National Hotel as well as sponsoring the function, the wonderful buffet lunch afterwards, and the London Eye trip
- Oldfield Partners
- The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers
- The Worshipful Company of the Makers of Playing Cards
- Bedfordshire Crimebeat
- The Waterloo Foundation
- Big Bus Tours
- Hugh Burnett OBE DL (East Sussex 2008-09)

Without our sponsors we would be unable to fund such a special awards day and give these young people recognition for all their work in crime prevention and an experience to remember.

We were delighted that the High Sheriffs (one in nomination) of all the winning counties were able to attend together with county supporters and to welcome Helen Ball QPM, Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

The projects entered are a real gauge of the concerns young people have today and this year the winning projects focused on the vulnerable of all ages in their communities.

Each team gave a seven-minute presentation of their project, outlining the key points, explaining the benefits to their community and the positive outcomes so far. We give them detailed advice and it was clear they had practised hard. It can be a nerve-wracking experience for anyone to stand up in front of a big audience and most of these young people had never spoken in public before. Some spoke from personal experience, some with great passion and all were committed to helping others. Their pride as they walked off the stage to loud applause was uplifting.



Above: Surrey: 'Total Respect' Winners of the youth led category and the Burnett Presentation Award with sponsor, Hugh Burnett. **Above right:** Nottinghamshire: 'The Pythian Club' during their presentation. **Below left:** Gwent: 'The Odyssey Project' with the High Sheriff, Sharon Linnard. **Below right:** Hertfordshire: 'Break the Chain'



With tension mounting, our independent panel judge, His Honour Shaun Lyons CBE took to the stage to announce the winners in reverse order, giving a brief summary of why each project was successful.

YOUTH LED CATEGORY

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

Winner: Surrey, Total Respect

Nominated by Jim Glover, High Sheriff; the £1,000 prize cheque was presented by Chris Driver, Oldfield Partners.

A group of young people, who had all in some way experienced life in the care system or in a household where domestic abuse was present, worked with Surrey Police to influence and improve the way in which police and other services interact with vulnerable children and young people. By devising a training programme delivered



in a different way and in a different context, this group has been able to involve those attending their courses to improve their understanding and ability to communicate with individuals in these situations.

A paper heart was given to members of the audience who were asked to write down a childhood memory that meant the most and give this to the person next to them. Their neighbours were told to tear it up and, as one member of the audience said, 'How sad to destroy a memory'.

Surrey also won the Burnett Presentation Prize for the best presentation on the day and received a cash prize of £100.

Second Prize: Nottinghamshire, The Pythian Club 'Double Edge' Production
Nominated by Nick Ebbs, High Sheriff; a cheque for £750 was presented by Fred Stroyan, Fishmongers' Company.

'Double Edge' grew from a range of successful engagement initiatives that resulted in a marked decrease in anti-social behaviour in their area. Building on the experience gained in these initiatives, the Pythian Young Leaders decided to tackle the issue of knife crime through a hard-hitting drama production that exposed the issue of joint enterprise, a legal concept where participants are all guilty of a crime whatever their role in it. The production, endorsed by the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Assistant Chief Constable, has been used effectively in discouraging young people from carrying knives or associating with those who do.

Joint Third Prize: Gwent, The Odyssey Project

Nominated by Sharon Linnard, High Sheriff; a cheque for £500 was presented by Julian Polhill, Bedfordshire Crimebeat and High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

Gwent Volunteer Police Cadets had heard about an incident where an 85-year-old person had been the victim of a doorstep crime. On learning more about the crime, the group of young people decided that they should take positive action to raise awareness among elderly potential victims thus reducing the likelihood of their succumbing to similar deceptions. Through this project,

the cadets have forged close community links and have increased awareness of doorstep crime so effectively that this has reduced significantly in the area.

Joint Third Prize: Hertfordshire, Break the Chain

Nominated by Suzi Harvey, High Sheriff; a further cheque for £500 was presented by Julian Polhill.

The team's project sought to address the increasing problems of modern slavery. Their disturbing film highlighted some of the ways in which children and young people are exploited and forced into work or engage in criminal activities and how their neighbours can be totally oblivious to what is happening. The locations, script, video recording and editing were all managed by the project group.

ADULT LED CATEGORY

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

Winner: Cumbria, Carlisle Mencap's Independence Studio

Nominated by Simon Berry, High Sheriff; the first prize cheque of £1,000 was presented by Barbara Ide, Makers of Playing Cards Company.

This is the third time that Mencap Cumbria has been among the winning teams and the second time they have been overall winners of their category.

This project was created to highlight the ways in which hate crime can blight the lives of those with learning disabilities, often resulting in psychological and physical illness. The project consisted of a film in two parts, entitled 'Take Control', showing several scenarios of bullying, hatred, intolerance and prejudice and the debilitating effect that has on the victim, resulting in attempted suicide. The second half of the film demonstrates what can happen when the victim 'takes control' and reports the bullying to which they have been subjected.

Joint Second Place: Hertfordshire, 'Achieve Care'

Nominated by Suzi Harvey, High Sheriff; a cheque for £650 was



Above: Cumbria: Carlisle Mencap's Independence Studio, winners of the adult led category with High Sheriff Simon Berry and Barbara Ide, sponsor



Above: Hampshire: Youth Commission 'Raise a Flag' with High Sheriff Mark Thistlethwayte



Above: Hertfordshire: 'Achieve Care' winners of the High Sheriffs' Association Award with High Sheriff Suzi Harvey and sponsor Julian Polhill, High Sheriff Bedfordshire

presented by Helen Ball, Assistant Commissioner Metropolitan Police.

Hertford and Ware Police Cadets worked with Cadet Leaders to create, manage, and deliver this project. It involved visiting lonely and isolated elderly people with therapy dogs to help stimulate conversation and create a relaxed environment. Many of the elderly visited were displaying the early stages of dementia and were becoming socially isolated. Now they are taking Achieve Care to new partners and vulnerable groups and extending it to other cadet groups in Hertfordshire.



Joint Second Place: Hampshire, Youth Commission 'Raise a Flag'
Nominated by Mark Thistlethwayte, High Sheriff; a further cheque for £650 was presented by Hugh Tollemache, Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association.

Youth Commission sought to raise the awareness of unhealthy relationships and the effect they have on young people. Their innovative idea was to raise flags in multiple public places to show support and draw attention to the effects of controlling and coercive relationships. They supplied 'flag bags' containing leaflets and resources for information and advice and held workshops educating young people to recognise both healthy and unhealthy relationships.

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AWARD – Hertfordshire 'Achieve Care'

This special award is given to one of the outstanding finalists, chosen because the project is capable of being 'replicable and/or sustainable' across England and Wales and ideally the nominating High Sheriff would remain involved to ensure the project continued in future years. Julian Avery, President of the High Sheriffs' Association, presented it to Hertfordshire 'Achieve Care' whose team already had demonstrated that they were rolling out the programme to more cadet units in their county and further afield.

Their project leader, Robert Scott of Hertfordshire Constabulary, said after, *'We were delighted with a runners-up prize, especially in light of the calibre of finalist. However, winning the High Sheriffs' Association Award was something else.'*

NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT SPECIAL AWARD – Somerset 'Stand Against Violence'

Nominated by High Sheriff, Denis Burn,



Above left: Somerset 'Stand Against Violence', winners of the National Crimebeat Special Award with Johnnie Halliday, High Sheriff in nomination and Amanda Parker, Chairman, National Crimebeat

Above: National Crimebeat trustees Andy Rayment, Deborah Inskip, Liz Fothergill, Amanda Parker (Chairman), Nicky Weston, David Jones, Jill Jacobs

Above right: Sponsors and guests: Hugh Burnett, the Countess of Erroll (Bedfordshire Crimebeat), Julian Avery, Helen Ball (Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police), Amanda Parker (Chairman, National Crimebeat), Chris Driver (Oldfield Partners), Barbara Ide (Makers of Playing Cards Charity), Hugh Tollemache, Julian Polhill (Beds Crimebeat), David Jones (Fishmongers' Company)

who was represented by his incoming successor, Johnnie Halliday. A special glass trophy was presented by Amanda Parker, Chairman of National Crimebeat.

Occasionally a project is submitted which, although not conforming strictly to the criteria of either category, the judges feel is outstanding in its own right and is making such a real difference in crime prevention that it deserves to be recognised with a Special Award. 'Stand Against Violence' is a charity founded in response to the murder of Lloyd Fouracre who was beaten to death just before his 18th birthday. The killers were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. In 2017 Adam, Lloyd's brother, met with one of the murderers, Jay Wall, who was approaching the end of his sentence. Wishing to use Lloyd's story somehow to save the lives of others, Adam asked if Jay, now reformed, would be willing to take part in a joint interview to be used in educational workshops delivered to young people. Jay readily agreed. The charity's main aims are to promote good citizenship among young people, demonstrate the consequences of violence, and equip them with the skills they need to handle potentially violent situations.



With the ceremony over, team photographs were taken and everyone enjoyed lunch before the excited teams had a short tour of London on the open-top Big Bus finishing with a trip on the London Eye.

For all trustees, to see the impact that these awards have on the young people taking part makes all the work beforehand so worthwhile – the fact that they go home with their awards, inspired by other projects and other teams, and with a real sense of achievement, underlines just what a difference National Crimebeat can make. It can also provide a worthy legacy for each nominating High Sheriff as they come to the end of their term of office.

Among many appreciative emails from the teams, one stands out; from Hertfordshire Police Cadet Sally Hull, aged 15, sent to us by her project leader: *'... most importantly we all walked away feeling like we'd learnt something and we were all inspired to take action to combat other issues. After this fantastic event we had lunch, had a great trip around London and the London Eye, all thanks to the National Crimebeat charity. This day left us all feeling motivated, encouraged and inspired to help our local community.'*

We trustees now look forward to the 2020 awards and hope to receive even more nominations from High Sheriffs around the country.

Visit www.national-crimebeat.com to see the photographs and the video of the ceremony.
Key Dates for the 2020 Awards:
Submissions open: 1st October 2019
Closing date for entries: 15th January 2020
Judging: 22nd January 2020
Awards Ceremony: 18th March 2020



Our aim: diverse and inclusive

I AM sure I am not alone in saying that the question I was most often asked during my year in office was: 'How do you get to be High Sheriff?' I was proud to be able to tell people that, while you don't apply to be High Sheriff, in Buckinghamshire there is a selection process undertaken by a panel of people who consider various nominations.

We have had this panel in operation now in Buckinghamshire for a number of years, so when the revised guidance on the appointment of future High Sheriffs was produced by the Association in August 2018, we undertook an assessment of our current position against the new guidance. We were pleased that the existing practice met, and sometimes exceeded, the requirements. Given this position, we wanted to consider how we might do even better and go one stage further.

The guidance from the Association is broadly silent on the means by which potential candidates are brought forward to the panel, how they are assessed and how the names get on to the confidential list. Currently in Buckinghamshire candidates are proposed by the panel members themselves. Historically, we are not short of candidates to nominate as potential High Sheriffs, but we have been and remain short of a diverse pool of people from which candidates might be drawn. We decided that we would like to explore how practice might evolve to broaden the pool for consideration by the panel. We would prefer if names could be brought to the attention of the panel by a broader group of people.

Having asked at our regional meeting whether any county had an open process of seeking nominations for future High Sheriffs and learning that there was not any, the panel in Buckinghamshire had a workshop session to decide how we would set up a process. We have gone for a halfway house as a first stage: drawing up a list of organisations to approach with a letter describing what the High Sheriff does and inviting nominations together



Top left: With staff and students from the catering team at Milton Keynes College which provided the dinner at Bletchley Park. **Top right:** James Timpson, guest speaker. **Above left:** Dr Julie Mills, Principal and Chief Executive of Milton Keynes College. **Above right:** With Chief Executive Officer of Bletchley Park Iain Standen, who provided the venue

with Q&A sheet with more information, all of which uses inclusive language. There is also a form for them to use to return nominations.

All of this involves setting out what the expectations are of a person who becomes High Sheriff as well as the time and financial commitments. We are well aware that a constraint in trying to broaden the pool of candidates is the cost. The affordability paper recently produced by the Association is topical in this context. We have stressed in the information we have produced how important working in partnership is in keeping costs down. My own experience reflects this. Rather than host a summer reception or garden party, I have held events with partners which they find valuable and which also help to promote a particular aspect of the High Sheriff's

role – a win-win situation. Two examples are events on the transformative impact of education and of employers in prisons: one with the Open University involving various presentations followed by discussion and a reception, and the other a dinner at Bletchley Park co-hosted with Milton Keynes College and with James Timpson as guest speaker.

We don't yet know whether our new approach will be successful in providing a broader pool of candidates to be High Sheriff but we do think that it is worth a try. If there are other counties which are interested in what we're doing or would like to share their practice with us then do get in touch.

♦♦ **Professor Ruth Farwell**
CBE DL

High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2018-19



Trains and boats and planes (and bikes and feet)

Above: Supreme Court Judge Lord Lloyd-Jones, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge Professor Stephen Toope OC and Lord Bishop of Ely the Rt Revd Stephen Conway led the largest assembly of judges and academics ever to process through Cambridge
Photo credit: Jet Photographic

IT CAN'T possibly be a year since my wife Lily Bacon, also a DL, and I started out on our extraordinary journey, without doubt one of the most rewarding experiences that we have had. From the outset, we decided to engage with (almost...) anything that came along, in addition to our own elaborate projects and plans. As a result, we participated in more events than there are days in the year, covering well over 10,000 miles across the county along the way. It was, as a number of our friends put it, a thoroughly hyperactive year!

We arranged to criss-cross the county in several challenges, including a 40-mile cycle ride from Peterborough to Cambridge, travelling from

Cambridge to Ely by river, and finally completing the loop by walking 40 miles (directly into Storm Gareth!) along the Hereward Way in a Lenten pilgrimage between the county's great cathedrals in Ely and Peterborough. Another challenge was to visit the most northern, southern, eastern and western villages of the county in a day, also taking in the highest and lowest villages for good measure. The county is well served by the rail network, and with our boys Raphael and Gabriel, both train fanatics, we managed to visit all the 20 stations in a day, including the country's least visited station at Shippea Hill. We also flew over the county in formation with the University Air Squadron based at RAF Wittering. These challenges formed the core of our fundraising efforts, but more



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importantly were a terrific way of meeting people from all walks of life and explaining the Office High Sheriff.

It has been an enormous privilege to spend time with the many people and organisations involved with justice in the county, a cornerstone of the role. Our three prisons are all very different, and we have a police force stretched by urban issues of drugs and associated violent crime and rural issues particular to the flat landscape of the county. We have spent time in all the county's courts and are struck by the dedication and hard work of all those involved there in often difficult and challenging conditions. We came to particularly appreciate the entirely voluntary work of magistrates, and were pleased to initiate a High Sheriff's Award Scheme recognising length of service – two of our magistrates have over 35 years of service!

High Sheriffs are often asked what the highlight of their year was. It is an invidious question, but if pushed I think we would have to say it was our Justice Service on Sunday 7 October. As members of the University of Cambridge, we were able to hold it in the University Church of Great St Mary's, where historically an annual service was held until the abolition of the assize courts in 1971. Trinity College was a fitting backdrop to the day, with the Master's Lodge and the Hall coming into their own for a glittering drinks reception and splendid lunch. On a gloriously sunny day, Trinity Street was closed to traffic to allow a procession of some 200 to and from the church, where a capacity congregation of 1,200 were uplifted by a service including Hubert Parry's 'I Was Glad' on the exact 100th anniversary of his death, complete with Coronation Vivats by kind permission of HM The Queen. In another special touch, John Rutter conducted his own anthem 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. If this were not enough, it was also Lily's birthday, which was marked appropriately with a rousing chorus over lunch. Judges sing with gusto!



The culmination of our fundraising activities was the High Sheriff's Awards ceremony, held on the last full day of the shrieval year. The blood, sweat and tears of our numerous exertions had paid off, and we were able to make awards totaling £110,000 to a wide range of regional charities, with a particular focus on those involving young volunteers. We were delighted that Carol Vorderman was able to join us in hosting a joyful end-of-year celebration, which was also an opportunity to thank our many friends and supporters for their kindness and generosity.

It has been a huge honour to serve the county of Cambridgeshire, supporting the work of the wider judiciary and civic life more generally. Every aspect of the county relies in an intrinsic way on the contribution of volunteers, and the importance of this to the wellbeing of the region is our abiding memory.

♣ **Dr Andrew Harter CBE DL**
High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire 2018-19

Above: Magistrates receiving long service awards at an inaugural ceremony and reception hosted by the High Sheriff and Lily Bacon DL Photo credit: David Johnson Photographic

Below Right: Local charities receive financial awards at a ceremony and reception hosted by the High Sheriff and Lily Bacon DL with Carol Vorderman MBE

Below Left: The High Sheriff and Lily Bacon DL with senior staff members of the University Air Squadron at RAF Wittering after flying in formation around the county





A year like no other

'A YEAR like no other' – advice received from Burghley House and former High Sheriffs, and so it turned out.

A very special year, encompassing the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One; the 100th anniversary of the vote for women, and great excitement around Her Majesty The Queen's visit to dedicate the new Mersey Gateway Bridge, with the last-minute addition of HRH the Duchess of Sussex on her very first official public engagement.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as High Sheriff, meeting so many amazing volunteers and charities as I have criss-crossed the county, all working hard without any fuss or much ado, strengthening and enriching Cheshire at their every step.

I include the many in paid work who go so far above and beyond a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, without giving a thought to any thanks or extra reward: key local government officers; the faith groups; the university; colleges; and members of the public at large.

Beyond The Queen's memorable visit, highlights included the many events surrounding the centenary of the end of World War One. From the commitment of so many people, young and old, using this poignant anniversary to renovate

and re-dedicate local memorials, to the hundreds who attended the 6.00 am candlelit procession through Chester Cathedral to mark the signing of the armistice, before the 11.00 am laying of the wreaths in the company of His Grace the Duke of Westminster. High attendances at all events ensuring future generations will also not forget.

The visits to schools and citizenship ceremonies were uplifting examples of the power and symbolism of the regalia – for children to enjoy their shared and deep constitutional history, as well as to welcome and encourage new citizens to embrace and contribute to that shared history.



Above: Greeting Her Majesty The Queen and the Duchess of Sussex with Lord-Lieutenant David Briggs MBE and consort Phil Redmond CBE.
Below: Blue light carol concert in Chester Cathedral.



Photo credit: Robbi Unwin



Above: International Women's Day

Throughout the year, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's work with the Prince's Trust, delivering personal development courses helping young people turn their lives around, was inspirational, while the charity Christmas concert featuring choirs from all the blue light services, backed by the police band, was especially enjoyable.

So many memorable occasions, but I should mention one other event, the reception I held to welcome the new Honorary Recorder of Chester, His Honour Judge Everett. It was a fun gathering that brought the judiciary, public sector and blue lights together, for me, as High Sheriff, to thank them for their continued commitment to public service. They achieve great results in what are, and always have been, extremely difficult circumstances.

In Cheshire, the High Sheriff works to support both Cheshire Crimebeat and the Community Foundation, and together with the University of Chester, to deliver the prestigious High Sheriff's Awards for Enterprise, and a separate award for Literature. All build on the legacy of previous High Sheriffs, and I was privileged to carry on and develop these initiatives further where I could, and work as a broker in bringing people together, to exchange views and ideas, helping build partnerships.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have held the office for 2018-19; indeed, a year like no other.

♦ **Alexis Redmond MBE**
High Sheriff of Cheshire 2018-19



Reflections of a police cadet

REFLECTING ON my year working with the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Major General John Moore-Bick CBE DL, I cannot believe how incredibly lucky I have been to be a part of such a wonderful team of people, and to have been given many exceptional opportunities, meeting many inspiring individuals.

For me, the highlight of the year has certainly been meeting and working with a wide variety of professionals and volunteers, each with their own fantastic stories. The year was made so enjoyable by every person I met being so welcoming and inclusive, providing me with a clear insight into their work and sometimes even allowing me to undertake a more hands-on role. Such work has also enabled me to take part in further charitable events in the county, namely a collection for a local homeless charity as well as the Mayor of Brighton's Spring Sleepout!

Of course, I enjoyed gaining further experience in policing, such as shadowing an officer for the day in Eastbourne, listening to 999 calls and attending multiple police awards; however, it was also fantastic to be given further insight into the other emergency services with which I had not had much contact before. For instance, we visited the St John Ambulance team on duty at Brighton football stadium, the Rye Harbour Lifeboat Station, as well as an enlightening performance organised by the Fire Service called 'Safe Drive Stay Alive'. All of these were extremely informative about their crucial work. Similarly, it was interesting to visit other cadet units, such as the Newhaven Sea Cadets and the Sussex University Royal Naval Unit, where we spent the evening learning how to tie various knots and about different roles in the Royal Navy and Amphibious Forces.

One of the things I enjoyed most was meeting so many outstanding volunteers with charities working with the homeless. I feel as if their work is sometimes overlooked and that most volunteers do not even realise how much they are valued for the little



Above: The Declarations of the High Sheriff and the High Sheriff of West Sussex Caroline Nichols, shown with the Lord-Lieutenants of East and West Sussex, outgoing High Sheriffs, Circuit Judges, Mr Nichols, Mrs Moore-Bick, High Sheriff's Cadet and (front row) Mr Justice Stuart-Smith and their Chaplains

things they do, such as giving out a simple pot noodle or a coffee; but by shadowing them for an evening it has become clear that they are very well respected and appreciated by the street community.

A further honour has been representing the county for Remembrance celebrations for both world wars; not only did I take part in the Brighton and Hove Remembrance marches, but together with the High Sheriff I had an active role in various other beautiful ceremonies. In August we travelled to Dieppe for celebrations commemorating soldiers who lost their lives during the Dieppe Raids in 1942, participating in several extremely moving ceremonies. Additionally, we were invited to take part in a ceremony which celebrated the work of hospitals in Brighton that treated 12,000 Indian soldiers during World War One. It was a huge privilege to be a part of every event, at which we remembered those who lost their lives.

With General Moore-Bick's military background, he felt he should uphold the values representing Her Majesty The

Queen in matters of law and order by adopting a relatively formal approach to his year as High Sheriff. One thing he made extremely clear was his aim to make as many people smile as possible, something he certainly accomplished and in which I felt huge pride in having a part, knowing that people were grateful and content with our presence, such as visiting primary schools where the children were fascinated by our uniforms, and, of course, the shrieval sword!

Furthermore, our journey did not end at the Declaration of our successors, as Major General Moore-Bick invited me to become his apprentice in the Skinners' Company in the City of London – something else I am enormously honoured to be.

Thank you for a wonderful year, General John and Anne!

♦♦ Emily Mabbott

Assigned Police Cadet to Major General John Moore-Bick CBE DL, High Sheriff of East Sussex 2018-19



Beyond the shiny badge

I HAD been warned that Greater London is a special case in all things shrieval. Over eight million souls squeezed into a bailiwick covering only 600 square miles. Here, the most likely response to 'Hello, I am the High Sheriff' is 'Who?' The good news is that you can get anywhere on the Underground.

With eleven Crown Courts, including the Old Bailey, supporting the judiciary is a priority. Visiting each court to see the remarkable work of the judges, barristers, and court staff in challenging circumstances was fascinating. Returning that hospitality at our Judges' Dinner was an enjoyable privilege. In Greater London it is through the High Sheriff's Awards where we add most value. Championed and arranged by our indefatigable Under Sheriff, Lynn Johansen, ceremonies were held at the Supreme Court and Blackfriars Crown Court. Hearing the citations for Londoners who bravely intervened in often horrifying crimes is moving and humbling. Such civic recognition is vital and the support from the judges, our hosts, the Lord-Lieutenant, and the Commissioner enhance and dignify the ceremonies.

My highlight of the year was the special investiture we hosted for the Royal Humane Society for those involved in the



Photo: Johnny Fenn

Above: The High Sheriff addressing the Special Investiture recipients and guests at Fishmongers' Hall, November 2018

London and Westminster Bridges terrorist attacks in 2017. Held in November 2018, appropriately at Fishmongers' Hall on London Bridge, we awarded thirteen bronze medals to mark the bravery of citizens who had aided those injured in the attacks. They were joined by their families and representatives from the communities caught up in these dreadful events, including the police, ambulance service, hospitals and civic authorities.

Beyond civic recognition, my themes have been mental health, and education in prisons. The Thames bridges are magnets to the suicidal, so prevention is a priority for the Metropolitan and City of London Police. The Marine Police Unit, England's oldest police force, plays a vital role in attending around 1,000 incidents and typically recovering 60 bodies from the river each year. With half those detained by the police throughout London experiencing mental health challenges, a better appreciation of and support for this aspect of our criminal justice system is overdue.

London's prisons share the challenges faced across the country. The Third

Sector champions education to prevent reoffending. So, we were proud to support fundraising for excellent charities including The Clink, Bounce Back, Leap, Beyond Food and PACT.

Beyond the shiny badge, the Office in Greater London offers many opportunities but few entrenched privileges. Having Westminster Abbey as our parish church is, however, an honour. We commemorated the death of Stephen Hawking; Nelson Mandela at one hundred; 60 years since Windrush; the opening of the legal year; the NHS and the Commonwealth, each at 70; 80 years since Kristallnacht; and 100 since the end of the Great War. Led by the Dean, the music, doctrine, and ceremonial were pitch perfect, so the Abbey showed Britain to the rest of the world at its most welcoming. As a Royal Peculiar, a church responsible directly to the sovereign, protocol is observed rigorously. Almost certainly the only time I will be ranked ahead of the Leader of the Opposition.

♣ **Charles Spicer**

High Sheriff of Greater London 2018-19



Photo: Hamish McLean

Above: The High Sheriff with Senior Master Fontaine, Queen's Remembrancer (right), and Lynn Johansen, Under Sheriff of Greater London (left) at the Royal Courts of Justice after his swearing-in, April 2018



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Living the values of humanity – a year to serve



Above: The High Sheriff with Ian Hopkins QPM, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and poster competition winner Miley Rose Green

ON 12 April 2019, I completed my tenure as High Sheriff of Greater Manchester. In my retirement speech I reflected on a year that was purposeful, meaningful and hugely humbling. As High Sheriff one must work hard and demonstrate consistently the values that underpin the duties of this great Office. One must recognise the importance of showing humility and compassion and of valuing those who enrich our lives daily through their selfless and sometimes unrecognised work.

Many are paid public sector professionals working in the police, emergency services, probation, social care and the criminal justice system among others. However, many more people are inconspicuous such as our community ambassadors, family carers, and unsung heroes and heroines of all ages and from all backgrounds. Meeting so many face to face provided a precious insight into the selfless community of volunteers who generously and tirelessly support our statutory services and provide compassion when it is needed most.

It has been a great privilege to visit and commend them on behalf of the residents of Greater Manchester. However, my work with young people has truly defined my year. We all know that sometimes the voice and involvement of young people is overlooked. To address this I founded Team High Sheriff, a platform that opened doors and celebrated the extraordinary talent and excellent contribution young people are already making.

Since our launch at the Etihad Stadium in May 2018, working with my team of specially appointed ambassadors, we have organised five events and co-facilitated themed conversation forums on mental health and wellbeing, social inclusion, crime reduction, coping with change, developing resilience, enhancing self-esteem and building confidence. Over 500 young people across Greater Manchester have benefited from these events and feedback has been consistently positive.

The opportunity to hear from youth ambassadors has been invaluable. Their ability to connect with their peers and inspire them as experts by experience has led to motivated young people enjoying work-based placements, funded apprenticeships and voluntary work experience, previously considered by many of them to be out of reach.

This has been a truly rewarding outcome for all of us and one that has secured Team High Sheriff's continued presence in Greater Manchester as a core partner of the 'Meet My Future' campaign supported by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. Collectively we will support young people to make informed choices about future careers by accessing work experience they feel motivated to explore. I am delighted that in some small way Team High Sheriff has influenced and encouraged others to give young people a voice, a place to learn and a future that they can own.

Towards the end of my year I organised an art competition inviting children aged up to 16 years from schools across Greater Manchester to design a poster with the theme 'What the police do to keep us safe'. Two winners were selected from a shortlist of 60 entries with the help of the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Ian Hopkins. The entries were absolutely super and paid tribute to



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the excellent work our police officers, staff and volunteers do to ensure we are safe from harm.

On 3 April in the company of the borough mayors and some consul generals, I was thrilled to celebrate the achievements of Team High Sheriff at the Greater Manchester Police Museum, when the event opened with a stunning musical medley from Wright Robinson College choir. It closed with the poster competition winners, Lola Robinson, aged 11 (Moorgate Primary School, Bolton), and Miley Rose Green, aged 6 (Tonge Moor Primary School, Bolton) proudly receiving a certificate of commendation and goodie bag that included a visit to the police dogs and horses at Hough End.

This was a fitting end to what has been an extraordinary and unique year. The support from borough mayors, colleagues, friends and family, especially my husband Tariq and children, Zainab, Sulaymaan and Raabiyah, has been exceptional. Thank you all for sharing what has been and will remain, an incredibly significant and inspiring journey living the values of humanity in my year of service.

♦ Dr Robina Shah MBE JP DL
High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2018-19



Left: Daniel Rimes, Lead Ambassador Team High Sheriff, with the High Sheriff

Below: Team High Sheriff Ambassadors with mayors and consorts of Greater Manchester





Giving half a chance

IN THE run up to my year in office I was often asked what charities I would be supporting or whether I had a 'theme' for the year. Rather than supporting my usual causes, I spent time seeking the opinions of others on the issues in Hampshire. While, as one would expect, everyone had their own views, but one theme was mentioned by almost all – the absurdity of the situation where so many prisoners are being released without anywhere to go. Consequently, the reoffending rate for these individuals approaches 100 per cent and the county's resources are further stretched in re-arresting them, and in so many cases dealing with the consequences of regressing back into alcohol, drug-dependency or crime. This seemed to fit squarely into what I understood was suitable territory for a High Sheriff to focus upon.

In Hampshire we have one main prison, HMP Winchester, and I have aimed to help reduce the number of offenders leaving the prison without accommodation as one step towards reducing reoffending rates. Specifically, I have initiated a scheme to purchase and then run a new 'halfway house' situated in central Winchester to provide accommodation for those leaving HMP



Above: Havant Police Cadet Unit with (back row) Unit Leader Steve Baldwin, (front row) Inspector Marcus Cator, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Cllr Lee Mason, the High Sheriff of Hampshire and Chief Superintendent Craig Dibdin

Winchester. I am pleased to report Alleyne House, which contains nine self-contained units, is due to open summer 2019.

The delivery of the 'halfway house' has provided a great focus on my relationship with a wide range of individuals and organisations. HMP Winchester, the PCC, the Chief Constable and her officers, the probation services, Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and the local offender resettlement teams have all assisted. A real positive has been the number of local charities specialising in homelessness and addiction-support coming together to make this a reality and demonstrate our community's desire to support the reintegration of ex-offenders.

Over the year, I was privileged to

see the work of a large selection of charities leading up to the High Sheriff's Award ceremony at the Great Hall in Winchester. Some visits have certainly been more demanding than others. One of my first engagements was a sleepout at Fratton Park, the home of Portsmouth Football Club, to raise awareness of the homeless in Portsmouth. A cold night was made more challenging by a soaking at 3 am when the automatic pitch sprinkler system came on!

On the morning before Remembrance Sunday I joined the High Sheriff of Wiltshire for a skydive near Salisbury on behalf of Alabaré, a charity providing accommodation across several counties for ex-servicemen and women. We were enormously lucky to have a few hours in between autumn storms to complete the jump.

I have been hugely impressed by the police cadets. Hampshire now has 14 groups with over 350 cadets. The groups not only help foster great personal development and leadership skills for the individual cadets but make a surprising difference in the communities in which they operate. Many of the cadets have really raised their aspirations for their own lives and when I asked one what she hoped to do as a career she told me she hoped to join the police – in Delhi!

♦♦ **Mark Thistlethwayte**
High Sheriff of Hampshire 2018-19



Alabaré skydive to raise money for veterans



Much more than cider and beef

HEREFORDSHIRE IS a county with a widely dispersed population of some 190,000, one of the very smallest counties by population though large in area. The neighbouring High Sheriffs (with whom I have shared a number of events) have more crime, more courts, more law and order work and judicial entertainment. A High Court Judge has not sat in Hereford for two years, being met at the county border, escorted safely to the lodgings and provided with entertainment as in days of yore.

However, we keep the Crown Court, the magistrates and the coroner busy. We fight to keep justice locally administered against the forces of central bureaucracy. I invited the Chief Magistrate, Senior District Judge Arbuthnot, who is in charge of District Judges (Magistrates' Courts), to address the magistrates' bench AGM.

We continued the tradition of a High Sheriff's lecture. Sir David Latham, previously chair of the parole board, addressed an audience in the beautiful old court in the Shirehall in Hereford. His subject was highly topical: 'Are parole boards becoming too risk adverse in the face of public opinion?'

My focus was social care and we organised a symposium that brought together distinguished judges, the heads of Herefordshire Council Social Services and commentators on the subject, as speakers and a discussion panel. Some

180 people from across the county attended, from both state organisations and our wonderful charities with their hosts of volunteers.

A theme has emerged from the symposium and from the many visits that we made to charities and state organisations involved in care. Taken off the leash of bureaucracy, these organisations will work together to develop sensible solutions to particular problems. Inevitably, this can give rise to a 'postcode lottery'; however, striving for uniformity does not make the best use of resources, kills initiative and damages morale.

Herefordshire is a county that punches well above its population weight. We have the finest music and culture. The Three Choirs Festival that cycles between Worcester, Gloucester and Hereford was this year in Hereford – lucky me. Our cathedral with its choral tradition is a feast for the soul daily. We also have some fine educational establishments to whose ranks we are about to add NMITE (New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering), which will be the first new university in the country for 40 years. It will focus on collaboration with industry and will welcome the first students this September. This will encourage further development of high value-added commerce. Already, we are seeing the growth of hubs of high technology

activity. We are striving for a net inflow of young people who will then live and work in the county.

All High Sheriffs in 2018 will have been involved in the commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. In Hereford Cathedral a particularly poignant moment was the silence during the Service of Reflection on 11 November, during which 3,213 petals fell from the transept tower for each of the fallen, whose names had been read over the previous week – it was an honour to be asked to help read. We are a military county, proud of our contribution.

In Rotherwas, near Hereford, stands a derelict enormous munitions store, soon to be restored to new more peaceful use. We have paid tribute to the Canary Girls who worked there, so called because the chemicals often gave the workers symptoms similar to jaundice. A small cohort are still with us and one of the four royal visits was to thank them.

It has been a privilege to hold the office of High Sheriff for a year in this wonderful go-ahead County of Herefordshire. We are much more than cider and beef – though they are top quality. Come and visit the county, for work, pleasure and fulfilment.

♦♦ Nat Hone DL

High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2018-19



Above: Hereford's new university inauguration service – the academic parade



Above: Hereford Council's Citizens Awards winners



On Her Majesty's not-so-secret service

KENT IS a large and diverse county at the forefront of change, sandwiched as it is between Greater London and the continent. Throughout my year as High Sheriff I have focused on supporting the agencies involved in keeping the peace and promoting justice. In Kent we are privileged to have wise judges, devoted and selfless magistrates, hard-working and brave police, as well as committed and forward-thinking prison officers. I have also witnessed the commitment and dedication of affiliated organisations, including the Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, Coroners' Court, Witness Service, Victim Support, Coastguard and Border Force.

One of the stories that was in the news during my year was the increased number of migrant boat crossings from France to the Kent coast. Since autumn 2018 approximately 400 migrants have landed, and while they have mainly crossed the Channel in seaworthy small vessels, they have been ill equipped for such a journey. I was delighted to visit the General Aviation and General Maritime teams, part of Border Force, and go out on the Channel with them in one of their small rib boats (a privilege denied even to the Home Secretary!). It must have been the coldest day of the year; even the tops of the Dover Cliffs were white – covered in snow. But there was the Border Force team, and me, suitably dressed in full body suits and helmets. That was definitely my 'Bond Girl' moment!



Above: On Border Force operations

Working alongside the judicial sector I have had the privilege of meeting many charitable and voluntary organisations, all doing their bit for the county. I have found all to be inspirational, making all the difference in the world in a variety of different sectors. Visiting these charities has been a privilege – encouraging, humbling, heart-warming and, often, heart-rending. Sadly, there are many in need in our communities, but there are also many who are rich in compassion, addressing these needs.

Other particular highlights have included a tea to thank and encourage prison chaplains of different faiths (there are seven prisons in Kent), and provide an opportunity for them to share and support each other. I also hosted a reception for the key people involved

in the judicial sector in the county late in the year. I am told that it was an immensely helpful evening for the various agencies concerned, as day to day they do not generally have time to meet each other informally and form useful links between each other.

Reflecting on the year I have a new appreciation for both the system of law and order in our country as well as the individuals executing justice and showing compassion as well as concern. It has been my endeavour to thank and encourage those I have met, on behalf of Her Majesty, and to show them how very grateful we are for their tireless service. It has been an honour and a privilege to do so.

♦♦ **Jane Ashton**
High Sheriff of Kent 2018-19



Be yourself – enjoy!

MOST HIGH Sheriffs in nomination are given a lot of advice. This includes 'Be yourself', 'Build bridges', 'Have a chain gang party' and, above all, 'Enjoy'.

Being myself was the only way for me. Yes, being a High Sheriff is a very important role, but not an acting one. As a long-time resident of Merseyside, my involvement in the voluntary, cultural and business life of the county was a great preparation for my shrieval year, and I began my term thinking that I knew all there was to know. How wrong I was! Each of our five boroughs has its own characteristics, from great wealth to serious poverty. However, the one thing they do have in common is a great spirit and desire to improve their communities. This is manifested by the organisations which do amazing work and are mainly manned by worldly-wise retired people who give so generously of their time and skills. Many work closely with Merseyside police community officers engaging with young people and helping to keep crime off the streets. I was delighted to meet young people who opened up to me when I sat down with them in classrooms and clubs, where they learned about my role, and I in turn heard about the challenges facing them.

I had hoped to highlight how art and creativity enriched people's lives and helped toward the regeneration of communities. We had some success with the Tate and the agency which provided art and education in prisons in Merseyside. This took the form of a project to educate prisoners and their families on aspects of art so that they could have a common interest at visiting time. I arranged for a local radio presenter to visit the prison and speak to the prison radio presenters. Time did not permit me to arrange cookery workshops or talks from the hospitality industry but hopefully I can nudge people into action in the coming months. I enjoyed the collaboration between The Royal Court Theatre and Merseyside Police who produced a series of plays highlighting gang and knife crime. This had great impact when performed at the theatre, schools and community centres.

Did I build bridges? I do not think that I can take credit for doing that, but I can confidently say that I pointed out the bridges to the people on either side and encouraged them to meet in the middle. Throughout my year there



Photo: Ray Farley Photography

Above: At the High Sheriff's Awards evening with Tony Ravel, manager at the League of Welldoers, Liverpool's oldest independent charity

were many charities and volunteer groups which impressed me and I was determined to honour them with a High Sheriff's Award. My Under Sheriff added colour and theatre to the occasion by participating in the presentations.

My chain gang party for the mayors and consorts of the five borough councils was held early in my year. The invitation clearly stated that it was to be relaxed kitchen supper. Despite the brief, they all turned up resplendent in their chains of honour and with their drivers. We quickly learnt 'no chain' means 'no driver'! The evening was a great success and paid dividends over the following months whenever we visited their mayoralties or required intelligence on organisations in their areas. Oh, how I wished that High Sheriffs wore some valuable hardware to merit having a car and driver at our disposal! Thank God for consorts without whom life would be difficult.

And reader, did I enjoy? Most certainly! I met some wonderful people and have hopefully made friendships which will last for many years. Would I offer any advice? Probably all of the above and perhaps consider having a Twitter account which is an excellent way of keeping a diary and promoting the work and role of the High Sheriff.

Finally, to all of you who have just come in to Office or are waiting in the wings, I would say again – 'Be yourselves' and 'Enjoy'.

♦ Peter Woods DL

High Sheriff of Merseyside 2018-19



Above: Pupils at St Vincent's, a specialist school for sensory impairment and other needs, having proudly received their 'Lasting Legacies' recognition for services to the community from the High Sheriff

NORTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members



Above: Gathered for the North East Circuit Legal Service in the York Assembly Rooms

Balancing act

AS I approach the end of my shrieval year I am filled with conflicting emotions. A very small part of me is relieved as I know I couldn't practically carry on balancing the demands of being High Sheriff with my work and other commitments. However, a large part of me is filled with sadness that my time is drawing to a close, and also with a small dose of envy of those about to set off on this wonderful journey. What a privilege and honour it has been to serve as High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, and to get to know this wonderful county better and to have seen some amazing things being done by some extraordinary people across all walks of life. I would like to share just a few of the many highlights of my year.

The North East Circuit Legal Service at York Minster

The North East Circuit Legal Service is a major highlight of the shrieval year. Although it takes place

in North Yorkshire at the magnificent York Minster, it represents the whole of the North East and brings together the High Sheriffs of North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, County Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear. It is quite a spectacle and all beautifully organised by the Under Sheriff of North Yorkshire, David Garfitt, who even arranged for the sun to shine. The procession this year was around 130 strong, and included nine High Sheriffs, two Supreme Court Justices, two Court of Appeal Judges, the Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine and six High Court Judges. The many tourists in York that day appeared quite taken aback by this extraordinary show of pomp and ceremony that we British are so good at, and they will have some fun photos to take home with them.

Police

While I have had many wonderful experiences across all aspects of the criminal justice system, including



News from and about members



the judiciary at all levels, prisons and probation service, I have spent more time with the North Yorkshire Police than any other organisation in our county. Some of my time with the police has involved the exciting stuff such as racing around in fast cars with 'blues and twos' blaring (on the last occasion I did this we chased, caught and locked up a major cannabis dealer/grower), and going out on foot patrol in busy towns across the county on Friday or Saturday nights to get a flavour of the challenges faced by police officers on a daily basis. However, just as rewarding have been all the other things I've done with the police, which included taking part in a mental health conference and also several award ceremonies covering serving officers, PCSOs, police volunteers and police cadets. Common threads that run through everyone I've met across the North Yorkshire Police force include commitment, professionalism and a determination to protect. We should all be very grateful for the fine work they do.

Dragons' Den Charity Night

Like High Sheriffs across the country, some of the most rewarding things I've seen and done during my shrieval year have involved the charitable and voluntary sectors, but I've only time to highlight



Top: Representatives of the five charities awarded Dragons' Den funding



Above: The High Sheriff with Chief Constable Lisa Winward and cadets and staff

briefly one particular event. With significant help from our local Community Foundation, we created a High Sheriff's Dragons' Den event, mimicking the TV show but with charities rather than businesses pitching for funds. We raised a fantastic £30,000 thanks to the generosity of the Dragons and some match funding from our Community Foundation, which we gave out on the night to five different charities: Whitby InterActive, Community Furniture Store, Art Therapy Yorkshire, Whitby Sheds and Leyburn Arts Centre. The charities we chose were all small, local and staffed largely by volunteers. Happily, we are about to set off on a tour of the charities involved to see at first hand what the money raised has gone towards and what a difference it has made. And, even better, we are already planning the 2019 event so hopefully this is something that will run and run for years in North Yorkshire.

♣ **Christopher Legard**

High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2018-19



Those who give most often have very little themselves

Below: High Sheriff with Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley and Michael Fairles

IT WAS remiss of my predecessors not to have provided me with a copy of the report of 1846 by 'Gentlemen of the County of Northumberland' that considered how to overcome the expenses of the Sheriff of Northumberland being 'unnecessarily large'. Fortunately, as my great-great-grandfather was pricked as High Sheriff in the year of the report, I found a copy myself.

However, I must confess that my budget was even more constrained than suggested, as I have not even met High Court Judges when they arrived

at Newcastle Station, let alone in a coach and four, and I have not maintained pages to attend upon me, duties (and expenditure) which the report recommended should be retained.

As other High Sheriffs have done, I have discovered new aspects of a county that I thought I knew very well already and continuously met people who give so generously of their time to inspire others through numerous voluntary and community groups. Often I have found that those who give most to their communities have very little themselves, being inspired to help others arising from their own needs.



Photo credit: Helen Smith Photography



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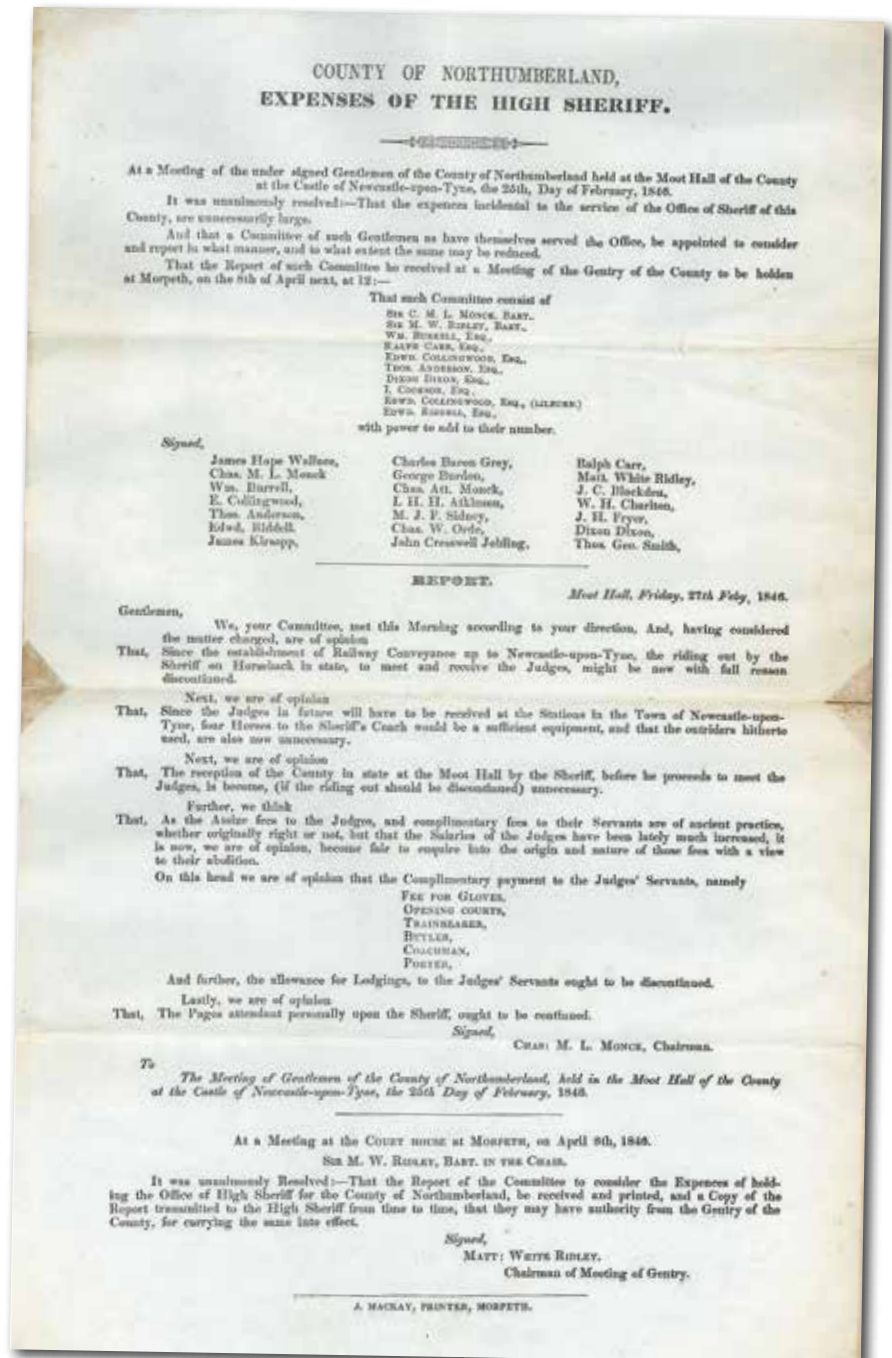
Above: High Sheriff with Inspector Kevin Waring and Sgt Chrissie Skillen with the High Sheriff's Cup

It was fascinating and a great pleasure to visit groups providing activities for the young, in the hope of raising their self-confidence and their aspirations and keeping them away from crime, and on almost every occasion I was impressed by what is being achieved.

One of the aspects of my education in the ways of agencies involved in law and order that has impressed me most has been the multi-agency approach to joint working. I was privileged to see this in action when sitting in on MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) meetings, where the title does infer that you should expect it. However, I was also impressed to find the emergency services giving joint presentations about road sense to school children taking up driving. Without declaring my role, I attended multi-agency training on handling situations in public places involving people with mental health issues, alongside the police, paramedics, doctors, social workers and accredited mental health practitioners. It was very evident that all the professionals were learning from each other and would make a far more effective team using collaborative working.

I started my year with great respect for those working in the emergency services and this has significantly increased as I have seen first-hand some of the issues that they have to deal with on a daily basis. It was a great privilege to give awards to those who were commended as making even more difference than others. This included giving recognition of 40 years' service to the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service at Allendale Community Fire Station by Michael Fairless and presenting the High Sheriff's Cup to Sergeant Chrissie Skillen of Northumbria Police.

Towards the end of my year, I was pleased to be able to help raise funds, and the profile of homelessness, by taking part in a sponsored night sleeping rough. When I drove home through snow the following morning, I was very conscious of how lucky I was to be able to go straight home for a hot bath



and a bowl of porridge before getting on with my day.

At the start of my year in office I felt humbled by the weight of history in taking on such an ancient and important role. This has continued by meeting the most amazing range and number of people who give so much to make their communities, and the county, a far better place to live than it was in 1076 when the first Sheriff of Northumberland was appointed. It has been an inspiring year and the greatest of fun.

♦ Michael Orde

High Sheriff of Northumberland 2018-19

Above:
The report
from 1846



Stand up for justice

Right The High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire's service of thanksgiving at St Mary's

MY YEAR has been an extraordinary and wonderfully life-enriching experience. I would also like to think that in diverse ways – sometimes very small – I have also enhanced the lives of others.

During my term I have engaged on several occasions with the judiciary and the police. In one particularly busy month, I observed a murder trial; offered the judiciary hospitality and received it from them; spent time with police officers and prison warders; presented numerous awards and 'hosted' a thanksgiving service for those working to uphold law and order. The moment in court involved five young men and a stabbing which resulted in a death.

The award ceremonies included attendance at the National Crimebeat final where my nomination, the Pythian Club, was commended for their work to reduce knife crime, coming second in the youth led category. During this same month there were other award ceremonies including one where I presented court awards to especially brave members of the public who had put themselves in harm's way to help others.

And at the end of the month I joined a police patrol – between the uncivilised hours of 8 pm and 5 am – of Nottingham's night-time economy. The

Below: Big Sleep Out supported by the High Sheriff, accompanied by Under Sheriff Deborah Hutchinson, and Nottingham Forest Football Club to raise funds for Framework, a homelessness charity



police had to deal with drunkenness, distressed civilians, and aggression and violence. While that Friday night seemed particularly dystopian my abiding memory of that intense four-week period, starting with the court case and ending on the streets of Nottingham, was the professionalism, dedication, fortitude and humanity of all those who serve to protect us. It was also uplifting to acknowledge and celebrate the bravery and generosity of ordinary citizens.

Generosity towards others has been a significant theme throughout my year. One of my key activities has been supporting organisations seeking to reduce homelessness and in particular a charity called Framework. Promotion and support of the voluntary sector is another key High Sheriff's task. I have made many requests on behalf of Framework which have always been greeted with a positive response and generosity. One of the most generous benefactors has been Nottingham Forest Football Club.

I have one final experience I would like to share. In November, Jayne, my wife, and I attended an event to mark the 23rd anniversary of the opening



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of the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in north Nottinghamshire. The occasion was also used to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht and the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport operation which rescued children from Nazi oppression. We heard tragic testimonies and reflections from Kindertransport survivors. What struck me most from listening to the survivors was not so much the tragedy of their experience but their dignity and their passionate concern that mistakes of the past should not be repeated. The survivors had two key messages: first, treat people as individuals and not as 'something other'; avoid talking about 'them and us'. The second message was 'stand up and be counted'. As they put it: 'remember what happens when good people do nothing'. It felt like a call to action. A call to stand up for justice – a call which resonated strongly with my sense of purpose as High Sheriff.

◆ Nicholas Ebbs

High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2018-19



Above: Inside St Mary's with a constellation of High Sheriffs from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland



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High-pressure situations!

MY SHRIEVAL year started on 11 April 2018 in the unique and historic surroundings of the 11th-century Oakham Castle.

From the outset I decided to do two things: to support law and order, and to support local individuals and organisations that enhance social cohesion and provide support for those in need. And what a wonderful year it turned out to be!

I made it my business to work with and learn about all the organs of law and order within the county and nearby. I was privileged to visit our prisons, to work with all departments of the police and fire and rescue services, and to spend much time in our courts, learning of the work of our judges and our justice system.

I have vivid memories of my time with the frontline services – swaying in a gale up a 30-metre rescue ladder, being blown backwards by a high-pressure fire hose and sharing a Harley Davidson motorbike with Neil Thomas, Governor of Stocken

Prison. Among the many exciting and interesting events with Leicestershire Police, I carried out an evening foot patrol with PC Andy Jones in Leicester city centre, which included arrests – and the joys of the custody suite – in which I was touched by one man's request for a shot of heroin, followed by a caution that he was allergic to peanuts.

The overwhelming impression I had was of essential services manned by dedicated people who constantly go the extra mile to make their organisations work, despite limited and sometimes inadequate funding and resources. We are privileged and very fortunate to have such people working on our behalf. We must never lose sight of the need to give those services the resources, respect and support they need.

I sought to spread the law and order message to every school in Rutland and was assured by all children I met that they would be my ambassadors for the support of law and order – especially when they were allowed to hold my sword. The charity Warning Zone based in Leicester continues to

Below: My ambassadors for law and order





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reinforce this message. Each year it works with over 10,000 children from primary schools in Leicestershire and Rutland to make them aware of the dangers of modern life. It is growing and flourishing and there has never been a greater need for its essential contribution.

There is much in the news about the mental health problems in the young. This is well recognised in our county and is being addressed by our schools and the local charity Resilient Rutland. Looking ahead, we must strive to engage all young people to build on the excellent work already being done. I have had a long and rewarding relationship with Rutland Friends of Cancer Research UK and will continue to do so. I have also got to know a number of smaller local charities and have been able to raise some much-needed funds for all of them.

A great joy has been to visit local military units, which have bent over backwards to welcome me and tell me about their work; this I found extremely impressive. I was of course delighted to meet many lovely working dogs and horses, most of which I would cheerfully have taken home!

Our World War One centenary celebrations were most moving and sobering and united our county in paying our respects to the fallen. Being High Sheriff opens doors to so many organisations and functions and the most cherished memory, which will remain with me for the rest of my life, will be of meeting all the interesting and charming people running our essential services and charities, and my opposite numbers in surrounding counties.

♣️ **Susan Jarron**

High Sheriff of Rutland 2018-19

Above: Opening the motorbike maintenance training unit at Stocken Prison

Top right: Declaration in Oakham Castle with the Lord-Lieutenant

Right: Coming to terms with a high-pressure fire hose

Below right: High Sheriffs of Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire at a Service to Celebrate the County of Rutland in Peterborough Cathedral on 24 February 2019





Above:
Celebrations at
the High Sheriff's
Awards evening

Below: At the Eve
of Peace Service
in St Edmundsbury
Cathedral with the
Lord-Lieutenant
of Suffolk, Clare,
Countess of
Euston, and the
High Sheriff's
cadets, CSM
Shannon Elsdon,
Cpl Tom Guinivan
and Senior
Emergency
Services Cadet
Alicia Williams

THE BEAUTY of Suffolk with its picturesque towns and villages, magnificent cathedral and churches, and incomparable coastline can lull one into overlooking the fact that we have some of the most deprived wards in the country in Lowestoft and Ipswich, as well as serious pockets of deprivation uncomfortably close to all of us across the county. Spending time with charities and community groups has been jaw-dropping in understanding the appalling hands dealt to so many but also the quite extraordinary humanity with which vital support is administered. In the fragmented



world of the voluntary sector it has been good to play the important role of cheerleader and compassionate listener as local charities fight for survival amid funding cuts and increasing competition from the nationals.

The contemporary relevance of the High Sheriff was demonstrated to me in several areas as I worked in tandem with the brilliant Suffolk Community Foundation. The Foundation encourages communities, particularly those affected by the scourge of gangs and county lines, to take ownership of their own destiny rather than waiting for solutions to be imposed, and to persuade the public, private and voluntary sectors to work genuinely in equitable partnership with each other.

The dedication, professionalism and compassion of those in our criminal justice system, from judges to magistrates and court staff, the police and other emergency services are truly impressive. We have three excellent Suffolk prisons, each with a clear commitment to train and prepare prisoners for resettlement into the community. HMP Warren Hill is the best-performing prison in the country, operating a progressive regime and creating a culture of hope and respect. Despite the good work, reoffending rates remain at over 60 per cent, resulting in personal tragedy on multiple levels, continued disruption in the community



News from and about members



Far Left: Outside HMP Warren Hill



Left: At the helm during take-off of a KC-130 refuelling aircraft at RAF Mildenhall

and a waste of taxpayers' money. It was good to be able to establish rehabilitation projects in Warren Hill involving locally recruited mentors to support prisoners for six months pre-release and a further six months once out. In HMP Hollesley Bay we have commenced a project providing farm-based employment for groups of prisoners on day release. In my opinion, this goes to the heart of the role of High Sheriff and I commend the phenomenal Jane Gould and her employment charity for ex-prisoners, Clean Sheet (www.cleansheet.org.uk), to High Sheriffs looking to support the rehabilitation of prisoners.

In the centenary year of the Armistice it was wonderful to spend so much time with our armed services, especially our American allies at Lakenheath and Mildenhall who were so generous with their friendship. Flying their simulators and

refuelling F-15s over the North Sea are never-to-be-forgotten experiences.

Particular highlights of the year were Suffolk Day, when I travelled the county with the Community Foundation and BBC Suffolk to celebrate our volunteers, and creating the Suffolk Medal, a beautiful piece designed by Suffolk's greatest living artist, Maggi Hambling. This recognises, rewards and champions the exceptional contributions of Suffolk people who have made a fundamental and lasting difference to the lives of people in our county. With nominations being submitted by residents of Suffolk, the Suffolk Medal will be truly by Suffolk, for Suffolk, in Suffolk.

♣ George Vestey DL
High Sheriff of Suffolk 2018-19



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.





Surrey Volunteer Police Cadet scheme steps up!

THE SURREY Volunteer Police Cadet scheme began in late 2016. It is now recognised as a significant way for diverse groups of young people aged 13 to 18 to learn about the critical role played by our police and to experience meaningful personal development, while making a real difference within their local communities. There are currently six operational units based within schools in underprivileged areas. The strategy is eventually to have one unit in each of Surrey's eleven boroughs and districts. Discussions are already under way regarding the possibility of opening a specific unit for young people with special educational needs. All units have contributed significantly in supporting my year and are much respected by civic dignitaries across the county.

The Surrey VPC force is now over 200 strong, split equally between male and female, with 19 per cent of the cadets from BAME groups and over 40 per cent included within the national VPC definition of 'vulnerable to exclusion'.

Critical to both the success and consistent standards of the scheme is the staff cohort, led by Sgt Graham Kerslake



Above: Surrey cadets form an unruly mob at training for Police Support Unit officers! Sgt Graham Kerslake, coordinator of Surrey VPC scheme (left), PCSO Paul Woodhouse, unit leader, Runnymede (right), Police Support Volunteer, Connor Tomlinson (second left), Police Support Volunteer, Alice Critchley (fifth left)

and comprising police officers, staff and special constables who all volunteer their time and experience to this worthy initiative. This team is augmented by over 20 external volunteers including three university students and five returning ex-cadets who are now aged over 18. Feedback from numerous parents and carers provides strong evidence of the inspirational impact that the VPC scheme is having in the lives of their young people.

Two significant decisions were taken in April 2018 which will cement the link between the Surrey VPC scheme and the High Sheriff. It was established that the serving High Sheriff becomes the patron of the scheme and is supported throughout their year by a formally appointed High Sheriff's Volunteer Police Cadet. It has therefore been a great privilege to be the first High Sheriff of Surrey to receive the dedicated and professional support of Volunteer Police Cadet, Naael Radha. Naael has been an active participant at a broad range of occasions during the year, such as citizenship ceremonies, the service

for the judiciary, Crown Court bravery awards and even welcoming royalty at a university degree ceremony.

The mutually supportive link between High Sheriff and Surrey Police provided by the VPC scheme is highly valued within the county. The influential activities of the units are much welcomed and the attendance of cadet representatives at formal review panels focused on issues such as use of force and hate crime is greatly appreciated by senior officers. The link also serves to celebrate the enormous impact of volunteering across Surrey, whether through the unit leaders who willingly support the young people, or the cadets themselves who all commit to volunteer at least three hours each month in supporting local causes. They undertake challenging social action projects in their communities or assist with police activities such as forming an unruly mob during essential training for Police Support Unit officers!

♦ **Jim Glover**
High Sheriff of Surrey 2018-19



Above: Bravery Awards presented at Guildford Crown Court, convened by His Honour Judge Fraser MVO, Honorary Recorder of Guildford and Resident Judge at Guildford Crown Court, with High Sheriff's cadet, Naael Radha
Photo credit: all images Andy Newbold Photography



Young people first

THIRTEEN MONTHS ago I announced my priorities: to highlight the problem of domestic violence and to work to ensure that young people are fed during the holidays. I have been able to begin to address both.

Refuge is a national charity which supports women and their children fleeing abusive relationships by running four refuges in Warwickshire. I visited their Rugby refuge, where women live with their children with the support of trained staff. At my awards ceremony I presented them with a cheque and also £1,000 from the Warwickshire Freemasons to help refurbish their children's play area. I built a relationship with Costa Coffee, which provided vouchers for the women living in refuges so they could go into town to meet their mum or a friend. If you live in a refuge you have your children with you 24/7, without visitors, as your home must obviously remain secret.

Cohort4 is another local charity supporting vulnerable women by providing advice and encouragement through self-help to those who have been abused or even been to prison. Again, I presented the group with a cheque as well as acknowledging one woman who had been in and out of prison due to her

addiction. She was given the chance to go straight, and came under the wing of Cohort4 which gave her essential support. She is now in employment, finding work for other ex-offenders.

My other priority was to feed young people over the summer – even if you are in receipt of free school meals you don't get these during the holidays. I wrote to various supermarkets which provided me with food for young people through the incredible Young People First (YPF) charity. They concentrate on aspects of youth work; one such is Sharp Minds which supports young people's mental health through one-to-one support and group activities. They work with youngsters who have left care, who often end up in hostels, poor-quality accommodation or even sleeping rough. I ran a cooking session – how to roast a chicken, make cauliflower cheese and apple crumble! YPF mentor young people on the edge of criminality. They support youngsters through old-fashioned youth work; a safe place to hang out, with supportive adults to talk to.

Together we organised a conference to improve joined-up thinking about young people and the challenges they face. Over 60 people attended, hosted by King's



Above: YPF lunch

High School, Warwick. A constructive conversation took place, breaking down some barriers that have got in the way of a more coordinated approach. Our second conference is scheduled for October.

At Onley Prison, I visited the Sycamore Tree project, which assists prisoners with rehabilitation and attended its extremely moving carol service. I attended many church services, the highlight being Remembrance Day at St Mary's, Warwick, with over 64,000 poppies decorating the church.

Shakespeare's Celebrations were splendid, with my reception at Hall's Croft on the hottest day of the year, wearing full uniform, tights and high heels – something I would not recommend!

I have visited hospices, started a duck race, judged cake competitions, observed annual council meetings, visited HMP Long Lartin, presided over citizenship ceremonies, met royalty, supported The Queen's Awards and had lunch with the SAS. I sat with our resident judge and met many inspiring people associated with charitable work. I've laughed and cried at their work.

I am honoured to have been High Sheriff of Warwickshire. Time has flown by during a really memorable year.

♣️ **Clare Sawdon JP**
High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2018-19



Above: At the fifth birthday lunch for Cohort4



Unity in diversity

IT IS both a great privilege and somewhat humbling to be able to acknowledge and recognise the great work being done across the county by people who go above and beyond the call of duty to maintain and build the fabric of society.

One of my most pleasant duties during my final months in office was to host an 'Inspiring Others' event during which I presented a number of young people with a High Sheriff's Award for their outstanding accomplishments, often achieved in very trying circumstances. As has become traditional in the West Midlands the candidates for these awards are nominated by the mayoral offices, one from each of our three cities and four boroughs. I also chose this evening to present a further set of High Sheriff's Awards to four small charities from across the county with which I had been particularly impressed during my year.

I chose to hold the awards evening in one of Birmingham's oldest churches – St Martin in the Bull Ring. The church is at once both ancient and contemporary. While not quite as old as the Shrievally, there have been churches on this site since 1290, although the current church was built in 1873. My reason for choosing St Martin's was twofold: the church has evolved with the changing needs of society and now provides a wide range of services and facilities for the highly diverse local community, including the homeless and forgotten; secondly, it contains a magnificent window which combines the work of Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. This window is world famous among students of the pre-Raphaelite movement but I only became aware of its existence and history when visiting a client in Stockholm some three years ago! My point: we sometimes need others to point out the riches we have all around us (wonderful artefacts and wonderful people) but of which we are blissfully unaware.

The evening proved a great success. In addition to the sponsoring mayors, we were fortunate to have representatives

from the 'blue light services', faith leaders, business leaders and a good number of judges, including two High Court Judges on circuit at that time. Our winners were thrilled to be recognised and many of our guests remarked how much they had learnt about activities in the county of which until then they had been 'blissfully unaware'.

There are many events in a High Sheriff's calendar that are known about well in advance and can be properly planned. By way of contrast there are others that arrive entirely unexpectedly and require a spontaneous response. Earlier this year we learnt of the horrors of the shootings in Christchurch of people at prayer in their mosques. As well as being a tragedy in itself, these shootings led to a climate of fear among Moslem communities the world over. Sadly, in the West Midlands a number of mosques were vandalised during the following week, which served only to increase fear locally. So, together with the Chief Constable of the West Midlands, the leader of Birmingham City Council and other community leaders, I visited Birmingham's Central Mosque during Friday prayers to express support for and solidarity with those members of our county who were feeling particularly threatened. Our small yet symbolic gesture was



Photo: Jas Sansi Photography

Above: High Sheriff presenting his award to the team from Gro-Organic (commended in the National Crimebeat Awards)

warmly appreciated by the worshipping community there, a number of whom took the time to say so personally that evening at the Pakistan Day celebrations.

My year as High Sheriff has flown by. My wife and I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of serving the county in this manner and have been warmly welcomed wherever we have visited. The motto for my year was 'unity in diversity', and whenever possible I sought to emphasise, as the late Jo Cox MP said, that 'we have more in common with each other than things that divide us'.

♦ **Chris Loughran**

High Sheriff of West Midlands 2018-19



Photo: Jas Sansi Photography

Above: Chaplain to the High Sheriff, Mgr Daniel McHugh, and Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor John Lines



WORCESTERSHIRE

News from and about members

Do not be late again

THE FOCUS of my year was attempting to enhance the profile and relevance of the Ancient Office. We started a dedicated website and Facebook page. After being late for my first event in the cathedral due to traffic and over-ambitious double-booking I was politely told by Lady Morrison, our Vice Lord-Lieutenant, that no one noticed, but 'do not be late again'. Wise words!

I nominated the Worcestershire Community Foundation as my charity and specifically the High Sheriff's Fund. I thank Michael Timmis for running a Simulated Clay Day and to Lucy Wells for coordinating various fundraising events.

I thank Patrick Holcroft, our Lord-Lieutenant, Annie his wife and Isabel Welch, Lord-Lieutenant's PA, for their endless support and calming advice.

God

I thank Canon Brian McGinley for stepping into the role of my chaplain. His wisdom and calm dealing with everyone from prisoners to the royal family was a masterclass. The Rt Revd the Bishop of Worcester, John Inge, Dean Peter Atkinson and Canon Michael Brierley: your love, prayers and openness are both infectious and at the heart and at the spirit of the county. Your IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) conference at HMP Hewell Grange was the most extraordinary event; everyone agreed – the whole criminal justice system from judges to those judged.

Government

Councillor Brandon Clayton, Chairman of the County Council, and Jabba Riaz, Mayor of Worcester, are examples of how cross-party and cross-faith action work well in this county. I thank our local MPs for answering my requests, referring them on to the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor, all to the benefit of our local citizens.

Law

The High Court has returned to Worcester giving me the opportunity to sit, look and learn and to provide and accept the hospitality from many High Court Judges



Above: Cassian Roberts (R) at the High Sheriff of Staffordshire's Legal Service with (L-R) Revd Preb Richard Grigson (Rector of Stafford), Nat Hone (Herefordshire), Diana Thompson (Leicestershire), Pippa Gee (Staffordshire), Lucy Palmer (Derbyshire) and Rhoddy Swire (Shropshire)

and helping me raise monies for the High Sheriff's Fund. At the county court, Judge Jukes QC, other judges and the court officials were so welcoming and helpful. The magistracy invited me to sit in court and to attend the mock trials which filled the Magistrates' Courts with happy, enthusiastic and competitive schoolchildren who were then highly commended in the Shire Hall.

The Services

The prison service – the passion and care demonstrated during my visits, the desire to improve by linking with our university to provide courses for prisoners and staff are commendable, as is the project to get local businesses into the prisons to train, support and give hope to prisoners. The West Mercia Police led by the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion and Chief Constable Anthony Bangham, the Fire Service, the Ambulance Service, the Civil Service and our military – volunteers, cadets and associates – all bind together and underpin the county. I am impressed by their professionalism and compassion.

Charities

In all their different forms these are the beating heart of the county. The little I have been able to do in supporting them has been the real bonus of this office. I am proud to have been able to disburse funds to – among others – Nora Parsons Day Centre, The Good Soil Project, and Longlands Farm providing alternative education for 11- to 18-year-olds.

Our Neighbours

The Office does not need to be in isolation. I enjoyed great support from neighbouring Sheriffs providing different perspectives and opinions. Nat Hone (Herefordshire) and Rhoddy Swire (Shropshire) have been invaluable and fun! Christopher Loughran (West Midlands) in Birmingham showed how small we are compared to the metropolitan super state of Birmingham. Pippa Gee (Staffordshire) showed us the National Arboretum and Clare Sawdon in Warwickshire entertained us royally.

♣ Cassian Roberts

High Sheriff of Worcestershire 2018-19

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND and WALES FOR 2019-20

England

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BERKSHIRE	Mrs L V Zeal
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Mrs J A Upton MBE
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CHESHIRE	M S Mitchell Esq DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	C J C Wyld Esq
CORNWALL	J R T Willis Esq
CUMBRIA	Ms M E Reid Fotheringham JP
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DEVON	Captain S C Martin, LVO OBE RN
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East RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	Mrs S M L Stephenson
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SHROPSHIRE	Dr J J Dixey
SOMERSET	J A N Halliday Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	J Pickering Esq
STAFFORDSHIRE	A E Brough Esq
SUFFOLK	Mrs R T Eminson
SURREY	Mrs B J Biddell
TYNE AND WEAR	Mrs C L Moran OBE
WARWICKSHIRE	S J V Miesegaes Esq
WEST MIDLANDS	M Kuo Esq
WEST SUSSEX	Mrs D M Irwin-Clark
WEST YORKSHIRE	P D Lawrence Esq
WILTSHIRE	D B Scott Esq DL
WORCESTERSHIRE	E W P Holloway Esq

Wales

CLWYD	Mrs S L Catherall
DYFED	Mrs A H J Lewis
GWENT	Dame Claire Clancy DCB DL
GWYNEDD	Mrs S M Jones
MID GLAMORGAN	Colonel W C J Donnelly CBE TD DL
POWYS	D L Peate Esq JP
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Dr I M Graham
WEST GLAMORGAN	Ms S R Goldstone

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
P M Alderman Esq	Gwent	2021
R J Amphlett Esq	Worcestershire	2021
G R Anson Esq	Buckinghamshire	2021
D G Beeby Esq	Cumbria	2021
Mrs C L E M Bewes	Cambridgeshire	2021
Mrs C V Birch	Lincolnshire	2021
S R Brice Esq DL	Essex	2021
E G Creasy Esq	Suffolk	2021
Mrs S J Davies BEM DL	City of Bristol	2021
P R Dewey Esq	South Glamorgan	2021
M M P Dooley Esq	Dorset	2021
J Edwards Esq MBE JP	Mid Glamorgan	2021
Dr D Evans-Williams	West Glamorgan	2020
J I H Friend Esq DL	Staffordshire	2021
J R Harle Esq	Durham	2021
N Hart Esq DL	West Sussex	2021
Sir Charles Hobhouse Bt	Wiltshire	2021
Imam Monowar Hussain MBE DL	Oxfordshire	2021
Mrs J L Jenkins MBE JP DL	West Glamorgan	2021
M A Jenner Esq DL	East Sussex	2021
C R Lloyd Esq	West Yorkshire	2021
The Hon Mrs Lowther	Northamptonshire	2021
Mrs S K Lusher DL	Dyfed	2021
M J Payne Esq	Oxfordshire	Under Sheriff
E Masih Esq	Bedfordshire	2021
J D Mathers Esq	Suffolk	Under Sheriff
R A Morris-Eyton Esq	Shropshire	2021
Mrs C D O'Neill JP	South Yorkshire	2020
G P Owen Esq	Gwynedd	2021
Mrs L T Potter DL	Derbyshire	2021
Dr D M Rapley	Warwickshire	2021
Mrs J L Riddell	Northumberland	2021
R Shepherdson Esq	East Riding of Yorkshire	2021
Professor H Singh Dua	Nottinghamshire	2021
Lady Studholme	Devon	2021
J S Thomas Esq	Clwyd	2021
Mrs R J Tufnell	Gloucestershire	2021
J C H Weir Esq	Kent	2021
R D Wood Esq	Rutland	2021
J R Woodward Attrill Esq DL	Isle of Wight	2021
Mrs V A Wrigley DL	North Yorkshire	2021

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY	2020/2021
BEDFORDSHIRE	Mrs S J Lousada
BERKSHIRE	Mrs M E Riall DL
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	A D Farncombe Esq
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Brigadier T J Seal TD DL VR
CHESHIRE	N P Hopkinson Esq MBE
CITY OF BRISTOL	Dr J C Manley
CUMBRIA	Mrs J E Barton
DERBYSHIRE	A J Walker Esq CBE DL
DEVON	G W V Hine-Haycock Esq
DORSET	G H Streatfeild Esq
DURHAM	D A Gray Esq
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	A N Horncastle Esq
EAST SUSSEX	A J Blackman Esq DL
ESSEX	Mrs J A Fosh
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Mrs H E Lovatt
GREATER LONDON	Alderman John Garbutt JP
HAMPSHIRE	Revd S E Colman
HEREFORDSHIRE	Mrs P C H Thomas
HERTFORDSHIRE	The Hon H T Holland-Hibbert
ISLE OF WIGHT	Mrs C J Peel
KENT	Mrs R E Millwater
LEICESTERSHIRE	Mrs A V Smith MBE
LINCOLNSHIRE	M J Scott Esq
NORFOLK	Lady Roberts DL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	P T S Parsons Esq
NORTHUMBERLAND	T P Fairfax Esq TD
NORTH YORKSHIRE	D A Kerfoot Esq MBE DL
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Dame Elizabeth Fradd DBE DL
OXFORDSHIRE	Mrs A Ponsonby MBE
RUTLAND	R A Cole Esq
SHROPSHIRE	Mrs A N Harris JP
SOMERSET	Mrs M-C H Rodwell
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Mrs C D O'Neill JP
STAFFORDSHIRE	Commander C J Bagot-Jewitt DL RN
SUFFOLK	Mrs B F McIntyre
SURREY	S Azeem Esq DL
TYNE AND WEAR	Mrs S L Stewart OBE
WARWICKSHIRE	J Greenwell Esq CBE DL
WEST MIDLANDS	W C Lyn Esq CBE
WEST SUSSEX	Dr T J C Fooks
WEST YORKSHIRE	J H Thornton Esq
WILTSHIRE	Major General A E G Truluck CB CBE
WORCESTERSHIRE	Lt. Col M L Jackson OBE

2021/2022
E Masih Esq
R D H Russell Esq MVO
G R Anson Esq
Mrs C L E M Bewes
R J Mee Esq DL
Mrs S J Davies BEM DL
D G Beeby Esq
Mrs L T Potter DL
Lady Studholme
M M P Dooley Esq
J R Harle Esq
R Shepherdson Esq
M A Jenner Esq DL
S R Brice Esq DL
Mrs R J Tufnell
Dame Martina Milburn DCVO CBE
P R Sykes Esq
Mrs J P Hilditch DL
L C Wallace Esq
J R Woodward Attrill Esq DL
J C H Weir Esq
Ms M Duke DL
Mrs C V Birch
D J McLeavy Hill Esq
The Hon Mrs Lowther
Mrs J L Riddell
Mrs V A Wrigley DL
Professor H Singh Dua
Imam Monowar Hussain MBE DL
R D Wood Esq
R A Morris-Eyton Esq
W H T Sheppard Esq
M J C McKervey Esq
J I H Friend Esq DL
E G Creasy Esq
Dr J A Llewellyn
F Hakim Esq
Dr D M Rapley
Mrs L D Bennett OBE DL
N Hart Esq DL
C R Lloyd Esq
Sir Charles Hobhouse Bt
R J Amphlett Esq

DEATHS

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

Colonel A Axford OBE TD DL
Date of death: 15/03/2019
Age: 97
County: Greater Manchester
Year of office: 1987

R E Dimsdale Esq DL
Date of death: 10/05/2019
Age: 81
County: Hertfordshire
Year of office: 1996

F A Flear Esq OBE DL
Date of death: 19/03/2019
Age: 84
County: Humberside
Year of office: 1995

F E S Hayes Esq
Date of death: 05/05/2019
Age: 89
County: South Glamorgan
Year of office: 1977

F D Muntz Esq
Date of death: 20/04/2019
Age: 90
County: Warwickshire
Year of office: 1968

H H Villiers Esq JP
Date of death: 18/12/2018
Age: 87
County: Kent
Year of office: 1992

**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	2020/2021	2021/2022
CLWYD	D H Wynne-Finch Esq	J S Thomas Esq
DYFED	D J Jones Esq MBE	Mrs S K Lusher DL
GWENT	T M S Russen Esq	P M Alderman Esq
GWYNEDD	D E F Williams Esq	G P Owen Esq
MID GLAMORGAN	J M Edwards Esq	J Edwards Esq MBE JP
POWYS	Mrs R M Duggan	P R James Esq
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	A R Howell Esq	P R Dewey Esq
WEST GLAMORGAN	Dr D Evans-Williams	Mrs J L Jenkins MBE JP DL

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

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

£30.00

Chrome plated magnetic mast supplied separately – **£95** (not suitable for aluminium or plastic car bodies)



High Sheriff's March

A CD of the March (playing time approximately 8½ minutes) **£7.00**

NOW AVAILABLE: Association blue and white ribbon for badges and hats, **£10 per metre**

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.
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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:

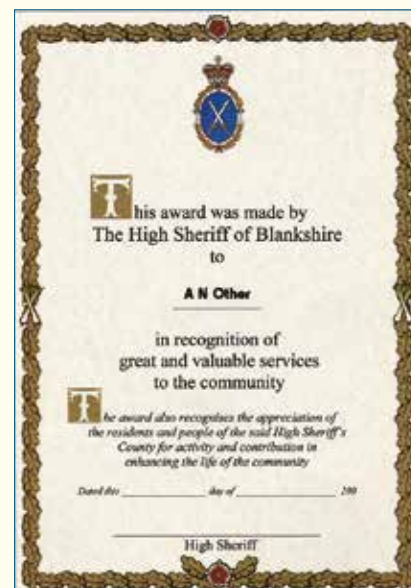
STYLE 1 comes with the name of your county already printed on it and blanks in

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

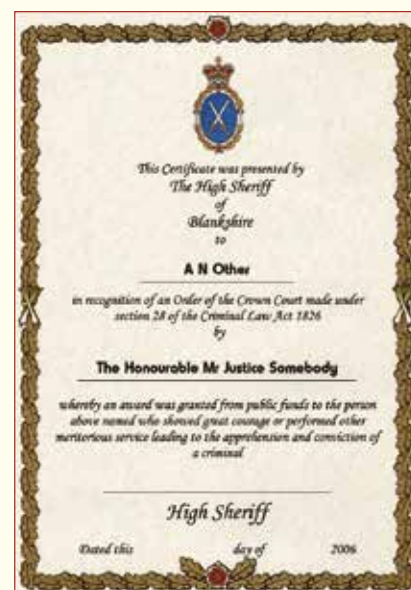
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

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.

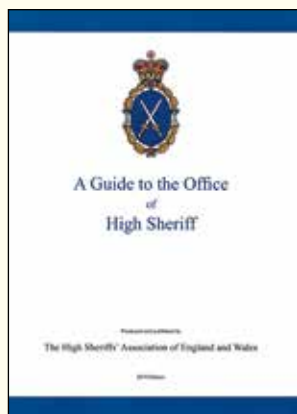
STYLE 2 lets the High Sheriff, at the time of placing an order, supply the name of the recipient; the name of the Judge or Recorder; and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script.

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 comprehensive and revised guide outlines the key elements of the role of High Sheriff in the 21st century and gives practical advice to those preparing to take Office
£2.80



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)
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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 2019**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 20 September 2019**.

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 Grant Hosie
Tel: 01462 896688
Email: grant@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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Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey D Golding
Managing Director

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