



# The High Sheriff

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

*SUMMER 2020*



*Future  
challenges  
of a different  
kind*

**NATIONAL  
CRIMEBEAT  
AWARDS 2020**

*Shrieval dress for  
Lady High Sheriffs*

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## The High Sheriff

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Officers and Council 2020

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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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#### Front cover:

High Sheriff of Norfolk 2019-20, Lady Agnew of Oulton, at a Remembrance Day service in Yarmouth for Far East prisoners

#### Clarification

Winter 2019 issue, p 28, article by Violet Hancock (East Sussex 2019-20) 'The Chattri Memorial Service': images by Phil Duffy of Phil Duffy/Muse Photographic. *Hon Editor*

[www.highsheriffs.com](http://www.highsheriffs.com) for answers to your questions



# From the Editor

**THE ASSOCIATION'S COUNCIL is grateful to all contributors to *The High Sheriff*, especially last year's High Sheriffs whose final weeks ended unusually quietly, while High Sheriffs in nomination had their plans and aspirations dashed at the eleventh hour. The Shrievalty is made of strong stuff and once people had come to terms with the situation a bumper crop of articles flowed in. Far from moping High Sheriffs have given a lead and engaged with public and charitable organisations helping those in need, fulfilling expectations of them in areas of law and order which are so stretched at the moment.**

We carry three special features relating to different facets of Westminster: the Red Mass held at Westminster Cathedral for judges and lawyers to mark the start of the legal year on 1 October; the general election on 12 December when many High Sheriffs performed their statutory duty of declaring results in county constituencies; and the special evening on 4 February when members enjoyed choral evensong and an exclusive tour and reception at Westminster Abbey. Welcoming members, the Dean recalled how High Sheriffs 'glued together the great and good of that city and the disenfranchised and the marginalised', when he was Dean of Bristol.

Many inspiring stories have emerged involving High Sheriffs over the past year. There is an increasing awareness of the need to support children and young people, especially those experiencing negative influences at home or school. Shrieval involvement with youth organisations of all types can only help to put their good work on the map. After nights spent with street pastors it is encouraging to read of 'so much to admire and applaud, and much to give us hope for the future'.

How alarming to meet a seven-year-old whose ambition in life was to get an ASBO – yet the High Sheriff did talk to this child. Another encouraged the only boy not involved in drugs and gangs on his estate to become a motivational speaker. High Sheriffs have shared their own talents and interests to

open young people's eyes to the positives of life, many seeing for the first time crops and livestock, or meeting judges and ex-prisoners in the Getting Court shrieval initiative, now running in several counties (see the Association's website). I hope High Sheriffs will submit National Crimebeat award nominations from 15 October, for presentation on 16 March 2021 (see pages 10-11).

With the changed landscape since March, High Sheriffs reflect on what they might have done differently, giving useful hints and advice on approaching the year in 'normal' times as well as on the challenges now. They show a healthy diversity of approaches to the role and its scope, inevitable with marked geographical differences and populations ranging from 40,000 to almost three million (excepting Greater London at 9.3 million). They emphasise the increasing importance of social media to keep in touch with county organisations, and the need to pass on contacts so that correspondents experience seamless succession between High Sheriffs. Do look at the website for new 'e-initiatives' and advice.

One writer comments that in difficult times we are united by our innate sense of Britishness, regardless of background or heritage. Who better to embrace and give a lead on this than the High Sheriff, appointed by The Sovereign to represent her interests in law and order, 'keeping the Queen's Peace'? I wish all readers well and good health and especially serving High Sheriffs a rewarding if different year. After the intensity of virtual communication they will be briefed better than many of their predecessors by the time they actually meet the people who keep the wheels turning in their counties.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Andrew Wells".

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06

**Stop press:** I am looking for a member to take over as editor of *The High Sheriff*. It is only a twice-yearly task and an enjoyable way to meet members and to discuss their activities and aspirations. If anyone is interested in this and would like to know what the expectations are, please contact me at [editor@highsheriffs.com](mailto:editor@highsheriffs.com).

# Diary 2020

## of Forthcoming Events

The certainty of all events from October is subject to the prevailing situation regarding COVID-19. Lockdown, social distancing and other restrictions may cause events to be reduced in their scope or even cancelled. Members will be kept informed as the situation changes and should check on the Association's website for updates or contact the individual organisers of events below.

### **JULY 2020** **Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2021 and 2022**

The Seminar at Burghley House intended for High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021 and 2022 unfortunately has had to be cancelled, as recently notified. An alternative Seminar may be organised for early next year for High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021.



### **OCTOBER 2020** **The Red Mass** *Thursday 1 October*

Arrangements are being made for the annual Red Mass, which should take place at 9.30am at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1P 1 LQW to celebrate the



start of the legal year. The arrangements are subject to any official restrictions and social distancing which may be in force at the time and to the permission of the Cathedral. Those High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination who wish to process will be invited to coffee beforehand from 8.30 am. There will be a ticket-only reception in the Throne Room after the Mass. To obtain tickets, contact Stephen Hart MBE: [secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk).

### **The Ladies' Lunch** *Early October*

It is hoped to hold the annual Ladies' Lunch for ladies in nomination in London possibly again at the Royal Thames Yacht Club. Information will be given in July/August to those concerned. Council Member Virginia Lloyd ([Virginia.Lloyd@d3uk.com](mailto:Virginia.Lloyd@d3uk.com)) is the organiser.

### **National Crimebeat** *15 October*

This is the opening date for submissions for the 2021 awards, which will take place on 16 March 2021. See page 11 for more details.

### **NOVEMBER 2020** **The Nomination of future High Sheriffs** *Thursday 12 November at 2.00 pm*

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Thursday 12 November 2020 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 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be read out in court. A tea party will take place afterwards at a nearby venue.

The Secretary will write in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021 and for 2022 inviting them to attend. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for some 2023 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2023 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend.

### **49th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon** *Tuesday 17 November*

The Association's 49th AGM and luncheon will be held at Drapers' Hall, London. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent by the Secretary to all members of the Association in mid-September 2020.





# From the Chairman

**IT HAS undoubtedly been a uniquely difficult start to the year for current High Sheriffs. All who have served as High Sheriff will feel a great sense of sympathy with those who have been unable to get out and about in their counties. This is normally such a necessary, and enjoyable, part of the long-awaited year and from which so much can be learnt about the county. However, High Sheriffs have been extraordinarily inventive and have found ways that enable them to keep constructively busy.**

Communication is the issue and there is much good news which will have consequences for the future: High Sheriffs have become expert at Zoom and Teams meetings, often on a regional basis, to exchange news and ideas; the first e-newsletter has recently been circulated to all members of the Association which is a great start to a new format for regular communication of current news and photographs available to all (to submit articles or to subscribe please email [newsletter@highsheriffs.com](mailto:newsletter@highsheriffs.com)); since the seminar at Burghley has had to be cancelled, a webinar is being arranged for those in nomination for 2021 – 'Preparation for your year in Office' – and in addition a more extensive

seminar is being arranged in London in late January; High Sheriffs will soon be able to chat and ask questions on the oddly named Slack; Council members have had very productive meetings without the need for a long train journey to London. It could easily catch on in future years!

Many have asked whether current High Sheriffs can be appointed again, having had such a difficult year when plans have had to be aborted. We have looked into this with great care and sought advice from the Queen's Remembrancer and the Privy Council Office. Unfortunately, it is not possible for legal reasons to continue beyond the year of Office. High Sheriffs are only eligible to be appointed again after a gap of at least three years, but of course their county nomination panels may well wish to consider their serving for a second term in the future. I am confident that, whatever the future brings, High Sheriffs will always be up to the task.

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



## 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.



# Westminster Abbey – an exclusive evening

◆ Andrew Wells

*Kent 2005-06; Council member*

**O**ne hundred members and their guests spent an atmospheric evening at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 4 February. Choral evensong was followed by a tour of the Abbey and the new Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries, concluding with a reception in the nave. The galleries in the triforium are a significant architectural and design achievement, 108 steps above the nave, and contain the best of the Abbey's treasures.

We were sent beforehand *A Sheriff's Odyssey*, an entertaining account of over 1,400 years of the Abbey's history, kindly written for the occasion by the former Queen's Remembrancer, Professor Robert Turner. A donation of £4,500 was made towards the cost of Ptolemy Dean's new public entrance on the site of Henry III's Sacristy to enable visitors to enter by the Great West Door.

The Association is grateful to the Dean and Chapter for permitting this unique opportunity to enjoy the Abbey exclusively, to Valerie Humphrey, Director of Westminster Abbey Foundation, and Megan Huntly, Development Coordinator, and to the many stewards and guides who enlightened us so enthusiastically. The last word should go to the Dean of Westminster, the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle MBE, who welcomed us:

'It may not occur to you immediately, but there are points of contact between you and me, between the life of the Dean of Westminster and the life of a High Sheriff. Like you, I have a job that comes with a wardrobe. No sword, of course, I do not cut quite such a dash. However, in



(L-R) Receiver General of Westminster Abbey Paul Baumann CBE, Dean of Westminster, Association Chairman Hugh Tollemache, Rosie Tollemache, Valerie Humphrey

my case, there is more than one wardrobe; dress is seasonal and it is silk. So for you, for me, a role, that requires that we fill a certain space, command a particular kind of attention.

'There are also differences between us. I admit that. You are unpaid officers; you do this in a costly way. I have not followed you there. The Dean of Westminster does get paid and indeed, he gets a house, arguably the oldest continuously inhabited house in London (others make the same claim). In a sense perhaps, my work is less personal than yours and therefore a little more sheltered,

'We both, clearly, have a ceremonial role; we appear at great occasions. We both had greater legal power once than we have now. The Dean of Westminster used to appoint Westminster's Coroner and he had his own court. It met in what is now a chapel, by the west door. So, perhaps, we both wonder, for all the ceremonial dignity we muster, what power we have and what difference we can make. The status is clear, the substance less so.

'Another London Dean once compared being made Dean to being like a mouse suddenly employed to play

with cats. I cannot say that has been my experience here. Even so, the ceremony looms large and I occasionally feel as though I have wandered into one of those elegant Regency dances, where there is a lot of bowing and I wonder how to carve out a role.

'May I just say this, as this is such a particular opportunity to speak to you? For nine years, in Bristol, I worked with exceptional and inspiring High Sheriffs. Unpaid and utterly committed they dug deep into the less glamorous parts of our city. They held together, they glued together the great and good of that city and the disenfranchised and the marginalised. I believe they saw the whole picture and told the whole story. It was a wonderful achievement. Now, here in the Abbey my vocation is to remind a nation and Commonwealth that, under God and Her Majesty The Queen, it is possible still to believe in a nation that can unite. Despite all indications to the contrary, we do not have to be angry with one another, shout, or harass one another. We can be a common people. It is my belief that you and the Lord-Lieutenants whom you work with, share that same vocation.

'So, because it is not said often enough, please accept my thanks for the work you do.'



Henry VII's Chapel with banners of Knights Grand Cross of the Bath and Gothic stalls

Images: Michael Chown

# RECENT EVENTS

## REGIONAL MEETING

# Wales: Annual meeting for High Sheriffs in nomination November 2019

✦ William T Hopkins MBE DL  
*West Glamorgan 2012-13*

**O**n a very wet day in November, High Sheriffs, those in nomination for 2021 and 2022 and Under Sheriffs braved the elements for our meeting at Llangoed Hall.

After the welcome and introductions our meeting was opened by the High Sheriffs' Association President Julian Avery who explained to new members the importance and benefits of belonging to the Association. It wants to help High Sheriffs in nomination to be fully prepared to take office and to this end organises the annual Burghley conference together with regional seminars such as our own Wales meeting.

The seminars are a way for fellow shrieval members to meet and share ideas and experiences. The aim is not to be prescriptive but to recognise the differences that exist between the counties, to dispel any fears those in nomination may have and give encouragement that the office is not only relevant but has a value to your community.

This year we changed the format slightly to allow time for questions after each speaker.

One of the most important aspects of the meeting is the talks given by our current High Sheriffs. Each county is different and each High Sheriff approaches the role accordingly. Our three High Sheriffs liaised closely with one another to avoid duplication of subject matter.

David Peate, Powys, was the first of our current High Sheriffs to speak. David is the lone gentleman High Sheriff in



**Above:** Attendees at Llangoed Hall plus speakers

the Principality. His theme was 'Getting Ready for Your Year in Office', stressing the importance of finding out about your county, forging links and making contacts. He covered a vast range of topics from chaplains, stationery, car badges, charity events, working closely with your Under Sheriff, and much more.

David was privileged to announce the result of the parliamentary by-election for Brecon and Radnor in June 2019. With the general election looming large he was able to give those present a valuable insight into his experiences on the night and also how to give notice of their wish to act as the returning officer.

Ian Gwilym from The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Wales gave us an introduction into the work of the charity. Their mission is to inspire, guide and support young people from diverse backgrounds in their self-development, helping them hone their skills for work and life. It was interesting to see how many of those in attendance were in fact medal holders or were involved in the awards through their children.

Dame Claire Clancy, Gwent,

explained the workings of the Gwent High Sheriff's Fund, how it was set up, how it operates and how it benefits those within the county. Claire also gave heartfelt and inspiring reflection on her role as High Sheriff, the importance of help and information 'beforehand' and the reasons why 'Do it your way' is not really true and cannot be taken too seriously. There are rules and protocols plus the expectations of people in your county regarding the role of High Sheriff.

The role requires continuous organisation and also comes with various logistical challenges. She thought it helpful to keep records for those following on, to be prepared to share your experiences without constraining your successor. Consideration should be given to the ongoing success of the role; it is not about the individual but about the Office.

Next was Richard Williams, Chief Executive of Community Foundation Wales, which already works with a number of shrieval counties in Wales. Richard explained to those unfamiliar with the foundation about a donor advised fund, how they are able to give help and support in creating a fund tailored to specific needs.



# RECENT EVENTS

## REUNION

This brought our morning session to an end and a welcome break for a delicious lunch. Our afternoon session commenced with Sally Goldstone, West Glamorgan. She spoke about her Declaration and how ceremonies vary greatly between the counties. Sally also gave invaluable tips and advice on sourcing and choosing a uniform for a lady High Sheriff.

One of the great benefits and joy Sally has experienced during her time in office is the friendship forged with fellow High Sheriffs across the Principality. The High Sheriffs have a number of opportunities to get together from their links with the South Wales Police Force and the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service plus co-hosting various dinners for the judiciary; the camaraderie she has enjoyed has been a delightful surprise.

Julian Avery was again pressed into service with a discussion about nomination panels. A copy of the most recent update to the guidelines for nomination panels was included in the information pack given to each attendee.

Julian Avery and Elizabeth Hunter then discussed High Sheriffs' Association Council matters which effortlessly flowed into Questions and Answers.

With snow falling on the Brecon Beacons it was time to draw the meeting to a close. We had had a busy, informative and constructive day largely due to the goodwill and kindness we receive from those willing to speak. We rely on Association Council members, current High Sheriffs and Under Sheriffs to share their knowledge with those in nomination.

A thank you to Julian Avery for visiting us in Wales; it is important that members of Wales Shrievalty meet with President and Council members who look after the Association.

A special thank you must go to Elizabeth Hunter. This was Elizabeth's last regional meeting before retiring as link member for the regions at the AGM in November 2019; she has been a wonderful support not only to Wales Shrievalty but to me personally.

This was my last meeting as organiser,



The 2019-20 Principality cohort

a task I have thoroughly enjoyed. I will be handing over to Henry Gilbert (West Glamorgan 2018). I would like to take this opportunity to thank shrieval members in Wales for the support and kindness I have received during my time as organiser and a special thank you to our current High Sheriffs for presenting me with a parting gift, an excellent bottle of wine plus engraved goblets.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 November 2020 at Llangoed Hall.

# 10-YEAR SHRIEVAL REUNION

## THE CLASS OF 2009-10: BUT WOULD THEY RECOGNISE EACH OTHER?

### ♦ Dr C B T Hill Williams DL

*High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire 2009-10*

Well, fortunately they did! Two groups of High Sheriffs from the year 2009-10 met recently for lunch in Henley-on-Thames.

At the end of the shrieval year some High Sheriffs feel a sense of anti-climax when a very busy, exciting and rewarding year draws to a close. But if friendships are formed and links established, there is no reason why connections forged during the shrieval year should not continue into the future, or be renewed. A lunch

to mark and celebrate an anniversary for that remarkable year is a very good way of achieving this.

Accordingly, eight former High Sheriffs and their spouses from ten years ago met and lunched and had a most enjoyable time reflecting on their year, exchanging views and experiences and discussing what they had done during the past decade and what their future plans were.

They thoroughly enjoyed each occasion, and vowed that the exercise would be repeated – hopefully before another ten years have expired!



**Left:** Back row L to R: David MacVicar, Pauline Alvis, David Edwards, Clive Williams  
Front Row L to R: Christina Hill Williams (Berkshire), Lindy, Lady Kilmaine (Warwickshire), John Alvis (Somerset), Cynthia Gresham (Bedfordshire), Gay Edwards (Isle of Wight), Lady (Lizzie) Toulson (Surrey)

**Right:** Back Row L to R: Felicity Dick, Clive Williams, Annabel Westray  
Front Row L to R: Richard Dick (Oxfordshire), Christina Hill Williams (Berkshire), Allan Westray (Buckinghamshire)



# National Crimebeat Awards 2020

✦ **Amanda Parker JP DL**  
*Chair, National Crimebeat; Council Member; Lancashire 2015-16*

**T**his year we recorded the highest number of submissions in the history of the awards. Increased activity by the trustees of National Crimebeat over the preceding nine months helped raise awareness and understanding of the awards, and all of the High Sheriffs nominating projects were enthused and delighted with the recognition their young people received. Further engagement with High Sheriffs in nomination – including inviting to the awards ceremony all those due to take office in 2020 – showed encouraging signs for the future.

In January the judging panel had a lively debate to determine the finalists and winners, and we are very grateful to all members of the panel, including external members His Honour Shaun Lyons and Giles York QPM, Chief Constable of Sussex, for giving their time. The rapid development of the COVID-19 pandemic quickly began to make its mark on the planned ceremony. Once it became clear that the county constabularies were stopping non-essential travel outside their areas, and with four of our finalists being police cadet units, we had to accept that the awards could not go ahead as planned and we made the decision to cancel. This was hugely disappointing for all involved: finalists and their supporters; High Sheriffs; sponsors and trustees. Initially we hoped to rearrange the ceremony for later in the year but, as time passed and the spread and impact of the disease became apparent, we realised that this wasn't

realistic. The trustees therefore agreed that all winners would be notified and given their prize money. We are encouraging the High Sheriffs of the finalists' counties to arrange a presentation, whether that be actual or digital, for their projects. We are incredibly grateful to all our sponsors who donate towards the costs of the ceremony including venue hire, prizes, video production, photographs, bus and London Eye trips, programmes and food.

## RESULTS

### Youth Led

**Winners:** Clwyd and Gwynedd:  
**Sharing Stories Sharing Strength**



Sexual assault and violence affect different people in different ways but this project helps victims to find the strength to speak out about their experience. The project was devised and created by a group of young people in North Wales who had used Amethyst SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre), and uses the words of young people who have experienced sexual violence. The group has produced an excellent booklet. Available in English and Welsh, the booklet informs, guides and reassures those who have been victims of

these crimes and helps them on the path to become survivors. The group has also produced a film that narrates the text in the booklet accompanied by relevant video footage making the material available in two formats, increasing its accessibility.

### Runners Up: Derbyshire: Targeting Substance Abuse in Young People



Aware that drug use was increasing among young people and that school exclusions were growing as a result, four Derby police cadets set out to create a presentation that would increase awareness of the consequences and implications of drug use and dispel some of the myths that surround this issue. So that the effectiveness of the project could be established objectively, the group conducted a survey in two schools to set a base level of knowledge and understanding. After delivering their presentation to over 350 Year 9 students, the survey was repeated with significant increases in the scores recorded. The presentation had a positive impact by increasing young people's understanding and awareness around drug use, its consequences and the management of peer pressure.



## Third Place: Merseyside: Savera UK Youth



Savera UK Youth is a group of youngsters aged 11 to 25 who are passionate about raising awareness among their peers of 'honour' based abuse (HBA), forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). By approaching these issues through education, the group works to empower potential victims so that they are prepared and equipped better to resist such practices. The group has staged a conference, arranged an exhibition focused on #EndFGM and produced a film called #StoptheWedding. A *Question Time* format event was held in a local school attended by people from diverse backgrounds and communities. The group uses a variety of media methods to communicate their message and is active in seeking new platforms from which they can convey their message.

## Adult Led

**Winners: Berkshire: Reading Community Court**



Operating from 2018, the Reading Community Court (RCC) has been run by a group of young people seeking to modify the perceptions of young offenders through a restorative justice approach. RCC does not determine innocence or guilt nor is it a substitute for the criminal court system. To

participate in this programme the offender must have admitted their guilt and be prepared to engage in the restorative mechanism. RCC seeks to link actions with consequences and the impact of those actions on victims. The project also seeks to engage young offenders in more positive activities and has achieved a reduction in the re-offending rate of participants from a national average of 40.9% to 15.6%.

## Runners Up: Mid Glamorgan: Operation Canary



This project has been delivered by a group of Police Youth Volunteers (PYVs) in Bridgend (Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr) under the supervision of PC Darren Morris. The project conducted a purchasing exercise to verify compliance with the law for the sale of knives to young people. All five stores in the initial sample failed the compliance test so were issued with a police warning letter and an information poster to remind staff of the restrictions. On repeating the exercise a month later, involving a larger number of stores, 4 of the 16 stores checked failed the compliance test, one of which had failed in the initial sample. A further exercise a short time later resulted in a 100% compliance level, greatly reducing the opportunity for young people to purchase knives in their locality.

## Key dates for the 2021 awards:

Submissions opened: **15 October 2020**  
Closing date for entries: **20 January 2021**  
Judging: **2 February 2021**  
Awards ceremony: **16 March 2021**

## Third Place: West Yorkshire: Community Jam



Community Jam uses music, drama and film to communicate the stories of young people who have been the victims of crime including cyber bullying, child sexual exploitation (CSE), grooming and intimidation of vulnerable people. The materials produced were then made available to schools, youth clubs and colleges. Videos produced by the group were shown at Bradford College's Hate Crime Conference where students of Social Care and Youth and Community Development could see the power of media in getting across a strong message.

## High Sheriffs' Association Award Mid Glamorgan: Operation Canary



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.

# General election

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, s 24, the High Sheriff is the official Returning Officer for county constituencies (but not for borough constituencies) at parliamentary elections. This recalls the distinct historical responsibilities of High Sheriffs and Mayors (or Lord Mayors of boroughs with city status) within their respective jurisdictions, although the Redistribution of Seats Act 1885 ensured little practical difference between the two types of constituency.

Twenty-one High Sheriffs reported declaring results in 30 county constituencies on Friday 13 December after the general election held on 12 December 2019, the third general election in under five years.

Photo: Karen Aspinall, Central Bedfordshire Council



Photo: Fiona Leishman

## 1. Bedfordshire

Meryl Dolling, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, declared for Mid Bedfordshire at 3.30 am

## 2. Berkshire

Lucy Zeal, High Sheriff of Berkshire, declared for Maidenhead at 3.30 am

## 3. Cambridgeshire

Neil McKittrick, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, after declaring for Cambridgeshire North at 3.40 am

## 4. Dorset

Philip Warr, High Sheriff of Dorset, after declaring for North Dorset at 5.55 am

## Dyfed (not pictured)

Helena Lewis, High Sheriff of Dyfed, declared for Llanelli at 1.30 am and Carmarthen East and Dinefwr at 3.00 am

## 5. Essex

James Bettley, High Sheriff of Essex, declared for Witham at 3.48 am



Photo: Simon Hoare



Photo: John McLellan



# RECENT EVENTS

## GENERAL ELECTION



### 1. Gloucestershire

Charles Berkeley, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, declared for Stroud at 3.00 am; here with Under Sheriff Julian Archard (L)

### 2. Hampshire

Sarah Le May, High Sheriff of Hampshire, declared for Meon Valley at 4.30 am and Winchester (shown) at 5.30 am



Photo: David Reeves



### 3. Herefordshire

James Hervey-Bathurst, High Sheriff of Herefordshire, declared for North Herefordshire at 4.30 am

### 4. Hertfordshire

Sarah Beazley, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, declared for St Albans at 3.55 am



### 5. Isle of Wight

Geoff Underwood, High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight, declared for the Isle of Wight at 4.30 am

### Kent (not pictured)

Paul Barrett, High Sheriff of Kent, declared for Canterbury at 1.30 am

### 6. Merseyside

David Steer, High Sheriff of Merseyside, declared for Wirral West (shown) at 2.50 am and Wirral South at 3.10 am



### 7. Northumberland

Lady Joicey, High Sheriff of Northumberland, declared for Wansbeck (above) at 1.18 am, Hexham (below) at 2.30 am and Berwick-upon-Tweed at 3.41 am



Photos: Northumberland County Council

Photo: Lucy Hervey-Bathurst



# RECENT EVENTS

## GENERAL ELECTION



1

### 1. North Yorkshire

Linda Fenwick, High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, with the re-elected MP after declaring for Thirsk and Malton at 5.30 am

### 2. Shropshire

Josh Dixey, High Sheriff of Shropshire, declared for The Wrekin (shown) at 3.00 am, for Shrewsbury and Atcham at 4.15 am and for North Shropshire at 4.30 am



2

Photo: Telford Live!

### 3. South Yorkshire

John Pickering, High Sheriff of South Yorkshire, declared for Penistone and Stocksbridge at 3.30 am and Sheffield Hallam (shown) at 5.10 am

### 4. Suffolk

Roz Eminson, High Sheriff of Suffolk, declared for Suffolk Coastal at 4.00 am



3

Photo: Forge Press, Sheffield University's Students' Union

### 5. Declaration of Result of Poll for Suffolk Coastal

### 6. Surrey

Bridget Biddle, High Sheriff of Surrey, declared for Guildford at 4.04 am

### 7. Warwickshire

Simon Miesegaes, High Sheriff of Warwickshire, declared for Nuneaton at 1.20 am



4

Photo: Clive Eminson

### 8. West Yorkshire

Paul Lawrence, High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, declared for Shipley at 5.00 am and for Keighley at 5.05 am (shown)



4

Photo: Catherine Lawrence

**DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL**

East Suffolk Council  
Election of a Member of Parliament  
for the Suffolk Coastal Constituency  
on Thursday 12 December 2019

I, Rosalind Emswiler, being the Returning Officer at the above election, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the number of votes recorded for each Candidate at the said election is as follows:

| Name of Candidate  | Votes Recorded (as declared) |
|--|------------------------------|
| CORREY, Thomas Anne<br>The Conservative Party Candidate                        | 22,089 (51)                  |
| EWART, Julia Elizabeth<br>currently known as CORREY, Julia<br>Liberal Democrat | 8,719                        |
| LOVE, Anthony Brian<br>currently known as LOVE, Tony<br>Independent            | 1,455                        |
| MATTHEWS, Cameron Graham<br>Labour Party                                       | 12,432                       |
| SMITH, Lyle, Rachel Anne<br>Green Party  | 2,713                        |

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:

| Reason of rejection                                      | Number of rejected papers |
|--|---------------------------|
| A. not an official paper                                 | 5                         |
| B. voting for more Candidates than other was entitled to | 28                        |
| C. writing on them by which vote could be identified     | 1                         |
| D. being incomplete or wholly void for illegibility      | 178                       |
| <b>Total rejected ballot papers</b>                      | <b>212</b>                |

Valid Ballots: 71,475    Electorate: 91,215    Ballot Papers issued: 28,569    Turnout: 71.4%

And I do hereby declare that Thomas Anne Correy, a candidate for the Member of Parliament for the Suffolk Coastal Constituency.

Dated: Friday, 13 December 2019

Signed: Rosalind Emswiler  
Returning Officer

5



6



7



8



# RECENT EVENTS

## RED MASS



# The 'Red Mass'

♦ Stephen Hart MBE

*Secretary to the Thomas More Society*

**I**t sounds, doesn't it, deliciously revolutionary: the 'Red Mass'. It is anything but. It is more properly described as a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, celebrated on the first day of the legal year, 1 October<sup>1</sup>. The intercession of God's blessings through the Holy Spirit, are sought for those charged with upholding the law and practising it in the courts. The traditional liturgical colour for the Holy Spirit is red and we see it on the clergy's vestments and on the decorations on the altar.

It is thought that the ceremony began in the reign of Edward II (1307-1327), following a tradition begun in Paris. It was held in Westminster Abbey, after which judges and other lawyers would proceed to Westminster Hall for the Lord Chancellor's Breakfast – literally the 'breaking of the fast' after receiving the Sacrament at the Mass. The Abbey Service and the Lord Chancellor's Breakfast continue to this day.

The Reformation ended both the traditional Mass and the eligibility of Catholics to practise in the law. For many centuries, the Red Mass fell into abeyance. It was revived in the early 1890s by Catholic lawyers, including senior English lawyers and the Irish judiciary. Originally, the Mass took place in the old Sardinian Chapel in Lincoln's Inn,

**Above:** Mgr Stephen Alker MBE KCHS leading the procession of canon lawyers and Mgr Keith Newton PA  
Photo: Diocese of Westminster

<sup>1</sup> If 1 October falls on a weekend, the Mass moves to the following Monday.

<sup>2</sup> The reception is a ticket-only occasion. Applications for tickets should be made to the Thomas More Society as indicated on page 5.

where Holy Mass had been celebrated on embassy grounds for many years and therefore secure from state authorities. Since 1904, it has been celebrated at Westminster Cathedral, with the world-famous choir accompanying the ceremony with music from Byrd, Tallis, Parson, Mozart and Bruckner.

The Mass is organised by the Thomas More Society. It takes place at 9.30 am, with an injunction (strictly monitored!) upon the clergy that it should last one hour, in order to allow judges and lawyers to make their way to the Abbey Service. The Mass concludes with a reference to the person who, in our constitution, personifies justice. In 1899, prayers were offered for Queen Victoria. Today, we sing the national anthem, honouring Queen Elizabeth II, who, at her coronation swore to cherish the just. We note, in particular, the words in the second verse: 'May She defend our laws...'

In recent years, we have seen an increase in numbers of members of the Shrievalty of England and Wales attending the ceremony in their striking velvet court dress and cocked hats, including one who is descended from the former Lord Chancellor and saint, Thomas More. High Sheriffs in office, those in nomination and former sheriffs are most welcome to attend and to take part in the judicial procession into the Cathedral and to join a reception afterwards<sup>2</sup>.

Another welcome development in recent years has been the presence at our Mass of lawyers, Sheriffs, and guests from our sister churches in the Christian religion, together with those from other traditions and creeds and those of none. For all of us, this is a precious hour when all the various professions in the law, can pause, reflect and seek the gifts attributed to the Holy Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and fortitude during the coming legal year.



Judi Griffin (Isle of Wight 1996-97), Peter Woods (Merseyside 2018-19), Mary-Clare Rodwell (Somerset 2020-21), Andrew Wells (Kent 2005-06) at the reception

# The High Sheriff's Chaplain



♦♦ The Revd  
Peter Irwin-Clark  
*Chaplain to the High Sheriff  
of West Sussex 2019-20*

**Y**ou seldom know everything you are going to face as High Sheriff! One attended an event and found herself apparently expected to sing two carols to the audience. Another was suddenly called upon to read a lesson full of complicated Old Testament names. Yet another was touched but stretched to find the right words of appreciation for bereaved relatives who had allowed their loved one's organs to be donated to others. If a tragedy occurs on the High Sheriff's watch, they will find themselves in pastoral mode. Not every High Sheriff will feel entirely comfortable in all these situations.

Being High Sheriff is a wonderfully stimulating role but, depending on the nature and the sheer volume of the engagements accepted, it can also be draining physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. You are likely to find yourself facing the question: what are my resources? Many High Sheriffs, as they engage with the hurting and vulnerable and with people who spend themselves sacrificially in the service of others, find themselves thinking more deeply about spiritual realities than has perhaps been their wont thitherto. Your chaplain should be able to help you to tap in to the spiritual resources available to you through faith.

In addition to that, because you have been appointed by a monarch who is Head of the Established Church and Defender of the Faith, it is good for the High Sheriff to be at least aware of the spiritual dimension underpinning the societal one.

In your capacity as encourager of the volunteers in the county, you will discover, if you were not aware of it already, the vast 'social capital' stored in the churches, as they motivate people to help those in need. Some High Sheriffs from a different faith tradition for that reason appoint a Christian chaplain as well as one from their own faith.

Whatever your own spiritual position, the appointment of your chaplain is therefore more than just a quaint archaism. They can be the spiritual extension of your ministry, a recognition of the transcendent always running alongside the mundane, facilitating the opening of doors for you into the community you serve.

In our own case, the High Sheriff's chaplain in West Sussex for 2019-20 has been rather more prominent than most others, because we combined into one the roles of consort and chaplain. It has been striking how often people at the various events where Davina has been on duty have taken the opportunity, because of the dog-collar, to unburden themselves more than they might otherwise have done, so we are very clear of the value-added of the role. And anyway, it is always good to have someone else on your team – especially when it comes to planning Judges' Services and so on.

Let your chaplain be a blessing to you and your county!



**Above and right:**  
The Revd Peter Irwin-Clark with his wife Davina, High Sheriff of West Sussex (2019-20)





**Left:** Lucy Zeal (2nd right) with Reading Street Pastors before going out into torrential rain in October

## Walking with angels

**AS I come to the end of my shrieval year, people ask what the highlights have been. There have been many, but I particularly value the evenings I spent with the Windsor Street Angels and the Reading Street Pastors. I had the opportunity to go out with the volunteers, to meet and help their users, experiencing a typical weekend night in two busy town centres as well as witnessing the impact on the emergency services. So much of the shrieval role combined into one experience.**

The faith-based Reading Street Pastors and the Windsor Street Angels share a common goal: to safeguard the vulnerable and offer support to those in need within the night-time community. I joined a small team of trained volunteers who patrol the streets of Reading and Windsor town centres from 10.00 pm until 4.00 am every Friday and Saturday night. They care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets whatever their needs. This might include assisting intoxicated young adults who are placing themselves at risk, helping those who are unwell or have suffered an injury, or supporting the homeless and addicts. Both organisations also have a drop-in hub at a local church, with first

aid and a quiet space with a paramedic in attendance for vital medical emergencies.

These nights spent in Windsor and Reading town centres were a privilege for me, to walk and talk with such extraordinary volunteers and to hear their individual stories. Equipped with walkie-talkies, first aid equipment, hot drinks and snacks, water, flip flops and lollipops, we spent the first part of the evening checking on the homeless. Then as the night progressed we visited bars,

clubs and other hot spots, and liaised with club security as well as police CCTV operators. We helped the drunk and vulnerable, offering first aid or assistance home, calling a parent or even contacting the emergency services with which the volunteers work closely.

The Street Angels and Street Pastors work tirelessly and make such a positive impact, dealing with events where the safeguarding of the vulnerable is required and freeing the police to concentrate on the more serious incidents in the town centres. The issues the police face every weekend night, when most of us are asleep, and the strain that this puts on the emergency services truly opened my eyes.

It was a great privilege to spend time with these two organisations and to see the voluntary sector and emergency services working so well together. I have witnessed so much that is good in our county in the past year. There is so much to admire and applaud, and much to give us hope for the future. It was humbling to walk with the Street Angels and Street Pastors on their beat and I will always treasure the work they selflessly provide for the community.

### ◆ Lucy Zeal

*High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire 2019-20*



PCSO David Bullock with Windsor Street Angels which he set up



Photo: Simon Warburton Photographer

## ‘... for such a time as this’

**‘YOU HAVE come to your royal position for such a time as this’, to quote a line from my favourite book. Surely this is a time in history – and certainly in recent generations – when the role of High Sheriff presents significant new opportunities for each of us, despite the clear physical limitations and challenges.**

When I spoke at my own Declaration in April last year, I said that, ‘As a county, we are facing uncertain times. As High Sheriff, I trust that I can offer some hope, encouragement and confidence.’ I sense that I have achieved this in some measure, though for our successors in 2020-21 the modus operandi will look considerably different.

My participation twice in the Burghley seminars for High Sheriffs in nomination pointed me towards Law and Order, which remained my principal focus throughout my year. Intentionally, I was keen to see the judicial process from beginning to end. My first ‘port of call’ was our chief constable who arranged for me to experience policing on the front line – from arrest to charge. Attendance in court for a jury trial proved fascinating though ‘Friday sentencing’ was especially insightful as all those pleading guilty (without trial) attended briefer hearings and our honorary recorder was able to deal with eight or 10 custodial or non-custodial sentences on the same day. Next stop was meeting prison governors and the opportunity to

see from the inside both of Cheshire’s prisons: HMP Styal (a closed women’s prison) and HMP Thorn Cross (an open institution), the latter now the regional centre for the Timpson Foundation.

Post release and often ‘on licence’, parolees are passed on to Cheshire Probation Service. The head of service and his highly experienced teams do a sterling job ensuring that men and women are safe to be released fully into our communities. In the spring, we hosted a dinner at home for this select group. It was an important evening for me as High Sheriff and an ideal arena to facilitate first-time introductions and round-table discussions. Pleasingly, personal contact details were exchanged and professional working relationships developed – in my view, a special legacy.

As we begin to appreciate only as we start our shrieval year, the opportunities for engagement across our counties are endless. In Cheshire we have over 4,000 charities supporting a population of nearly one million, so it was longstanding volunteers at all levels who had pride of place at my September garden party. University graduations and citizenship ceremonies featured as regular events alongside Prince’s Trust graduations and Fire Service Passouts. One-off evenings, including the High Sheriff’s Award for Literature, the High Sheriff’s Award for Enterprise and of course Crimebeat, have now become firm dates in the county

**Above left:** High Sheriff and guests at Chester Town Hall after his Legal Service, 3 November 2019

**Above right:** Mark Mitchell with a posse of his predecessor High Sheriffs of Cheshire, their spouses and his chaplain

calendar thanks to the vision and hard work of my predecessors who introduced each of them in earlier years.

Just before the close of my year and sadly the UK lockdown, I summoned a posse of former High Sheriffs of Cheshire back to the year 2000. This evening at home made for the most special of times together with humorous and nostalgic anecdotes and now for me too, an array of memories from my own year in office.

For each of the High Sheriffs of 2019-20, our time finished abruptly and for many of our successors their Declarations were made on various software packages on home computer screens. My own successor, Nick Hopkinson MBE DL, approached me and decided to fundraise for many of the neediest in Cheshire, hit hardest by the effects of COVID-19. This special High Sheriff’s fund is match-funded up to £1 million by Steve Morgan CBE, founder of Redrow Homes. As I signed off in early April, it stood at £650,000, match-funded to £1.3 million. Doubtless Nick will update on the powerful impact this support has had across our county in our next publication.

**◆ Mark Mitchell DL**  
*High Sheriff of Cheshire 2019-20*





# Cultivate the clerks

**AS WE organised the Christmas music festival at our local church I could never have envisaged what the new year would bring and that this would be my last organised event – I had so much planned for my last three months in office.**

Before Christmas, my Under Sheriff told me that Mrs Justice Jefford, Presiding Judge of the Wales Circuit, would sit at Mold Crown Court possibly in late January. At Burghley seminars, High Sheriffs in nomination are told that it is their responsibility to sit with visiting High Court Judges and to offer them hospitality. With a murder trial expected to last at least five weeks I needed to plan very carefully.

Fellow High Sheriffs finding themselves in this position should first make contact with the housekeepers of judges' lodgings who hold a wealth of knowledge about judges and their dates of arrival, which can be very flexible. Previous trials can finish early or be extended so shrieval plans have to be flexible to accommodate judges' very busy workload.

Once you have judges' names make contact with their clerks whose details you can obtain from HM Courts & Tribunals Service which also holds judges' itineraries. I cannot stress enough the

importance of contact with their clerks as they are everything in the day-to-day running of judges' lives and are privy to their likes, dislikes and dietary requirements – essential information when you plan entertain them.

Mrs Justice Jefford loves music and singing (she is of course Welsh) so I was fortunate that a mezzo-soprano friend agreed to sing at a large dinner party we held at Carden Park. We also arranged for the judge to enjoy the wonderful new spa facilities should her workload permit, and for me to sit with her as often as possible during the trial.

Whenever I sat with her at Mold Crown Court we lunched with the judges, whose unforgettable conversations gave me an insight into the legal world. There are no court catering facilities so I arranged for buffet lunches to be delivered, again with invaluable advice from judges' clerks. When planning evening entertainments it's important to remember that all guests must be present before the judge arrives and that the judge should be the first to leave.

As the date for the start of the murder trial approached I was advised by the HMCTS that the Lord Chief Justice Lord Burnett, Mr Justice Picken and Mr Justice Turner would sit at Mold Crown Court



The High Sheriff with Mrs Justice Jefford

in February to hear criminal appeals – so no pressure! I had enjoyed meeting Lord Burnett previously at the Legal Service at Bangor Cathedral.

With the help of Steve Thomas, Airbus Government Affairs Executive and High Sheriff in nomination 2021-22, I arranged dinner for the judges at the Airbus plant in Broughton, including a fascinating tour of the wing-building process. Unfortunately a delay prevented Lord Burnett and Sir Simon Picken from joining us at dinner, which was attended by Dame Nerys Jefford, Sir Mark Turner and David Peate, High Sheriff of Powys (which has no Crown Courts). The next morning at Mold Crown Court we received Lord Burnett and the High Court Judges, and after the formal introductions David Peate and I joined the judges during their deliberations of the criminal appeal hearings.

An informal lunch also gave the judges a chance to chat and meet the resident judge for North Wales, His Honour Judge Rowlands, and Deputy District Judge Julia Longworth.

I wonder if this has set a new record – simultaneous visits of the Lord Chief Justice, three High Court Judges and a neighbouring High Sheriff. It certainly was an unforgettable and informative experience and I am very grateful to Dame Nerys for spending time explaining the proceedings and details as the trial progressed.



High Sheriff at Theatr Clwyd for International Women's Day with Syrian refugees (Flintshire is a designated 'City of Sanctuary' for asylum seekers and refugees)

**Stephanie Catherall**  
*High Sheriff of Clwyd 2019-20*



# Engaging not just broadcasting

**‘YOU’RE THE whatsit!’** Turning up as High Sheriff in court dress never failed to produce some sort of reaction, which in my case ranged from a curtsy, to being called ‘duck’ (not unusual in Derbyshire), and on one occasion ‘the whatsit’. Whatever the greeting, it would invariably be accompanied by smiles and a good deal of enthusiasm. But what I found interesting was that, while generally pigeonholed as a ‘Good Thing’, people often had only a vague notion about what the role entails.

And it dawned on me that this is a positive; because more often than not people had an idea of what they *wanted* the role to be, and in most cases I was more than happy to fulfil that wish. Being adaptable as to what the role entails, while maintaining its integrity, ensures the role can be relevant to any given situation – be that as speaker, listener, supporter, promoter, dance partner, or a combination of many things.

‘The most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others,’ said Robert Baden-Powell. The sheer number of people making a positive difference throughout the county was perhaps what struck me most forcibly during the course of my year. However, the voluntary sector is not just a ‘nice to have’ – it forms a fundamental part of the very fabric of society and its significance will only increase with inevitable statutory cuts. On the positive side, there are proven benefits for the volunteer as well as the organisation, something I found to be very



**Above:** Abseiling from the tower of Derby Cathedral for Rainbows Hospice  
**Below:** Comprehensively out-dressed by a Powder Keg morris dancer at Edensor Day



**Below left:** With Carol Campbell, Michael Thomas and participants in the Aspire2 Derby mentoring project  
**Below right:** Training for 208 mile county boundary cycle ride for Derbyshire Community Foundation with world record-holder Leigh Timmis

much the case as High Sheriff. In fact, to such an extent that I started to worry; I was getting so much out of the role but what clear-cut benefit was I delivering, other than fundraising? It’s difficult to measure but I decided the best thing to do was to put my head down, work hard and let go of the need for tangible outcomes.

One tangible outcome I could measure was engagement via Twitter and Instagram. Using these tools is a way to quickly and easily raise awareness for good causes but by taking time to engage rather than merely broadcast, one creates an opportunity to try to keep the High Sheriff’s role relevant. Continuity (or lack of it) has often been cited as a problem with the role; passing the same social media accounts from one High Sheriff to the next creates an opportunity for some continuity to be maintained.

Like many others my last act as High Sheriff was to witness the installation of my successor via a Zoom video conference. The appearance on screen resembled that old TV programme *Celebrity Squares*, but with everyone fully dressed for their respective roles. It was somewhat surreal to be following such an ancient ceremony in such a contemporary fashion, though the loud ticking of a grandfather clock in one person’s home ensured the event wasn’t entirely removed from its traditional roots.

**William Burlington**

*Earl of Burlington, High Sheriff of Derbyshire 2019-20*







## A year of the unexpected

**THE COMMENCEMENT of my term of office did not go exactly to plan. Just six weeks before the Declaration I fractured my ankle and needed surgery. Let's just say that walking in to my Declaration on two crutches was not the scene I had envisaged! However, it was a very moving ceremony at Trinity St David for family, dignitaries and fellow Welsh Sheriffs, followed by a wonderful champagne tea. When fully recovered and back on my feet, I held a further reception for representatives of the three local authorities, emergency services and various charities.**

It was a year to remember. I had the pleasure of travelling to all corners of Dyfed, which consists of the beautiful rural and coastal counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. It was rewarding to experience such diverse occasions, from the Scouts' weekend camp (without a mobile phone in sight) to a workshop for adults with learning difficulties.

I was pleased to attend the Order of St John Priory for Wales Visitation and Investiture at Saint David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, having spent an evening previously with the Carmarthen St John Ambulance cadets. The value of this association has become so apparent in these challenging times.

A further privilege was to be invited to read a lesson at the Divine Service at Llandaff Cathedral to mark the beginning of the Legal Year. It was a truly spectacular occasion in all its splendour. As the county of Dyfed does not have a Crown Court, the opportunity to be present at legal dinners in Cardiff was always appreciated. The Supreme Court visited the city in July, so it was a wonderful occasion for us as High Sheriffs of Wales to host a magnificent dinner at the Mansion House. Thanks are due to Dr Isabel Graham, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, for coordinating the evening. There is certainly a close friendship among all the Shrievalty.

During the year, the county was honoured by royal visits from TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. HRH The Princess Royal also visited Dyfed on two separate occasions.

My two designated charities have been Pancreatic Cancer Research and a local county charity Tir Dewi, helping the farmers of west Wales in difficult times. I am greatly indebted to businesses and friends who were generous with their contributions to an agricultural auction in October and the 'Christmas Ideas' afternoon in December was also a success, with tickets being a complete sell-out.

Indeed, December was a busy month – carol concerts, citizenship ceremonies

**Above left:** Richard Morris, Under Sheriff of Ceredigion, the High Sheriff and Roland Lewis, Under Sheriff of Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire

**Above:** Dr Simon Hancock JP, Chair of Pembrokeshire County Council, the High Sheriff and Prof David Howell, at the launch of Vol 5 of *An Historical Atlas of Pembrokeshire*

and many other engagements and who can forget, the general election? It was certainly a satisfying experience to fulfil the role of returning officer for two Carmarthenshire constituencies. Fortunately a recount was not needed!

The High Sheriff's presentations during the year included the Dyfed Young Persons Trust Awards. This trust, established by Colonel Dai Davies during his year of office, gives financial support to young people who, within their organisations, have displayed outstanding achievements and wish for further advancement.

The culmination of the year's activities would have been the Dyfed Shrievalty annual dinner in March. This is a special evening for previous High Sheriffs, family and friends to reminisce. Unfortunately, due to the prevailing pandemic restrictions, the event had to be cancelled.

Nevertheless it has been a tremendous honour and privilege to serve as High Sheriff and I wish to thank HM Lord-Lieutenant Sara Edwards, the Under Sheriff Roland Lewis and my family for their support.

◆ **Helena Lewis**

*High Sheriff of Dyfed 2019-2020*



# Getting Court an eye-opener

IT WAS an enormous privilege to serve as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire last year. My main hope was to be able to see at first hand the contributions from many organisations that look after the people in the county, especially those who are vulnerable and in need of support. I have certainly seen many aspects of generosity of time, spirit and a willingness to go the extra mile to make a difference in so many ways.

Our police and emergency services have allowed me to see and recognise the training and hard work, and going above and beyond what they do for the community they serve. The Gloucestershire Police Awards presented in March and the Police and Crime



With the Chief Constable of Gloucester Rod Hansen at the Gloucestershire Police Awards

Photo: Antony Thompson, Thousand Word Media



Above: Meeting the hard-working porters at Gloucester Royal Hospital

Below: With my wife Daisy and daughter Mary in Gloucester Cathedral for the Legal Service and my Declaration



Photo: Paul Nicholls

Commissioner's Impact Awards in May highlighted their skills and service.

I wanted to focus on the Getting Court process that started in Gloucester and allowed teenagers the chance to sit in on a morning session at the Crown Court with their teachers and then ask questions of an ex-prisoner. This is a wonderful example of allowing our young people to understand what will happen if they get involved in a life of crime. This already happens in Bristol and Oxfordshire and I hope will extend to other counties. The mock trials at Whitminster and Cheltenham that I attended allowed me to see schoolchildren involved in the magistrates' court process and was an eye-opener for all involved.

I attended many events significant to our aviation history, including the 50th anniversary of the first Concorde dinner and RAF Fairford celebrating 75 years since opening. It was a privilege to go on board Concorde with my wife and to learn more about the construction and work undertaken at Filton. One thing I have learnt during my year is the fabulous and patriotic way that we carry out our processions, which I saw during the Armed Forces Day and civic flag raising in June in Gloucester.

I have been continually amazed at the number of incredible charities working to protect those who are vulnerable and those who have been involved in our criminal justice system. The National Star College in Cheltenham held its leavers' awards ceremony in July. This highlighted the hard work that their carers put in to help the young people with severe disabilities who have been studying there to acquire vital skills to help them with their future. I was pleased to visit many of the charities that were to be given funding from the High Sheriffs' Fund. The work that many are doing voluntarily to keep our young people busy and allow them to learn a new skill has been tremendous. I saw at first hand the enthusiasm and the speed at which many had progressed in their lives.

I was also impressed by my tours of Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and Cheltenham General Hospital where I was alerted to the hard work the porters put in to help link together the staff and the patients. This work is incredibly important and especially during these challenging times in 2020.

**Charles Berkeley**  
High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 2019-20





## Leaving crime and violence behind

**MY FIRST official engagement as High Sheriff of Greater London last year got off to a false start. It was at Westminster Abbey for a commemorative event to mark the 100th anniversary of women serving in the Metropolitan Police Service. I had a numbered ticket so went into the Abbey, found my place and sat down. That was the mistake. An official lady soon came over to me and said: 'Mr High Sheriff! There's a reception committee waiting to welcome you in!' So out I went and came back in to be greeted by the Dean of Westminster, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Dame Cressida Dick and a group of other dignitaries.**

In a procession which included members of the Royal Family and members of the House of Lords, we

were led to our seats. I had invited a friend to accompany me and admit to being saddened on the day as she could no longer attend although I told her afterwards that her absence had allowed me to absorb the grandeur and honour of the office. I reflected on how a boy who had grown up in the troubled streets of south London with crime and violence all around, who had fallen into bad ways but had somehow managed to break out and away from those who went on to lead meaningless lives – I imagine often in prison – had now ended up here. For once, I felt proud of myself.

A boy born in an impoverished part of the most impoverished country in the world had been appointed by HM The Queen to be Greater London's figurehead in all matters relating to law and order.

The highlight of my year, as is common with many predecessors, was presenting awards to members of the public who had shown exceptional acts of bravery which resulted in people being caught and prosecuted for ghastly crimes. I was privileged to conduct one at the Supreme Court in the presence of the court's President, the wonderful Lady Hale, and the Lord-Lieutenant of London, the charismatic Sir Kenneth Olisa. I took as one of my guests a mentee of mine, Richard Asamoughia, who grew up in a council estate in south-east London where he was the only kid not to get sucked into drugs and gangs. He's now a motivational speaker in inner-city schools and will use the story of meeting the President of the Supreme Court as part of his narrative on the power of positive thinking and where it can get you. I am keen that the role of the High Sheriff spreads into all parts of London to make it a more socially inclusive role.

Such events take meticulous organising – not just to find a date where all the great and the good can be available, but also to write, phone, email and contact the awards recipients and their families, to have citations calligraphed, a reception organised and much more besides. My final act as High Sheriff is to thank wholeheartedly Lynn Johansen, the Under Sheriff of Greater London. I can't imagine the multiple of how much more time Lynn has taken to work behind the scenes than I took to work in front.

Liaising with the courts and prisons I wished to visit and ensuring that all protocols during my year were being observed was no small task either. Yet Lynn effortlessly managed to do all this with a constant smile on her face. I remain grateful to my predecessor five years back, Kevin McGrath DL, for nominating me for the role and to Lynn for making it such a seamless pleasure and honour.

**Iqbal Wahhab OBE**  
*High Sheriff of Greater London 2019-20*

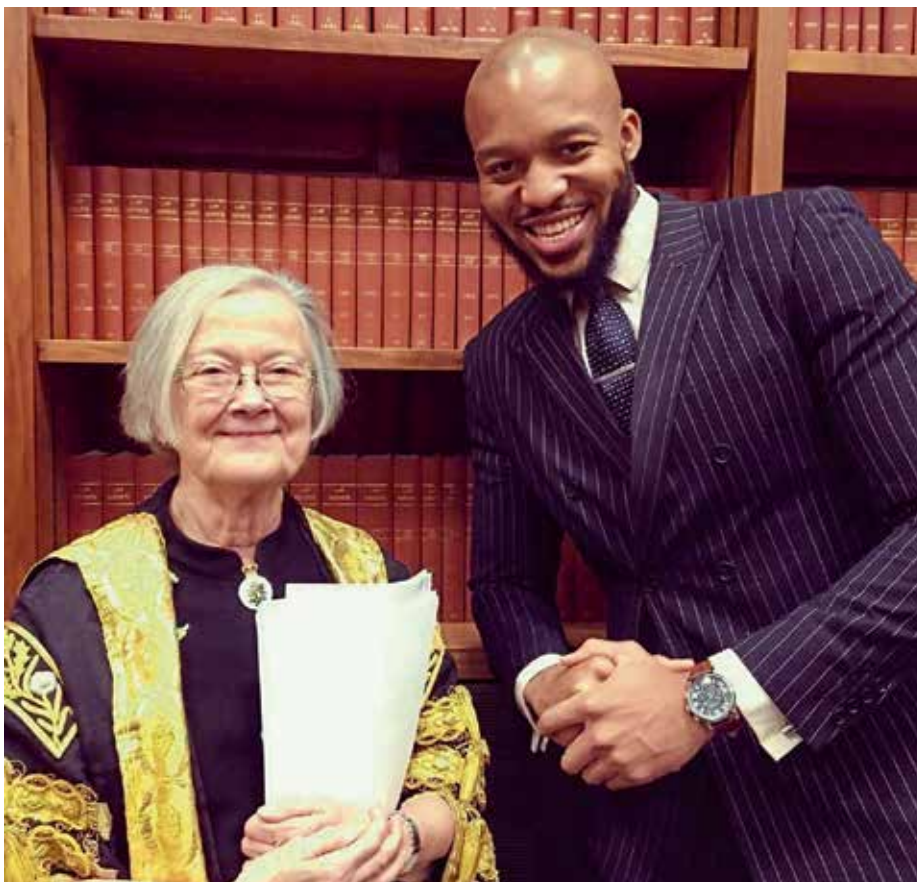


Photo: Susan Ellicott

Lady Hale and Richard Asamoughia at the Supreme Court



# Diversity and integration

**GREATER MANCHESTER is an incredibly diverse county, with a bustling population of 2.8 million people, where over 200 hundred different languages are spoken. I have often joked throughout my year that although my wife Gabrielle and I have been unable to get away on holiday due to our shrieval duties we have enjoyed just about every experience within a 20-mile radius that we could have enjoyed by flying tens of thousands of miles to all those exotic countries across the planet.**

Paul Lee, a former High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, gave me some excellent advice a few months before I started my tenure by suggesting: 'Don't just be busy... anyone can do that. Choose a theme and try to make a real difference.'

For this I took inspiration from my ancestral history – my great grandfather became a British Citizen in 1890 having escaped Jewish persecution in Lithuania and I am eternally grateful to this country for opening its arms to my ancestors and allowing them a homeland and the opportunity to build their lives here. That sense of gratitude has informed my desire to give back to our communities.

Describing myself as a 'fourth generation immigrant' and revealing my theme of 'Diversity and Integration' at my Declaration ceremony in April 2019 (held in my local synagogue), I aimed to bring the two worlds of 1,300 years of the Shrievalty and 3,500 years of Judaism together. It worked beautifully and was an emotional high point for me.

Whether we describe ourselves as 'proud British Jew' (as I did at my installation) or 'proud British Pakistani' or 'proud British Afro-Caribbean', what unites us above all is our innate sense of Britishness. So I have focused my year on reaching out to our various communities, understanding the richness that their individual differences bring to our greater whole. These differences can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical ability, religious belief, political belief or other ideologies.

Diversity highlights of my year have included:

- The UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival in Salford Quays.
- Meeting the Iraqi Ambassador at the Manchester Consulate of the Republic of Iraq.
- Bhangra dancing (mine!) at the Manchester Mega Mela Festival.
- Cheetham Hill Cultural Festival – visiting the Central Sikh Gurdwara and also the Ukrainian Cultural Centre.
- Black History Month in October and engaging with the Afro-Caribbean Mental Health Trust.
- Mental Health Singing through Triple C – a group promoting disability within the Arts.
- Engaging with the LGBT Foundation.
- Praying in the Neeli Mosque in Rochdale with 500 worshippers on a Friday lunchtime.

I aim to continue this work after my shrieval year finishes. It is my hope that my involvement has helped in some way to bring a greater sense of connection and belonging to these different groups.

Trying to make it so has been my greatest privilege.

**Mark Adlestone OBE DL**  
*High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2019-20*



Mark Adlestone at MACFESTUK at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester celebrating International Women's Day through Culture and Art, together with the organiser Qaisra Shahraz (centre), his wife Gabrielle Adlestone (to her left) and other attendees





## Important to add value... creatively

**WHAT DOES it really mean to be High Sheriff? As the COVID-19 crisis struck and I found my diary emptied of visits and appointments for the last few weeks of my year of office, I found myself reflecting on what the role can really offer, and how that might look in a changing world.**

The responsibilities of the modern High Sheriff extend beyond the traditional support for those who administer justice and maintain law and order to a much wider support for those in the charitable and voluntary sector as well. Of course, much of that work impacts very directly on the criminal justice system and all of it on the broader aim for social justice. I have been warmly welcomed everywhere, my opinion valued, my interest appreciated and my contacts and connections gratefully received. All this because I held this office, and it is so important that the role of High Sheriff continues to be seen to be adding value, and to support, encourage and, above all, thank all those who work in these areas.

This is much more important than any personal legacy and can be done in a number of ways. If it is not possible to get out and about and make visits, social media channels are a good way of keeping connected and offering encouragement. They also provide continuity as a new sheriff takes over, showing that the office of High Sheriff remains active and interested.

The police and fire services are very active on social media and need special support at this time. 'Liking' or forwarding a post shows appreciation and interest. In Hertfordshire we have an excellent online watch link, OWL messaging, which provides updates on crime and scams as well as initiatives to help maintain the safety and welfare of local communities. Signing up for this can be encouraged through a High Sheriff's network.

And of course, this is a very difficult time for our judges and magistrates who continue to work in ever-changing circumstances, aware that they will face a huge backlog of work that will need to be managed somehow. Perhaps there will



be some silver linings as new working practices and the use of technology assist much-needed changes, but our justice system is already under considerable strain and the challenges will be great. The prison and probation services face enormous and stressful difficulties. It is hard to know how a High Sheriff might support them, but it is still possible to send an email of encouragement, to pick up the telephone for a chat, to send a handwritten note to anyone who needs an extra thank you at this time, and these small gestures can show people that their work is greatly valued and that the High Sheriff continues to be interested.

Many small charities supporting the vulnerable are struggling and need extra help. Working closely with the Community Foundation to raise funds for disaster relief work and linking this with others who do similar work to share resources and

**Above:** Bidding farewell to social media

processes will be vital. The need for High Sheriffs to work closely with their local foundations has never been greater, and we are very fortunate in Hertfordshire that my successor Henry Holland-Hibbert is also chair of our Foundation. The synergies between these two roles will be invaluable at this time.

High Sheriffs will continue to support, encourage and thank. They will need to become increasingly creative about how they do this but I hope that this will result in new and better relationships and in unexpected connections, born of a desire to make a contribution to the determination, hard work, positivity and kindness that will get us through this crisis.

◆ **Sarah Beazley**  
*High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2019-20*



Photo: Ray Farley

## Important to continue a tradition

**AT THE time of writing, the effects of the coronavirus nationally are intensifying and there are many uncertainties as to the future. It is clear that the impact upon the year of the incoming High Sheriffs will be considerable. It is against that background that my reflections regarding the past twelve months and my contribution to this publication are somewhat tempered per chance that any hint of jubilation may appear insensitive. Accordingly I shall confine myself to a short factual account of one particular aspect of my year.**

On 23 September 2019 the Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association wrote to all High Sheriffs enquiring as to the ways in which the Judges' Services are conducted in the various counties and pointing out that in some counties they are now poorly attended.

In Merseyside, prior to 2018, the attendances at the Judges' Service had declined considerably. I am pleased to be able to say, however, that this trend has now been reversed and the service here has been completely reinvigorated. The means by which this has been achieved may be of interest to others who wish to achieve a similar outcome.

In 2018 a working group was set up in Merseyside in order to address the question of falling attendances. The group is chaired by the current High Sheriff and other members – totalling thirteen in all – include former High Sheriffs, the High Sheriff in nomination, the Under Sheriff, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Honorary Recorder of Liverpool, the Clerk to the Merseyside Lieutenancy and two Deputy Lieutenants.

Each member of the group is charged with the responsibility of sending out invitations in the name of the current High Sheriff to specific individuals and/or groups. These include the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, the High Sheriffs of neighbouring counties, past High Sheriffs, Deputy Lieutenants, those (both current and retired) who sit in judgement of all ranks from Magistrates and Tribunal Judges to Court of Appeal Judges, the Queen's Remembrancer, the Leader of the Northern Circuit of the Bar, the President of the Liverpool Law Society, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and other civic dignitaries, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner and the Vice Chancellors of the three local universities.

Others receiving invitations include representatives of all religious groups,

**Above: (L-R) Mark Adlestone OBE DL High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, David Steer QC DL High Sheriff of Merseyside, the Hon Ralph Assheton TD DL High Sheriff of Lancashire, Mark Mitchell DL High Sheriff of Cheshire and David Cam DL, Under Sheriff of the County Palatine of Lancaster**

the emergency services, the armed forces, the probation service, the consulates, the court staff, voluntary organisations and the uniformed youth organisations. General invitations are circulated throughout the legal profession and, of course, the general public.

At the Judges' Service held last October at Liverpool Cathedral the net result was a procession of some ninety individuals and a congregation approaching a thousand.

I respectfully agree with the observation made by the Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association in his aforementioned letter that 'It is important that the Shrievalty continue this tradition'.

We, here in Merseyside, believe that we have created a template to ensure the success of our annual Judges' Service for many years to come.

**David Steer QC DL**  
*High Sheriff of Merseyside 2019-20*





## Community involvement on a large scale

**FOLLOWING MY Declaration ceremony at the University of South Wales in April 2019, I was prepared to make the most of the opportunity afforded to me during my year as High Sheriff to ensure that the people of Mid Glamorgan would come together and celebrate all that is great about living in this part of Wales.**

The mission of the charity for youth homelessness, Llamau, struck a chord with me and provided an opportunity to make a difference – it's a frightening reality, and I felt I needed to balance positive life experiences with the sometimes negative reality.

Engaging with the Youth Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil and the Youth Forum, they discussed their desire to find a platform giving young people between the ages of 11 and 24 years the opportunity to raise funds for Llamau while also providing opportunities to further their careers and dreams in the performing arts – a winning combination. With the support of borough councils, schools, South Wales Police youth volunteers, St John Ambulance, the University of South Wales,

the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, friends and colleagues, the High Sheriff's Musical Extravaganza was born. This project provided inspiration and community involvement on a large scale.

Assisted by a summer school sponsored by the university, the Musical Extravaganza enabled young people to develop their skills in the performing arts. Each council held their own event to select the finalists who were to perform at the Extravaganza – various age groups of solo vocalists, solo instrumentalists and choirs. Every finalist was invited to participate in two song-writing and recording sessions at the Acapela Studios in Cardiff with singer-songwriter Bronwen Lewis. Together they wrote and performed a beautiful song on homelessness, 'More to Me', recorded as a CD and sold to raise funds for Llamau. The CD also included a poem specially

written by Nick Jones and performed by the actor Michael Sheen.

Young people from schools competed to create the branding and the winning design was used for all materials, programmes and the CD. All young people involved were invited to the Musical Extravaganza staged at the Royal Welsh College in February, with tickets available to the public. It was a phenomenal event and the winning performance of each of the categories went on to have a masterclass to further explore their talents, followed by another recording session with a CD produced for their portfolio.

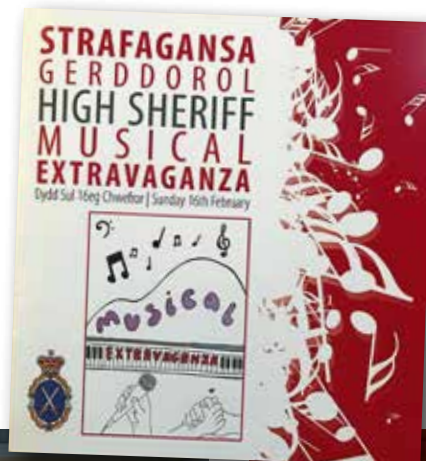
All participants involved in the event received a High Sheriff's certificate acknowledging their commitment and support, and even though Storm Dennis occurred on the same weekend it did not deter young people from making this a success. Sadly, due to travel disruption the choirs were not able to perform on the night, but they each received their finalist certificates. The judges (all Welsh international artists) performed on stage to open the show, thus providing vital confirmation that dreams do become reality. My sincere thanks go to the judges who were such an inspiration to the young people and to Andrea Byrne, ITV Wales host.

While I could have spoken about many events during my year as High Sheriff – overall a phenomenal and humbling experience I will never forget – the role is key to engaging communities and opening doors to enable people to love life and all that it brings.

**Colonel Tina Donnelly**  
**CBE TD DL**

*High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2019-20*

**RIGHT:** Programme designed by Roxanna Williams, a pupil at Ysgol Rhydywaun, and produced by Print shop USW  
**Below:** Police youth volunteers who helped at the Musical Extravaganza  
**Below right:** Simon Chalk violin/conductor, Geraint Hopkins pianist, Wynne Evans tenor and Rebecca Evans soprano, who helped judge the event soloists





# The Norwich Solution

**I HAD 49 fantastic weeks, and three rather quiet ones.**

And that's all I'm going to say about COVID-19, other than good luck to all the High Sheriffs in post now (may they find interesting and different ways of supporting their counties) and thank you to all the heroes in the community; the obvious ones (NHS for instance) but to all the less obvious ones: prison warders, court staff, police, volunteers and those in the Norwich courts (of whom I'm especially proud) who designed and rolled out what is now referred to as The Norwich Solution – the much copied way of continuing to process cases through the court system by electronic means. In the absence of football we can't cheer on Norwich City FC but we can cheer on The Norwich Solutioners.

I'd like to share some of things I learnt and found useful in my encounters with the judiciary and all the agents of law and order in the hope that they may interest future High Sheriffs.

- **Homework before you start.** Read Sarah Langton's *In Your Defence* and the rather depressing *Secret Barrister*; for those with more time *The Sheriff*, *The Man and His Office* by Irene Gladwin.
- **Depending on your county don't assume you'll have any visiting judges.** Lots of my predecessors (the older, the more likely) tell me worrying or felicitous stories of such evenings. My grandfather for instance (High Sheriff in 1948) told of taking his judges down the marshes to look for nesting bitterns. I'd started planning a quiet boat trip to look for warblers or perhaps a nesting crane (I might have had a visit in May) but the case settled and that was that.
- **A previous High Sheriff asked me and my husband to supper in February to meet our resident judge, a great way to hit the ground running when I started and his support has been invaluable.**
- **Invaluable also has been the charming, efficient Chairman of the Norfolk**

Magistrates' Association. He organised visits for me to our three magistrates' courts early on, which then led into other areas of the judiciary, eg:

|                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Witness Service                | Youth Offending                   |
| Probation Services             | Teams                             |
| Integrated Offender Management | Volunteers                        |
| 180 (IOM and police)           | Court staff                       |
| Visitors' Centre (HMP Norwich) | Serco/other suppliers             |
| Coroner                        | Prison chaplain                   |
|                                | Ecumenical Criminal Justice Forum |

- **Prisons – our three were all pleased to see me, but are far too busy to ask you, so get stuck in early and be firm with the diaring. And decide or ask what you can do to help.** One of my special moments was the evening I showed the fantastic *A Second Chance* (a documentary about Timpsons' employing prisoners) to a wider audience in County Hall, encouraging good discussions and a greater awareness to the non-converted of how important it is to look after prisoners' futures.



**Above left:** With Jonathan Meyrick, Bishop of Lynn, after a dodgem ride at the 817th annual Kings Lynn Mart

**Above right:** With Georgie Roberts (in nomination 2020-21) at Norwich City's ground hearing about police preparation for a big match, following a day with PC Paul Bassham and Broads Beat which polices Norfolk's inland waters

- **Police – meet your chief constable early on.** Mine was very supportive, and I hope vice versa, and gave me the opportunity to visit and support all sorts of interesting areas and projects.
- **Police and crime commissioner – critically, they have a good budget to spend on many of the projects that you'll visit.**
- **Other emergency services – you'll all do different things in your own counties, but they need and appreciate your support.**
- **Police and other cadets.**

To finish, here are the three most useful bits of advice I was given by my predecessors (and sometimes followed) before I started:

- **Learn to say no.**
- **Plan to get to the venue at least 30 minutes before you have to.** That will allow for tractors on the road, make-up, emergencies, speech practices, etc.
- **Never underestimate the trickiness of finding a handy parking space – request one ahead, keep lots of spare change in the car, have an official looking notice saying 'HS on duty' ready for the windscreen. Or if in doubt (and your budget allows) have a driver.**

## ◆ Clare Agnew

*The Lady Agnew of Oulton, High Sheriff of Norfolk 2019-20*







# NORTHUMBERLAND

## *News from and about members*



**Left:** Lady Joicey takes over as High Sheriff from Michael Orde in 2019, with (L-R) Alexander Dickinson (Under Sheriff), Revd Juan Vilaseca (High Sheriff's chaplain) and Professor Joy Palmer Cooper JP

## From 'Fly Me to the Moon' to COVID-19

**THANKS TO Max Humphreys on the trumpet and his mother on the organ I exited my Declaration service to a jazz version of 'Fly Me to the Moon', but as everyone knows what goes up comes down, and so it proved, with the end of my shrieval year being very different from the beginning.**

In the first weeks I learnt that my satnav was essential, that I should always leave a lot of time to get anywhere, that I could ask as many questions as I liked, that I could talk to anyone and that a sense of humour was essential.

During the year I met so many remarkable people and had some amazing experiences – a Friday night police patrol in Newcastle city centre was an eye-opener, as was separately meeting a seven-year-old whose ambition in life was to get an ASBO. My respect for the social services is great, my respect for the many volunteers in all walks of life is unending; what goes on in the county is unbelievable. Add to that a hugely increased knowledge of how the legal system works. The icing on the cake was

the judges – so easy to entertain and so entertaining. I took two High Court Judges to see Opera North's production of *Street Scene* when it was showing in Newcastle. One judge said that the evening was the perfect antidote to a day in court – but then reflected that the story line of infidelity, domestic abuse and wayward children actually smacked more of a busman's holiday!

I visited prisons, encouraged voluntary groups in their work, supported the armed forces, slept out at Ashington Football Ground in aid of the YMCA and attended various church services including an excellent one organised by Northumberland County Council to support International Women's Day.

And then it all came to a shuddering halt. The diary was full to bursting for the final three weeks including our annual award ceremony to be held at Ashington College, which would have seen all the award-winning groups coming together to receive their certificates. Within a few days everything was cancelled, lockdown was imminent and so a

lovely and hastily rearranged handover happened. Just Tom Fairfax, the incoming High Sheriff, with his family and the necessary officials needed to oversee the service met together in his sitting room. It was simple and very moving.

Unlike me Tom is excellent with technology. This coming year and because of COVID-19 High Sheriffs will have an even more important role in helping and supporting their counties, but the engagement model has changed and Tom is unlikely to travel the thousands of miles that I have. The feeling in Northumberland is that the High Sheriff of Northumberland Fund administered by the Community Foundation is going to be more essential than ever. Already he is busy fundraising, to ensure that we can support small and mostly voluntary groups doing valuable work with the youth of Northumberland. For anyone interested in knowing how our county fund works, do email Tom at [highsheriffnorthumberland@gmail.com](mailto:highsheriffnorthumberland@gmail.com), as I am aware that not all counties have such schemes in place.

### ♦ Harriet Joicey

*The Lady Joicey, High Sheriff of Northumberland 2019-20*



**Lady Joicey hands over as High Sheriff to Tom Fairfax TD in 2020 with (L-R) Canon Alan Hughes MBE TD (High Sheriff's chaplain), His Honour Judge Sloan QC (Honorary Recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne) and Harry Chrisp (Under Sheriff)**



# Embracing opportunities

LIKE SO many High Sheriffs in nomination, I am sure, I was tentative about assuming the role, wondering whether I had the confidence to embrace the opportunities that would present themselves to me, whether I would be able to put people at ease in unfamiliar situations and – my biggest dread – having to speak in public! However, events soon overrode those initial anxieties and of course, by the miracle of social interaction and most people's natural generosity of spirit, I found that I was soon made to feel comfortable by their willingness to talk about their area of expertise.

What I was keen to derive from my year was the chance to experience aspects of life in our society which in the normal course of events I would never come across. I was curious to understand better how the judiciary worked and thanks to the time and welcome I received from judges, particularly in the Crown Courts of York and Teesside, and the county's magistracy, I glimpsed the broad respect that people have for the rule of law which underpins our democracy and grants us all a fair degree of freedom. On the other hand, being in court was also a demonstration of societal troubles which elicited in me feelings of consternation at one end of the spectrum and huge sympathy at the other. During the year, I also witnessed and admired the difficult role the police, prison and social services play in keeping our society glued together.

There were lots of happy and uplifting events I attended, from commemorative church services in York Minster, Ripon Cathedral and Selby Abbey, for example,



**WearBlueDay:** High Sheriff with children at Terrington Hall School to talk about her anti-bullying and online safety campaign



**Yorkshire Air Ambulance Day:** Paramedic Lisa Dempster, James Fenwick, Daryl Stephenson, Sue Stephenson, High Sheriff of East Riding of Yorkshire, Linda Fenwick, High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, Dr Chris Srinivasan



to visits to RAF Menwith Hill and GCHQ Scarborough where all sorts of global communications and activities are closely monitored. I saw the valuable work provided by the emergency services in the guise of the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and Scarborough and Ryedale Mountain Rescue, and was given a guided tour of Stockton-on-Tees by the civic party who understandably took great pride in showing how they are taking a lead in regenerating what was once a deprived area.

Like most other High Sheriffs, I chose to support one special charity: this was Bullying UK ([www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)) which concentrates on helping those who suffer bullying, particularly in the home as well as in school, from which so many social problems emanate and persist.



**Above left:** Letters Patent Ceremony, 29 October 2019: His Honour Judge Ashurst, the Hon Mr Justice Martin Spencer, Linda Fenwick, High Sheriff of North Yorkshire  
**Above:** High Sheriff with PCs Oliver Lewis and Ben Stevens, York City and East Neighbourhood Policing Team

It was an honour to be chosen as High Sheriff, something I will always value, especially as a born and bred Texan gal! More seriously, it made me realise how considered my suggested nomination of a future High Sheriff should be.

Incidentally, I largely overcame my fear of public speaking, which I would heartily recommend, by having lessons with a most brilliant voice coach!

**Linda Fenwick**

*High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2019-20*





## Declaration made before kitchen cabinet

**THIS PIECE is composed in the ghastly week when the number of virus deaths passed 27,000. I don't know how to write it. Jollity is of course inappropriate but so, perhaps, is despondency for, who knows, when *The High Sheriff* hits the newsagents in June, the enemy may be in retreat.**

Sylvia Jay's year slipped quietly to its close in late March with the inescapable cancellation of a number of planned events for which she, and others, had toiled long and hard. Her passion had been to raise awareness of issues to do with crime and punishment, and of work done by the many voluntary, charitable and statutory bodies in our community to prevent criminal behaviour. Two highlights stand out, public lectures from figures not unacquainted with controversy. One was the ex-Parole Board chair Nick Hardwick, regarded by many as the fall guy when publicity regarding the release of a high-profile offender exploded. The other was Claudia Sturt, formerly a prison governor and now our nation's Director of Security and Counter

Terrorism, who spoke about 'What's Wrong with Our Prisons?' The answer is, a lot, and I earnestly say to any reader of this publication who may be thinking of robbing a bank – don't.

A particular regret was that the presentation of the High Sheriff's Awards had to be cancelled and the certificates sent out by post. It was an utter privilege for me to look through the nominations with the High Sheriff and see the amazing fundraising and other work done by a vast range of citizens, from old soldiers to seriously sick teenagers. By and large we Brits are a decent lot.

Amanda Ponsonby's year started with a bang, or at least the audible popping of a cork from Oxfordshire's finest sparkling wine. There was cheering from her family as she made her Declaration to the Chair of the Oxfordshire Bench via FaceTime. I made mine over the telephone. We believe this was probably a first. Amanda was planning to work closely with the Oxfordshire Community Foundation during her year. Similar to her fellow High Sheriffs, she had a diary packed full of



The High Sheriff with her husband Lord Jay and Judge (Joanna) Vincent before the Oxford Legal Walk in aid of local charities

engagements all over the county and was raring to go. Then, with only three weeks until D-day, everything vanished with a puff of COVID-19. Now a month into her role, she has had to become an actual and virtual High Sheriff. Her days are full of Zooming, FaceTiming and telephoning. Charities, judges, prison governors, head teachers, church leaders and even her Under Sheriff get calls. She feels frustrated that she can't be out on the frontline but is determined to be very well briefed by the time she is released from lockdown.

But other Oxfordshire High Sheriffs have had tough years too. Saewold in 1066 must have been a bit apprehensive about the future. Who would change places with Robert Fitz Ellis of Waterperry (1341-2), whose year coincided with the Black Death? And it couldn't have been much fun for David Walter of Godstow (1644) who set fire to his own house to prevent it being used by parliamentary forces. They occupied it anyway.

Could be worse...

◆ Michael Payne

*Under Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2019 and 2020*



Amanda Ponsonby when she made her Declaration in her kitchen



# Capture Rutland

RUTLAND MAY be the smallest county in England and Wales but it certainly lives up to its motto 'Multum in Parvo' (Much in Little). Considering its size one would have thought that it would be easy to explain the role of High Sheriff. I tried hard but was amused when, in full court dress, entering a café one sunny Sunday morning after awarding prizes at the local junior park run with a charity fundraiser (dressed in her trademark fairy outfit), I was greeted by the cheerful teenage waiter with: 'Hi girls! Are you on a hen party?'.

One of my objectives for the year was to get to know and meet many of our hardworking charitable organisations, especially those run by 'unsung, unseen' people. I quickly found that while additional funds are always welcome, these organisations also sought 'airspace' to promote their charity. I decided to hold an event to both help fund and promote some of these charities. In March, over 40 charities and other interested parties and donors gathered in Oakham Castle for my charity presentation evening. This started with tea and cakes (thanks to the local WI) and was followed by an hour's presentation where 14 charities received cheques from me. Each charity was given time to share their activities via short talks and videos. Drinks afterwards enabled all to network



High Sheriff with Carole Hughes from the charity Anna's Hope at the junior park run by Rutland Water

and I have had feedback of many useful connections made that night.

The money shared at my charity presentation had been accrued during my year from generous individual donors and collections at two church services. One such service, to 'Celebrate the Community of Rutland' took place after two weeks in office. I used it, and the following drinks reception, as an opportunity to both introduce myself and to celebrate the good work in our community. My funds were managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation which was helpful in highlighting small 'hidden' charities and supporting the organisation of the charity presentation evening.

I was keen to engage with our young people and to hear their views and ideas. With this in mind, I ran a photography competition (using phones or cameras), where school-aged children were tasked to 'Capture Rutland' for the High Sheriff, showing something they valued about the county. When visiting schools this provided a great talking point and after three competitions, there were six winners and a number of highly commended photographers. The photographs were imaginative and creative. A presentation evening was held at Goldmark Gallery in Uppingham, which kindly sponsored the event, framed and hung the photographs, donated prizes to the winners and gave a generous donation to our local children's charity, Warning Zone.

It has been an enormous privilege to meet so many working within our county to create real community cohesion. I have been hugely impressed and heartened to see our law and order services, our charitable organisations and many of our young people interacting in creative ways to promote and sustain this cohesion. Multum in Parvo!

**Margaret Miles**  
High Sheriff of Rutland 2019-20



With the under-11 age group winners of the Capture Rutland photography competition



Charity Presentation evening with 14 local charities receiving their cheques from the High Sheriff





## Would I do anything differently?

**IN WRITING** an article for this magazine, there is a danger that the outgoing High Sheriff will produce words similar to an end-of-term school report. In an attempt to avoid this, I thought I would reflect on whether, if I had my time again, I would do anything differently.

Given that prospective sheriffs have a long run-in, there is plenty of time for thinking, making plans and, for some, getting anxious about the prospect. Of course, the Association is supportive and the day at Burghley informative and helpful. The reality of my year proved different to what I expected. For instance, I became more involved with the military, university and business sectors than I had envisaged. In many ways, I felt an important part of my role was to promote Shropshire which I was happy to do but wasn't expecting. Like us all, I was keen to promote local charities and openly acknowledge all the volunteers. I did feel guilty by the fact that many charities I

would have liked to support remained unvisited. Twelve months is a short time, but could I have done better? Perhaps if I had planned more, I could have done, but there is a danger in being too prescriptive that other opportunities might have passed me by. Clearly, sheriffs will prepare and act differently and find a way of working which suits them as individuals.

Outside exalted circles, there remains an ignorance of the role of the High Sheriff. I tried my best by blogging and writing articles in the local media. I'm not convinced that continuing to wear 18th-century court dress outside formal legal, civic or religious settings helps our cause (not for the men at least!) but suspect my view will be in the minority in the Association. I don't think my relationship with the Lieutenancy was quite right. In Shropshire, any event attended by our own Lord-Lieutenant was truly graced but there were some events where the presence of us both caused confusion: I should have delineated our roles better at the onset of my year. I also attended some award ceremonies simply as a guest and did not

participate. In retrospect, these were wasted opportunities as a High Sheriff's Award at the time would have both acknowledged an individual(s) and raised the profile of the Shrievalty.

In my year, I remained at work (as a hospital specialist) and being employed kept me grounded although my time was full on. As a professional, I was surprised how little I knew about other professions (particularly the judicial and military). The response of the emergency services to the flooding in February and the NHS to COVID-19 was and is impressive. I have a much better understanding of the intricacies of civil society. The contribution of volunteers and the charitable sector can no longer be considered as an add-on or luxury but as an essential component to what has been termed the 'big society'. Like all High Sheriffs, I hope I have contributed something to these endeavours but thankfully this is for others, not me, to judge.

◆ Dr Josh Dixey  
*High Sheriff of Shropshire 2019-20*

**Below:** Josh and Diana Dixey in high-vis jackets with the Shrewsbury Street Pastors at 3.00 am on New Year's Day morning, 2020



# SOMERSET

*News from and about members*



A wonderful year of saying thank you



Photo: PA Images, Ben Birchall

**F**OUR DAYS after my Declaration, I was honoured to be presented to Her Majesty The Queen at Castle Cary Station as we enjoyed a brilliantly organised Royal visit. You could ask, how do you beat that!

My main themes have been to:

- build on my predecessor's initiative to support our Unlocking Potential Somerset project for disadvantaged young people
- meet and thank as many charities and volunteers as possible with the help and guidance of both Quartet and Somerset Community Foundations
- work closely with our Somerset Police young cadets

### Unlocking Potential (UP) Somerset

The 'UP Somerset' initiative was successfully launched across six schools in Bridgwater and Weston Super Mare with local further education college support and South Bristol Youth who have successfully delivered programmes to young teenagers for seven years.





## News from and about members

### OPPOSITE PAGE

**Top:** At Somerset's Legal Service: Charles Wyld (Bristol), Mary Clare Rodwell incoming High Sheriff of Somerset, Johnnie Halliday, Sarah Le May (Hampshire), Philip Warr (Dorset), John Willis (Cornwall)

**Bottom:** The Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset Annie Maw presents the High Sheriff to Her Majesty at Castle Cary Station

### THIS PAGE

**Top right:** High Sheriff's garden party raising a glass for Volunteer Awards and Unlocking Potential Somerset

**Below:** High Sheriff's Community Award recipients with the High Sheriff from L to R: Susie Wilkinson (Somerset Farming Community Network), Lt Theresa Torr (Salvation Army - Taunton), Katy Massy (Bath Youth/Mentoring Plus), Gill Brown (Children's Hospice SW) and Peter Renshaw (Rotary Taunton)

It aims to help those Year 9 pupils from challenged family and neighbourhood backgrounds to raise self-confidence and find pathways for pupils with an 'Insights to Apprenticeship' programme. The monies raised for this three-year programme is via Somerset Crimebeat Trust.

Looking forward, we are on our way to expanding the programme to several Taunton Deane schools. The interest I witnessed from many pupils both before and during my year convinced me that this was a strategically important programme to help improve young lives.

### Meeting civic leaders

All doors were open and invitations flooded in from across our historic county. Meeting proud town mayors, attending many wonderful church services and handing out civic awards needed to be balanced with getting to know many of the volunteers going above and beyond to help those in need. Thank goodness for my wife Sian in organising me, and my satnav for finding my way across our largely rural county!

In July we held a party to thank them for their hospitality and to recognise some wonderful volunteers, unsung policemen and women as well as the 40-year-old Yeovil Freewheelers who serve East Somerset and Dorchester hospitals with their mission-critical volunteer blood bike service.

### Highlight of the year – a celebration of Somerset volunteering (9 Feb 2020)

Well before the end of the year I decided that I wanted to shine a light on the hundreds of organisations and unsung heroes from all walks of life who give back to those in need. With guidance from the Dean and Chapter at Wells Cathedral we



organised a multi-faith celebration of volunteering.

Over 600 intrepid souls representing many organisations battled through Storm Ciara from across Somerset to come and be recognised. The cathedral's regular and volunteer choirs sang together; there were readings from Somerset and Quartet Community Foundations, and prayers from the High Sheriff's chaplain and police cadets. This was followed by reflections on the importance of volunteering from Muslim, Hindu and Jewish faith groups. Instead of the evensong sermon I recognised a diverse selection of volunteers with High Sheriff Community Awards and afterwards we celebrated with tea and bubbles.

### Police cadets

Throughout the year I was very grateful to have the backing of Somerset Police cadet leaders and my High Sheriff cadets Josh Davies and Yas Newton-Mason in particular. We did treasure hunts, a High Sheriff's quiz, and they helped at carol services, garden parties and the volunteer and Legal Services. Like our Unlocking Potential Somerset project, I could see the increase in self-confidence among the cadets during my year.

### Passing the baton

Unlike many counties, Somerset combines its Legal Service with the Declaration of the incoming High Sheriff. I was able to thank my fellow South-West High Sheriffs for inviting me and Sian to courts and judges dinners, prison visits and Legal Services across the region.

Somerset's Legal Service on Sunday 15 March was an ominously dull and rainy affair, perhaps foretelling the impending virus lockdown to come only a week later. Thank you Somerset volunteers and charities for stepping forward during the crisis of this pandemic. You are truly needed now more than ever before.

♦ Johnnie Halliday  
High Sheriff of Somerset 2019-2020



Photo: Paul Gillis



## High Sheriff's gin distilling venture raising funds for charity

**FOLLOWING A visit to Nelson's Gin School in 2015, I became inspired to join forces with Neil Harrison, their proprietor and master distiller, to produce the bespoke High Sheriff's Gin.**

Neil's Staffordshire distillery creates gin in small batches, using 21st-century 'cottage industry' methods. With a master's degree in culinary arts and experience of working in a two-Michelin star restaurant, Neil has shared his knowledge with me to distil this unique blend which is the 'High Sheriff's Gin'.

Neil's measured palate has provided me with expert guidance in crafting a gin, using select botanicals, including juniper, citrus zest, lime leaves, hibiscus flowers, pink peppercorns and essence of pine. The distilled ingredients have blended perfectly, resulting in a high strength 42.5 per cent alcohol gin. We're excited

to serve it at shrieval and civic functions where I have donated the bottles for auction, raising funds for the mayor's and chairmen's charities respectively. I have made this gin not for profit, but to entertain guests and to donate to charitable causes.

As I write, the first 170 bottles have been released and have all gone. During March 2020 we made the second batch of 200 bottles, available for sale to any of the UK's 55 High Sheriffs to buy direct from Nelson's Gin. You can visit their website at <https://nelsonsdistillery.co.uk/> for further information.

The auctioned bottles of High Sheriff's Gin have already served to benefit charities, selling from £75 to as much as £500 each for the signed limited-edition bottles. I am absolutely delighted that as I write we've managed to raise over £5,000 from auctioning the High

Sheriff's Gin at social events, corporate and civic functions, with every single penny going to a worthy charitable cause.

I intend to encourage other High Sheriffs across the country to embrace this ready-made fundraising vehicle to deliver money to benefit the causes they choose to support during their individual shrieval year. The High Sheriff of Worcestershire has already bought 10 bottles to auction and I wish him every success as they go under the hammer!

The project has not only been rewarding from a charitable perspective, but as I ended my year in April, it has also served as a timely legacy of my time in office which I have enjoyed immensely.

Over the past 12 months I have been able to support local charities and organisations including Lichfield Cathedral, Macmillan Cancer Support, Midlands Air Ambulance, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Staffordshire Police Cadets, Care First (an adult learning centre), Love Lichfield, 4UProgress, and the Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS).

I've remembered lost heroes at the National Memorial Arboretum, celebrated student achievements at both Staffordshire and Keele Universities, strengthened ties with Staffordshire Police and worked to support Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

It has been a tremendous year in which I've learnt and experienced so much. I've benefited from being within a wonderful community, helped to raise awareness of causes and supported valuable efforts. It has been a pleasure to serve my much-loved county of Staffordshire and I will value the memories of my time in the role for many years to come.

**Ashley Brough**  
*High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2019-20*



Ashley Brough auctioning High Sheriff's Gin at the Macmillan Ball



Ashley Brough and Neil Harrison with the finished product





## Going live

**MY YEAR began in April with my Declaration at Ipswich Crown Court and I could not possibly have foreseen what an eventful year lay ahead.**

It is a tremendous honour and privilege to be the High Sheriff of one's county. I am Suffolk born and bred and have spent most of my life in a beautiful county which, at first glance, gives the untrained eye the impression of comfortable living. On closer inspection one can see that this is not so for everyone.

I have spent much time supporting our Circuit Judges and was fortunate to sit with two visiting High Court Judges. We are blessed with some able and gifted judges currently led by the most hard-working Resident Judge, His Honour Judge Levett, Recorder of Ipswich. He has most generously helped me to gain an understanding of the judicial processes.

Suffolk's new Chief Constable, Steve Jupp, ensured that I received a comprehensive and extremely informative insight into the wide-ranging, varied and highly skilled work the police do. Two police awards ceremonies allowed me to show some appreciation of their tremendous efforts and I feel so lucky to have been able to spend time with these dedicated men and women. They constantly have to resolve difficult and challenging issues and situations, none more so than during the coronavirus crisis.

Early on in my year I visited two of our three prisons, HMP Hollesley Bay and Warren Hill, and both impressed me with the work they are doing. Warren Hill operates under a progression regime with a therapeutic unit and a psychologically informed planned environments (PIPE) unit. Since prisoner rehabilitation interested me, I subsequently spent many hours supporting their programmes there. I was also keen to visit a women's prison and Julia Nix from the DWP kindly arranged a visit to Peterborough Prison. There is a great deal of rehabilitation work going on there, but women struggle with prison life. Indeed the need for a



Photos: Nick Ilott



**Above:** The summer party was held at my family's boatyard on the River Deben at Woodbridge on the hottest day of the year (L-R): Clare Agnew (Norfolk), Rosalind Eminson (Suffolk), James Bettley (Essex), Meryl Dolling (Bedfordshire), Sarah Beazley (Hertfordshire)

**Left:** The High Sheriff before the Suffolk Justice Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral with L-R the Dean, the Bishop, Revd Jonathan Aitken and her chaplain Canon Ian Wilson

mother and baby unit at a prison is both reassuring and distressing.

I have been involved in the charity and voluntary sector for many years and one of my aims was to try and reach the remoter parts of Suffolk to explore the effects of rural isolation and loneliness, not just on the elderly but also on the younger generation. I am heartened by the industrious ways in which communities are working together to resolve and alleviate some of the difficulties they face. There is less provision for younger people as a whole but I have seen evidence of gradual change as I have visited both youth groups and voluntary organisations helping them. It is important to raise their aspirations, build their self-confidence and prevent them from falling into crime.

During the year I realised that some charities desired an opportunity to spend time together to exchange ideas, discuss issues of concern, learn, collaborate and support one another. In February I provided a group of them with a venue, supper, a speaker and an opportunity for discussion. It was a success and beneficial.

I have been humbled and sometimes overwhelmed to discover how much it

means to people to receive a visit from a High Sheriff. Some of the reactions to my thanks and praise for their efforts have been moving and so rewarding.

For some reason in Suffolk we hold our Justice Service at the end of the shrieval year and the date for mine was 15 March (the Ides!); after much conferring we went ahead with it under altered circumstances. With a reduced congregation, those who came enjoyed the service, were treated to an address by the Revd Jonathan Aitken and appreciated some respite from the tribulations of the outside world.

And finally, radio rescued the High Sheriff's Awards ceremony! Some lateral thinking was required to go ahead on 26 March. The event itself was cancelled along with everything else in the diary in the latter three weeks of my tenure, but in the end, with the great help of the Suffolk Community Foundation and BBC Radio Suffolk we announced the awards live on an hour-long radio show. This was a first for me. I don't think a career in radio beckons!

◆ **Rosalind Eminson**  
*High Sheriff of Suffolk 2019-20*



## Nurture through Surrey's nature

*'There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.'*

Rachel Carson

Having lived all my life in the Surrey Hills I love our AONB, covering one quarter of the county, the most wooded county in England. This beauty is overlooked by many, often including those living in Surrey. In contrast and much more hidden from view is the ugly fact that 10 per cent of Surrey's children live in poverty, and around 10,000 Surrey children suffer from mental health disorders. These startling facts, combined with my career in rural estate management, were the inspiration behind the idea of focusing my shrieval theme on 'Nurture through Surrey's nature'.

As High Sheriff I set out to support existing charities and organisations which are already delivering nature-focused, society-benefiting projects. From care farms to camping trips, nurture farms to mentoring in allotments, scout camps to social prescribing, outdoor education to high ropes courses, on farms, in forests, parks, gardens or at the local football



High Sheriff and Jenny Seagrove, Mane Chance

Photos: Andy Newbold Photography

pitch – there is such a diversity of initiatives and opportunities.

It has been an amazing discovery, with a momentum of its own, that everywhere I turned I found the outdoors being favoured over the indoors, and helping to improve lives. It was exciting to celebrate the message 'Nurture through Surrey's nature', to build on it, to share ideas, enable conversations and encourage new collaborations.

Throughout the year I met inspirational people providing opportunities to nurture all ages within the countryside. The growth in the 'nurture through nature' arena is so exciting, and Surrey is achieving so much. Here, space limits and allows for only a few examples:

Change of Scene – supports children excluded from school through caring for animals and being cared for, creating positive memories that can never be taken away.

Leatherhead Youth Project – young people with very limited life opportunities, given the chance to discover themselves in unfamiliar surroundings, by spending nights in a hammock under the trees in the Surrey Hills.

Viewpoint – promotes social inclusion for young people suffering from mental health and social challenges; by using horses they learn to read body language and to respond appropriately with non-verbal strategies.

HMP Send – women are growing fruit and vegetables for the Clink restaurant at HMP Highdown, giving them qualifications and skills.

The coronavirus has highlighted the need for nature as a healer. It has also shortened the shrieval year, altering traditions; the Declaration of Mr Shahid Azeem, my successor, took place on Zoom with an audience of 1,500. However, my plan to hold a 'Nurture through nature network' – walking and talking in the name of networking – an event to bring together the users, providers and funders who believe in nurturing through nature, both national and local, just would not have been the same on Zoom. It is to be rescheduled. Although my year as High Sheriff has come to an end I look forward to continuing this work.

**Bridget Biddell DL**  
High Sheriff of Surrey 2019-20



Open Farm Sunday, High Sheriff with her police cadet and assistants





## 10 wreaths – what should have been...

**THE ROYAL Warwickshire Regiment, which now finds its home in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, produced two Field Marshals, namely Viscounts Montgomery and Slim.**

Neither of these two distinguished soldiers had the pleasure of seeing the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire so we came up with the idea of laying the Montgomery and Slim Wreaths at the Bastion Memorial, together with eight wreaths for seven fusiliers and Trooper Munday from the Household Cavalry, who were all killed in Afghanistan on OP HERRICK.

On Saturday 28 March the Bishop of Warwick was to conduct a service at St Mary's, Warwick (which includes the Chapel of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment where the last Colours in the form of 2 RRF were laid up in October 2016) to bless the wreaths, after which they were to be transported to the north of Warwickshire to Polesworth Abbey where they would rest overnight.

HRH the Duke of Kent had kindly agreed to attend a service at the NMA on Sunday 29 March when the wreaths would be laid at the Bastion Memorial; his Royal Highness agreed to do this in his capacity as both Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Colonel of the Scots Guards.

The escort of the wreaths on the Sunday morning from Polesworth Abbey to the NMA was to be conducted on bicycle by 10 former and serving members of the Household Division with the wreaths attached to their rucksacks. After the service we were scheduled to have a reception for the families of the fallen who were attending the service. Fundraising for the bicycle escort was conducted through [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) and just over £6,000 was raised for the Army Benevolent Fund, the Fusilier Aid Society and the Household Division Charity.

As a result of COVID-19 both services and the associated events were cancelled but our donors stayed firm –



Simon Miesegaes (head of table) with Polesworth Abbey Knitting Group, generous donors to the Army Benevolent Fund

an early reflection perhaps on Captain Moore's achievement with his NHS fundraising.

Colonel John Rice of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who runs the regiment's museum in Warwick, was instrumental in helping me organise the event; in addition, Colonel Bob Carruthers, former chairman of Warwickshire RFCA, was to organise the standard bearers and reception parties in the form of Warwickshire's army cadets.

Though a huge disappointment, I was delighted to be asked by John Rice to attend the Royal Warwickshire Regiment's Annual Service at St Mary's in October; the wreaths will be laid in the Regiment's Chapel.

What was particularly lovely about organising the event was working with a fellow High Sheriff, Ashley Brough (Staffordshire) – a good example, too, of High Sheriffs working closely with the Lord-Lieutenants. Tim Cox, Lord-Lieutenant and formerly High Sheriff of Warwickshire, helped me make contact with St James's Palace and, once His Royal Highness had confirmed that he would attend, Ian Dudson as Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire took responsibility for the 'recce' and ensuring that everything was set for the day.

As a final act of defiance, we sent out to all those who had been invited and who were going to attend a copy of the Twin Service booklet!



The Montgomery and Slim Wreaths

◆ Simon Miesegaes

*High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2019-20*

# WEST SUSSEX

*News from and about members*



Photo: Andrew Mandell

## Not just the hat

**Above:** A full hand of Sheriffs at the Judges' Service  
L to R: Sarah Le May (Hampshire), Paul Barrett (Kent), Bridget Biddell (Surrey), Davina Irwin-Clark (West Sussex), Violet Hancock (East Sussex)

**I** was looking forward to my evening with police cadets, witnessing their training. Would it be drill, practising arrests, or what? I knew I would be surprised and impressed. After introductions, the leader turned to me: 'Over to you, High Sheriff...' Ah. I was indeed surprised, with 100 minutes to fill, but with no reason to be impressed. I was glad of my 35 years as a vicar's wife; this was another youth group to galvanise, and happily lots of good discussion arises out of the swords of justice and mercy on the shrieval badge. Can there be too much justice? Can there be too much mercy? How do the police balance the two?

It was not the only time I reflected on that question. When sent out with Crawley police to a report of two men fighting, it turned out to be two teenage brothers both with special needs, one attempting to stop the other from self-harming. One minute the police might have had to be tough authority; the next, they are making caring enquiries of distressed parents. I will be a champion of the police for the rest of my life. I came away wobbly from listening to a 999 call where a violent drunk was using two whisky bottles to break everything he could in the house while his girlfriend and his mother cowered upstairs; the call handler, however, was the essence of reassuring calm and practicality: 'Please take the car keys into the bathroom with you...' And they do that every day.





## News from and about members

Looking back, I can see that my year was shaped around three spiritual occasions: my Judges' Service in Worth Abbey; a Blue Light Service, with East Sussex, to honour the emergency services; and the presentation of High Sheriff's certificates within evensong in Chichester Cathedral. Very sadly this last was scuppered by COVID-19.

I wanted my Judges' Service to make the concept of law and order personal, so it centred round accounts from a serving police officer, a retired High Court Judge, and an ex-con. It was moving to hear how their faith motivates and equips them in their service of the community, and one could have heard the proverbial pin drop as Tom, a former drug dealer out of prison for only two years, told how his life has been transformed.

With the High Sheriff of East Sussex, I convened a 'Round Table' around the prisoner's journey from the dock to post-release. The resident judge, prison governor, and those from probation, magistracy, restorative justice and family support charities all made it a fascinating and worthwhile discussion with real improvements resulting.

Life as High Sheriff is frankly extraordinary. I have met people whose sacrificial lives are wholly inspiring. With my chaplain, whom I had the foresight to marry 40 years ago (!), I have laughed, cried, discussed and prayed, and learnt that the essence of a shrieval year is not how much you do, but how much you care. Those one meets on visits, either to statutory or charitable bodies, can tell immediately if the heart is present, or only the hat! My own heart has been expanded and warmed by so many I have met, and my gratitude knows no bounds.

### ◆ Davina Irwin-Clark

*High Sheriff of West Sussex 2019-20*



Photo: St Wilfred's Hospice

The High Sheriff assisting in 'Jail and Bail', a fundraiser for St Wilfred's Hospice at Amberley Castle, with 'prisoner' Karl Roberts and 'jailer' Chris Blatch-Gainey



Photo: Andrew Mardell

The 'Great and Good' outside Worth Abbey following the Judges' Service L to R: Penny Schofield, Chief Coroner for West Sussex, Paul Barrett (Kent), Violet Hancock (East Sussex), Pip Goring, wife of the Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Harry Goring, Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mr Justice Andrew Edis, Davina Irwin-Clark (West Sussex), Revd Peter Irwin-Clark, Chaplain and Consort to the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Sara Stonor, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Sarah Le May (Hampshire), Bridget Biddell (Surrey), with Judges of the South-Eastern Circuit



Photo: Andrew Mardell

Davina Irwin-Clark with Giles York QPM, Chief Constable of Sussex, and the police cadets and their trainers



Photo: Eddie Mitchell

The High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex with representatives of the emergency services at Lancing College, 20 February 2020 L to R: Caroline Lucas, County President, St John Ambulance; Dawn Whittaker, Chief Fire Officer, East Sussex; Fr Jim Horton, Chaplain to the High Sheriff of East Sussex; Violet Hancock, High Sheriff of East Sussex; Giles York QPM, Chief Constable of Sussex; Sabrina Cohen-Hatton, Chief Fire Officer, West Sussex; Revd Peter Irwin-Clark, Chaplain and Consort to the High Sheriff of West Sussex; Davina Irwin-Clark, High Sheriff of West Sussex; Tim Fellows, Operating Unit Manager for Brighton SECAMB; Mark Sawyer, Coxswain of the RNLI, Eastbourne

# THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND and WALES FOR 2020-21

### ENGLAND

|                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| BEDFORDSHIRE             | Mrs S J Lousada DL                 |
| 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 DL           |
| CITY OF BRISTOL          | Dr J C Manley                      |
| CORNWALL                 | Mrs K M Holborow DL                |
| 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 MBE             |
| EAST SUSSEX              | A J Blackman Esq DL                |
| ESSEX                    | Mrs J A Fosh                       |
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE          | Mrs H E Lovatt                     |
| GREATER LONDON           | Alderman J Garbutt JP              |
| GREATER MANCHESTER       | Dr E S O'Neal DL                   |
| HAMPSHIRE                | Revd S E Colman                    |
| HEREFORDSHIRE            | Mrs P C H Thomas                   |
| HERTFORDSHIRE            | Hon H T Holland-Hibbert            |
| ISLE OF WIGHT            | Mrs C J Peel                       |
| KENT                     | Mrs R E Millwater                  |
| LANCASHIRE               | Mrs C Penny                        |
| LEICESTERSHIRE           | Mrs A V Smith MBE                  |
| LINCOLNSHIRE             | M J Scott Esq                      |
| MERSEYSIDE               | His Honour J H Roberts DL          |
| 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 Colonel M L Jackson OBE         |

### WALES

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| CLWYD           | D H Wynne-Finch Esq |
| DYFED           | Mrs S K Lusher DL   |
| GWENT           | T M S Russen Esq    |
| GWYNEDD         | D E F Williams Esq  |
| MID GLAMORGAN   | J M Edwards Esq     |
| POWYS           | Mrs R M Duggan      |
| SOUTH GLAMORGAN | A R Howell Esq      |
| WEST GLAMORGAN  | Dr D Evans-Williams |

## NEW MEMBERS

The Association welcomes the following as new members

| Name                                      | County                   | Year of Office |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| N K Alston Esq CBE DL                     | Essex                    | 2022           |
| Mrs S K Baker MBE JP DL                   | West Yorkshire           | 2022           |
| D W M Barraclough Esq                     | West Yorkshire           | Under Sheriff  |
| M G Beard Esq                             | Oxfordshire              | 2022           |
| Mrs L D Bennett OBE DL                    | West Midlands            | 2021           |
| Mrs J Bowes                               | East Riding of Yorkshire | 2022           |
| Miss D Brock DL                           | Buckinghamshire          | 2022           |
| Prof Dame Hilary Chapman DBE DL           | South Yorkshire          | 2022           |
| M G Copestake Esq                         | Derbyshire               | 2022           |
| His Honour C A Critchlow DL               | Surrey                   | 2022           |
| Mrs J Crompton                            | Cambridgeshire           | 2022           |
| M Davies Esq OBE                          | Gwent                    | 2022           |
| Mrs S L de Rohan JP                       | Herefordshire            | 2022           |
| Ms S Fine King DL                         | Dorset                   | 2022           |
| Mrs J G France-Hayhurst                   | Cheshire                 | 2022           |
| Hon Mrs Graham                            | Shropshire               | 2022           |
| M A J Gurney Esq                          | Norfolk                  | 2022           |
| Ms Z J Henderson                          | Clwyd                    | 2022           |
| C D J Holborow Esq DL                     | Northamptonshire         | 2022           |
| T H Jones Esq OBE                         | Powys                    | 2022           |
| J S Lambert Esq OBE                       | North Yorkshire          | 2022           |
| The Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne | Wiltshire                | 2022           |
| A R Manning-Cox Esq                       | Worcestershire           | 2022           |
| Mrs K A Marriott                          | Isle of Wight            | 2022           |
| I T Mattioli Esq MBE                      | Leicestershire           | 2021           |
| A McVie Esq                               | Cumbria                  | 2022           |
| Air Marshal Sir Graham Miller KBE         | Gloucestershire          | 2022           |
| Mrs J Mitchell                            | Staffordshire            | 2022           |
| Mrs R Moriarty-Simmonds OBE               | South Glamorgan          | 2022           |
| Mrs H J Phillips                          | Greater London           | 2022           |
| R J Race Esq JP DL                        | Kent                     | 2022           |
| D R Rees-Evans Esq                        | Dyfed                    | 2022           |
| S H Rogers Esq JP                         | West Glamorgan           | 2022           |
| J C Royds Esq TD                          | Northumberland           | 2022           |
| Lady Edwina Snow                          | Hampshire                | 2022           |
| T M Strawson Esq                          | Lincolnshire             | 2022           |
| Mrs M K Thomas BEM JP                     | Mid Glamorgan            | 2022           |
| P G Thompson Esq                          | Rutland                  | 2022           |
| The Lady Willoughby de Broke              | Warwickshire             | 2022           |
| R D Youngman Esq                          | Devon                    | 2022           |

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



# THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

### COUNTY

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

### 2021/2022

E Masih Esq  
R D H Russell Esq MVO DL  
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 DL  
J R W Attrill Esq DL  
J C H Weir Esq JP  
I T Mattioli Esq MBE  
Mrs C V Birch  
D J McLeavy Hill Esq DL  
Hon Mrs Lowther DL  
Mrs J L Riddell  
Mrs V A Wrigley DL  
Professor H S 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 Llewelyn  
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

### 2022/2023

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Miss A Kharbanda  
Miss D Brock DL  
Mrs J Crompton  
Mrs J G France-Hayhurst  
Ms A O A Raikes MBE  
A McViety Esq  
M G Copestake Esq  
R D Youngman Esq  
Ms S Fine King DL  
Mrs S M Harper-Wilkes  
Mrs J Bowes  
Mrs M J King  
N K Alston Esq CBE DL  
Air Marshal Sir Graham Miller KBE  
Mrs H J Phillips  
Lady Edwina Snow  
Mrs S L de Rohan JP  
Mrs S D Burton DL  
Mrs K A Marriott  
R J Race Esq JP DL  
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C D J Holborow Esq DL  
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M G Beard Esq  
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His Honour C A Critchlow DL  
D W Bavaird Esq  
The Lady Willoughby de Broke  
D R Moorcroft Esq OBE  
J N Whitmore Esq  
Mrs S K Baker MBE JP DL  
The Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne  
A R Manning-Cox Esq

*\*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

CLWYD  
DYFED  
GWENT  
GWYNEDD  
MID GLAMORGAN  
POWYS  
SOUTH GLAMORGAN  
WEST GLAMORGAN

### 2021/2022

J S Thomas Esq  
J T Gravell Esq  
P M Alderman Esq  
G P Owen Esq  
J Edwards Esq MBE JP  
P R James Esq MBE  
P R Dewey Esq  
Mrs J L Jenkins MBE JP DL

### 2022/2023

Ms Z J Henderson  
D R Rees-Evans Esq  
M Davies Esq OBE  
Ms D Carey-Evans  
Mrs M K Thomas BEM JP  
T H Jones Esq OBE  
Mrs R Moriarty-Simmonds OBE  
S H Rogers Esq JP

## DEATHS

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

**The Countess of Erroll**  
Date of death: 13/01/20  
Age: 64  
County: Bedfordshire  
Year of office: 2015

**W Fane de Salis Esq**  
Date of death: 16/07/19  
Age: 80  
County: East Sussex  
Year of office: 2000

**F W Hoults Esq JP DL**  
Date of death: 6/05/19  
Age: 80  
County: Tyne and Wear  
Year of office: 1986

**R H Murray-Philpson Esq OBE DL**  
Date of death: 20/03/20  
Age: 92  
County: Leicestershire  
Year of office: 1993

**T P Naylor Esq**  
Date of death: 11/04/20  
Age: 96  
County: Cumbria  
Year of office: 1990

**M J Oglesby Esq CBE DL**  
Date of death: 21/11/19  
Age: 80  
County: Greater Manchester  
Year of office: 2007

**R A H Perkins Esq**  
Date of death: 12/01/20  
Age: 80  
County: Derbyshire  
Year of office: 1997

**V A L Powell Esq**  
Date of death: 2/04/20  
Age: 80  
County: Hampshire  
Year of office: 1999

**P R V Watkins Esq**  
Date of death: 16/04/20  
Age: 89  
County: West Glamorgan  
Year of office: 1987

# 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 scarf/tippet)



## Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

Gilt for serving and retired High Sheriffs, silver for High Sheriffs' 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  
**£40.50**



## 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")  
**£35.00**



## 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**

**ALSO 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:

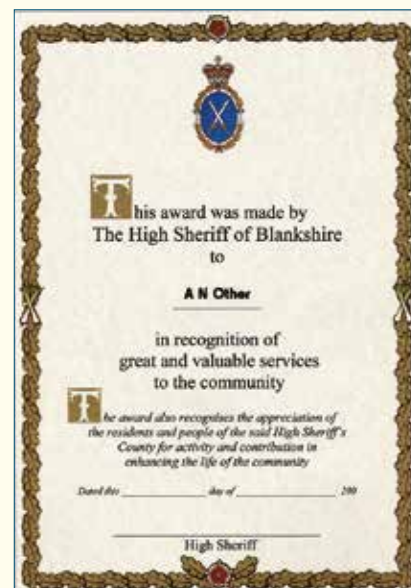
**STYLE 1** comes with the name of your county already printed on it and blanks in

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

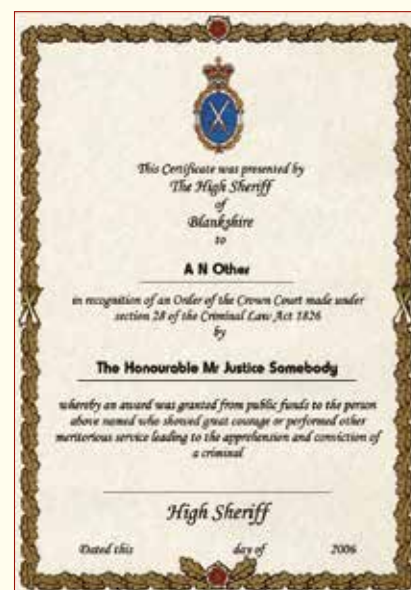
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

**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.

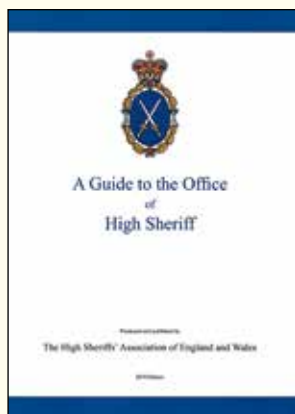
**STYLE 2** lets the High Sheriff, at the time of placing an order, supply the name of the recipient; the name of the Judge or Recorder; and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script.

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)  
**£7.50**

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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 2020**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 25 September 2020**.

**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](mailto:editor@highsheriffs.com)

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## HELPFUL TOPICS FOR MEMBERS

**Full details on the Association's website ([www.highsheriffs.com](http://www.highsheriffs.com))**

If you have forgotten your password, please email [webmaster@highsheriffs.com](mailto: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 and badges

- \*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 including parish and town council membership; not entertaining politicians during a pre-election period)
- \*Proclamation of the Accession of a New Sovereign by High Sheriffs



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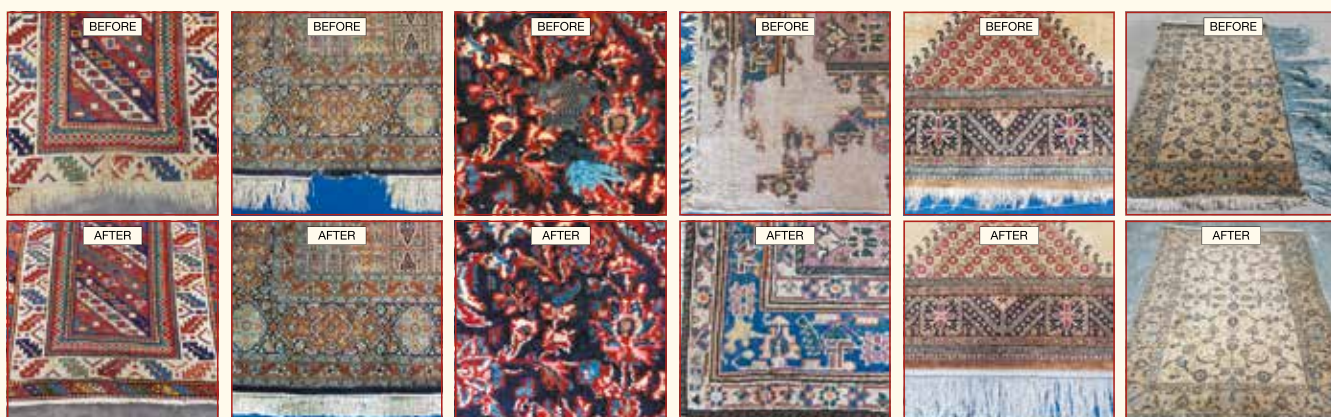
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