



Sussex High Sheriffs celebrate 10 years of community giving



Above: Sussex High Sheriffs past, present and in nomination celebrating 10 years of the High Sheriffs' Fund

SUSSEX HIGH Sheriffs past, present and in nomination joined with Sussex Community Foundation at a reception to celebrate 10 years of community giving through the High Sheriffs' Fund. Guests included the current High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex Violet Hancock and Davina Irwin-Clark and 25 former High Sheriffs from both counties. They were joined by Mrs Chantal Wilson DL, representing the Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Harry Goring, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex and a former High Sheriff, Her Honour Judge Laing QC, Resident Judge in Sussex, and Giles York QPM, Chief Constable of Sussex. The event was sponsored by Adams & Remers and the Wiston Estate Winery.

The High Sheriffs' Fund at Sussex Community Foundation has awarded 73 grants worth £64,000 to small charities and community groups across Sussex and, thanks to annual donations from the serving High Sheriffs and a few generous additional gifts, the endowment fund has grown to £83,000, representing sustainable funding for Sussex charities and community groups into the future.

'We have a very special relationship with the High Sheriffs,' said Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive of Sussex Community Foundation. 'They have given us the most extraordinary support from the very beginning of the Foundation and help us to reach small grassroots charities that most need our funding. It has been a great pleasure to work with all our High Sheriffs and we are tremendously grateful for everything they do for Sussex.'

Also present were representatives from four charities supported by the High Sheriffs' Fund – the Clocktower Sanctuary, Children with Cancer (Polegate), Crawley Open House, and Kangaroos.

The event was planned with the invaluable help of Sir Richard Kleinwort Bt DL, Hugh Burnett OBE DL, Caroline Nicholls DL and Major General John Moore-Bick CBE DL – all past High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex.

◆ Miranda Kemp
*Communications and Marketing
Manager Sussex Community Foundation*

“It has been a great pleasure to work with all our High Sheriffs and we are tremendously grateful for everything they do for Sussex. *Kevin Richmond, Chief Executive of Sussex Community Foundation*



Service Dogs UK – canine heroes in training

ONE OF the latest grants from the High Sheriffs’ Fund was awarded to Service Dogs UK by Caroline Nicholls, High Sheriff of West Sussex in 2018-19. This young charity forges lifelong partnerships between carefully trained rescue dogs and armed forces and emergency service veterans needing support.

Service Dogs UK was set up four years ago by Sussex Police Sergeant Garry Botterill and animal welfare campaigner Judith Broug to train assistance dogs specifically to support veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Veterans who sign up for and are accepted for the course train twice a week in Petworth for nine months with their canine friends – and then continue to be supported by Service Dogs UK to ensure that the new partners settle in well together. The dogs, which mainly come from rescue homes, provide practical support such as reminding veterans to take medication as well as being a source of comfort to those suffering nightmares, flashbacks and anxiety.

Garry and Judith are keen to attract more volunteers to assist with dog training as well as foster carers for new dogs to the team. Service Dogs UK is also ready to welcome more veterans on to the scheme – whether from the armed forces or all emergency services, including coastguards, RNLI and UK Search and Rescue.

Said Judith: ‘We have a team of like-minded people from all walks of life, all with a serious passion for rescue dogs to improve the lives of PTSD veterans from the armed forces and emergency services, whether injured on the front line abroad or at home. We have been very lucky in attracting wonderful sponsors, fantastic dog trainers and others who have joined us in making the difference – now we hope to grow to reach more veterans who would like our support.’

Garry is a Sussex Armed Forces Network ‘Champion’ for the police and is currently seconded to the Sussex and Surrey Police Wellbeing Team. Judith’s background is rescue dogs, canine nutrition and general animal welfare.

Said Mrs Nicholls: ‘As a High Sheriff there is the opportunity to meet many good and dedicated volunteers who are passionate about making a positive difference to people’s lives. Through Service Dogs UK Garry and Judith are providing that vital support to people who have served their country or their local community.’

◆ Caroline Nicholls DL
High Sheriff of West Sussex 2018-19



L-R: Army veteran Terry Beale and his service dog Bella, Garry Botterill, Caroline Nicholls and Judith Broug

Q - DOES A High Sheriff’s sword need to be specific? I have seen swords with cut steel mounts, but wonder whether silver, gilt or brass mounts are in order.

A - With velvet court dress only a cut steel hilted sword and black scabbard with steel mountings should be worn, as laid down by HM’s Lord Chamberlain in 1937 and still in force (see members’ area of the website/resource library/dress). The cut steel hilt matches the buttons and buckles. Gilt mounted swords are only worn with diplomatic or civil uniform; silver mounted swords are rare, and if matching the intricacies of prescribed cut steel hilts they would need constant polishing.

Q - I hear that a High Sheriff’s badge (Association or County) should not be worn with court dress. Is there an official ruling on this?

A - The Association aims not to be prescriptive on sartorial matters except where these are laid down by the Lord Chamberlain or armed forces’ regulations. Its guidance on badges notes that it has not been customary for High Sheriffs to wear shrieval badges with court dress, which is deemed to be sufficiently striking not to require further embellishment. As shrieval activities developed beyond formal and judicial occasions, badges became a useful means of recognition in all appropriate (non-court dress) situations.

Q - Is it appropriate for a High Sheriff to sit with a judge in a family court?

A - This is appropriate and to be encouraged, but should be at the discretion of the judge in family cases which are often of a very sensitive nature.