



# The High Sheriff

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

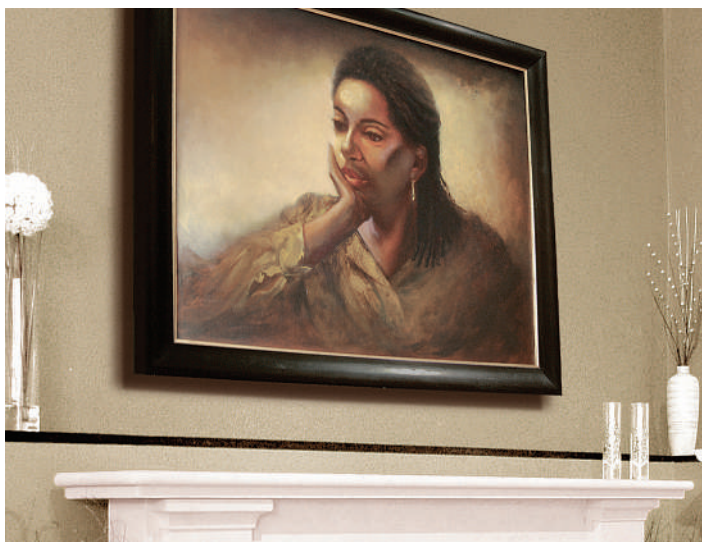
*WINTER 2020*



*The many faces of a  
High Sheriff in 2020*

**ALSO INSIDE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**



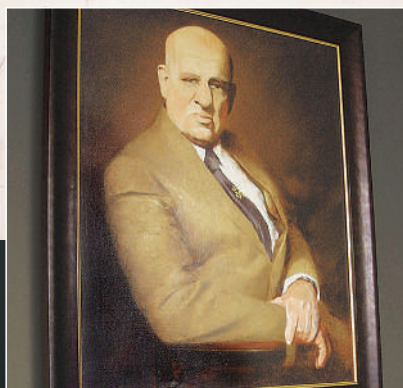


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## The High Sheriff

### The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

President Mrs E J Hunter  
Officers and Council November 2020 to November 2021

#### OFFICERS

**Chairman**  
The Hon H J H Tollemache  
Email [chairman@highsheriffs.co](mailto:chairman@highsheriffs.co)

**Honorary Secretary**  
J H A Williams MBE  
Gatefield, Green Tye, Much Hadham  
Hertfordshire SG10 6JJ  
Tel 01279 842225  
Email [secretary@highsheriffs.com](mailto:secretary@highsheriffs.com)

**Honorary Treasurer**  
Mrs C S Le May  
Upham House  
Church Street  
Upham  
Southampton  
Hampshire SO32 1JH  
Tel 01489 860332  
Email [treasurer@highsheriffs.com](mailto:treasurer@highsheriffs.com)

#### COUNCIL

Mrs S M Beazley  
T H Birch Reynardson Esq  
D C F Jones Esq DL  
J A T Lee Esq OBE DL  
Mrs V A Lloyd DL  
Mrs A J Parker JP DL  
Dr R Shah MBE JP DL  
Lt Col A S Tuggey CBE DL  
W A A Wells Esq TD  
(Hon Editor of *The High Sheriff*)  
S J Young Esq MC JP DL

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

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

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The High Sheriff  
Heritage House, PO Box 21,  
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Address as above

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Fax 01462 896677  
Email [grant@hall-mccartney.co.uk](mailto:grant@hall-mccartney.co.uk)

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**Front cover, top left to bottom right:** Surrey, Essex, Cheshire, Somerset, West Sussex, Oxfordshire, Devon, Kent, North Yorkshire

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# From the Editor

**WHAT A year it has been, not yet over though at last there is light at the end of a long tunnel. I want to commiserate with this year's High Sheriffs who have missed the opportunities I had to visit so many fascinating people and places during my year, but I heed the advice of one High Sheriff that sympathy is not appropriate. After the initial shock of having to adapt to constrained activities nine months ago, most people buckled to and got on with life – not least High Sheriffs who invariably have given a lead in their counties judging by reports online and in this magazine of problems vanquished or ameliorated. I am grateful to High Sheriffs and this issue's special contributors for writing so interestingly. Almost three-quarters of counties have featured in the magazine this year, one for the first time this century – thank you!**

Consistent themes run from issue to issue. A regular concern is loneliness, a blight many High Sheriffs are tackling this year, heightened as it is by self-isolation. All contributors cover the new theme: getting to grips with social media. With impressive speed High Sheriffs have adapted to the essentials of virtual communication, giving them a chance to 'meet' many more people than they might in a 'normal' year. The distinct characteristics of each county – geography, population, rural/urban, transport links – have been blurred this year in the common shrieval aim to circumvent the pandemic, supported by new communication skills. I like the notion of one writer whose 'pretty relaxed' county imposes no pressure to conform to a strict shrieval plot, something I hope will return but boosted by these skills. So many contributors have reported the rising profile of the shrievalty as they gain followers on social media,

an excellent trend. For years the hard work of High Sheriffs has depended on the whim of local journalists to publicise incidents of their being a force for good.

Two items germane to a 'normal' year have crossed my path recently. Though this magazine doesn't usually publish new book reviews, Benoit Dupont's *Diamanté cut steel swords* is a fascinating and copiously illustrated study of court swords so familiar to High Sheriffs. He covers the United Kingdom in detail as the nation where such swords are worn most, in parliamentary, civic and shrieval appointments. At the stroke of a pen and without virtual communication M Dupont has put High Sheriffs on the map in Belgium.

I was amused to read a national press report devoted mainly to bogus coats of arms, but highlighting official grants by Her Majesty's Kings of Arms to people of 'eminence or good standing in national or local life'. High Sheriffs alone were singled out as office-holders who 'require' arms.

I close by thanking Jayne Lewis, our eagle-eyed production editor who has done much extra work for this issue while I have been preoccupied with other considerations, and Kelly Sadler who has dealt with the clerical aspects of the magazine often in trying circumstances. We wish all readers and especially this year's inspired High Sheriffs a fulfilling Christmas. We earnestly hope that you and your successors are able to work more normally in the new year, and with the benefit of enhanced communications.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Andrew Wells'.

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06





# Diary 2021

## of Forthcoming Events

**JANUARY 2021****High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021 digital meeting***Wednesday 27 January*

There will be a video conference on this date for High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021 to replace the meeting in London which has had to be cancelled. Details with the link will be sent in due course.

**MARCH 2021****High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021**

The names of the High Sheriffs on the Roll for 2021 will be 'pricked' by Her Majesty The Queen at a private meeting of the Privy Council to be held at Buckingham Palace.

**National Crimebeat***Tuesday 16 March*

The awards ceremony will be a virtual one. All projects to be entered must be endorsed by a High Sheriff and submitted by 31 January 2021. Finalists will be announced shortly after that.

**APRIL 2021****Meeting of co-ordinators of regional meetings**

There will be a meeting of co-ordinators of regional meetings for High Sheriffs in nomination with members of the Council probably at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in London. Please address any queries to John Lee at [coombebarton@hotmail.com](mailto:coombebarton@hotmail.com).

**JULY 2021****Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2022 and 2023***Friday 2 July*

The 2021 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire, on Friday 2 July. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will be sent in mid-May 2021 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2022 and 2023.

**OCTOBER 2021****The Red Mass***Friday 1 October*

The annual Roman Catholic Mass will be held at 9.30 am at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the start of the legal year. 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 by email at: [stephenhart@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhart@gmail.com).

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

The annual ladies' lunch will be held in London. When arranged, full details will be sent in May/June 2021 to those ladies who are in nomination.

**NOVEMBER 2021****50th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon***Thursday 4 November (provisional)*

The Association's 50th AGM and luncheon will be held in London at a venue to be decided early in the new year. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2021.

**The Nomination of future High Sheriffs***Friday 12 November 2021 probably at 2.00 pm*

The ceremony of the nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on Friday 12 November 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 2022, 2023 and 2024 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 2022 and for 2023 inviting them to attend. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other. It may be possible for a few 2024 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2024 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend.

**Please note that these events are subject to change depending on lockdown restrictions at the time.**





# Chairman's Report

## 49th AGM

### 17 November 2020

**I**T IS indeed a strange Annual General Meeting – I cannot hear you and I cannot see you which is a great shame as I have come to know a great many members and would have liked at least to have seen you. I have to take it on faith that you are actually there and I understand that there are over 170 members present.

What a huge change of circumstances we have seen since last year – beyond all imagination. We cannot escape the fact that 2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year for High Sheriffs. The value, and pleasure, of getting around the county and putting into practice so many of the well-thought-out plans for the year; the sense of purpose in meeting so many of the unsung heroes who help to keep the county together; the nervous moments of putting on court dress, or a larger than expected ostrich feather hat for the first number of engagements; the royal visits; all this has been put on hold to some extent.

Initially, it was not easy to know how best the Association could help. From the beginning, we encouraged High Sheriffs to get together by means of regional video meetings; these appear to be extremely helpful and I am sure will continue in years to come – we all learnt very quickly, well, quite quickly, the basics of Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp and so on. We arranged for dispensation from the Privy Council to have the reading and signing of the Declaration to be performed virtually before a JP or High Court Judge and I have seen recordings of several of these events which have been very well arranged and interesting to watch as well as being a piece of history for families to keep. This year's High Sheriffs have been very inventive – they have had to be. It is quite likely that those in nomination for 2021 will have to prepare for similar ways of declaring for Office, but I am optimistic that their year will be less constrained.

The ability to meet and talk with many High Sheriffs by video this year has engendered an extremely valuable new relationship between High Sheriffs and the Association. We are getting suggestions and ideas that were being left outstanding in years when High Sheriffs did not need to add to their burden. We are working on many of these ideas which will help in years to come. The key as ever is to protect the dignity of the Office at the same time as continuing to make it relevant as customs change.

The video meetings arranged by the Association have been valuable. There have been three so far – Regional Coordinators, High Sheriffs in nomination, and most recently for current High Sheriffs. It is the first time that members of Council have been able to connect directly with many High Sheriffs while they are in Office; we have usually been more focussed on those in nomination, to ensure that they are well prepared. Once a High Sheriff takes Office, there are few opportunities to meet and discuss shrieval topics although the Secretary is often asked esoteric questions to which he usually has the answer, and if not Andrew Wells frequently knows the solution.

Sadly, many of the most interesting and useful events which we organise have also had to be put on to video format. Despite the hard work by Virginia Lloyd in putting the Burghley seminar together, it had to be cancelled. However, there will be a 'mini-Burghley' which was going to be in London but now inevitably will take place by Zoom for those High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021. Most of those who were going to speak at Burghley this year will be speaking at the 'mini-Burghley' on 27 January including the Queen's Remembrancer, a prison governor, a Lord-Lieutenant and a High Court Judge. Most of you will remember how useful the Burghley seminar was in preparing you for Office, and I believe that this will also be helpful.

The nomination ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice last week also had to be held by video link for those in nomination to watch remotely. The Lord Chief Justice, flanked by a member of the Court of Appeal and two High Court Judges were there for the Queen's Remembrancer to seek one new name for each county. Many thanks go to James Williams for taking on the organisation for the Shrievalty this year.

In the last twelve months there are some specifics that I would like to mention. We met at the Fishmongers' Hall last November. Two weeks later, two people were killed there in a terrorist attack. One of our Council members, David Jones was, and still is, Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company and he has been the mainstay in managing much of the aftermath – a difficult, demanding and emotionally very draining task, which continues even now as he has agreed to stay on as Prime Warden for an exceptional 18 months instead of the usual one year. It is still only a year since Annie Hall,



High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 2017 so tragically died in the floods in November 2019. The High Sheriff in nomination for the West Midlands, Wade Lyn, developed an extremely serious case of coronavirus just four days before he was due to be sworn in as High Sheriff and had to spend the next three months in intensive care in hospital and was unable to take office. His predecessor Michael Kuo has continued with the shrieval duties, and Wade is now not going to have a late ceremony but will apply for nomination again in a few years' time. I would not want these instances to pass unnoticed.

It has been trying for all High Sheriffs who have had their plans, three years in the waiting, put on hold. A few to whom I have spoken have decided to ask their nomination panels to consider them for Office after a (statutory) gap of three years.

There were some highlights in the year – the visit by 100 members and their guests to Westminster Abbey in February was certainly one of them, and we are most grateful to the Dean and Chapter for welcoming us so generously. Regional meetings, well organised by Council member John Lee, were able to be completed before restrictions set in and were considered to be extremely useful in preparing those in nomination for Office. Regional meetings have been rearranged this winter to take place by video.

The revised Declaration is certainly the most important development which has been achieved this year. In January, after many months of research and with the help of Tom Birch Reynardson and Lord Lisvane and the advice of the Privy Council, we were glad to be able to announce that The Queen had now given her consent for the use of the revised version which can be seen on the members' area of the Association website. This revised Declaration is more closely in accordance with the duties and expectations of the Office.

We continue to produce guidance papers for the Shrievalty, the latest being a paper on prisons which John Young has produced suggesting ways in which a High Sheriff might encourage and support the prison and probation services. John Lee's paper on affordability has been very helpful to High Sheriffs in nomination.

I am always delighted by the quality of The High Sheriff which is the result of a great deal of work by Andrew Wells. Andrew has said that he cannot go on editing the magazine by himself for ever, so I am making a plea for anyone of our members to give him a hand. We will probably need to pay a reasonable amount in order to find someone, but please email

me or Andrew if you feel that you can help with this or know someone who might be interested.

I will be speaking later in the agenda about changes to Council, but I must mention here that our President, Julian Avery, who has served the Association so well for many years, will be retiring at the end of this meeting. Julian was elected to Council in 2003, even before he became High Sheriff in 2004, and he was then appointed President in 2010. Julian was always very much involved in guiding the Association through some difficult times. As President he has been exceptional: always listening and quietly guiding; he has a nose for something that just doesn't feel quite right and is not afraid of voicing it, albeit in the most hesitant of manners. When I was asked to become Chairman, I checked to make sure that Julian was not going to leave. He said that he had no intention of quitting his role as President until he was sure that the

Association was in safe hands.

I take it as a compliment to all of us on Council, as well as the President-elect, that he feels that he can now step down. I will be asking you to appoint his successor, Elizabeth Hunter, later in the meeting.

Nigel Savory is also retiring this year after serving on Council for ten years as Treasurer. We shall miss him and his thoughtful comments, but we are fortunate to propose Sarah Le May, who was High Sheriff of Hampshire in 2019, as Treasurer later in the meeting.

The third person to retire is Sally Bowie. Sally joined Council in 2014 and has been a great asset. Sally organised two excellent meetings at Burghley,

inviting some of the best speakers that we have had, and has also given wise counsel on the governance panel.

I would like to thank all members of Council for their hard work and good advice which enables the Association to be of such benefit to High Sheriffs, and in particular I would like once again to thank you, the members, for continuing your most valuable support which enables us to do so much for the shrievalty, past, present and future.

*“The ability to meet and talk with many High Sheriffs by video this year has engendered an extremely valuable new relationship between High Sheriffs and the Association.”*



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



# RECENT EVENTS

AGM ROUND-UP / NOMINATION CEREMONY

## Annual General Meeting 17 November 2020

### James Williams MBE

*Honorary Secretary of the High Sheriffs' Association*

**T**HIS YEAR'S AGM was held digitally on a Zoom platform. Many are familiar with Zoom meetings generally and a considerable amount of thought and preparation in advance was needed for the digital arrangements.

There were 172 participants with just some of the Association's Council team appearing. Hugh Tollemache chaired the meeting with digital back-up from Council members as controllers. In the usual way reports were given by the Chairman, James Williams (Honorary Secretary), Nigel Savory (Honorary Treasurer) and Amanda Parker (Chair of National Crimebeat). In addition, a special resolution was passed to enable AGMs to be held digitally if necessary in the future.

James Williams was re-elected as Secretary. Nigel Savory retired as Treasurer after nine years in that position, and Sarah Le May (Hampshire 2019-20) was elected as the new Treasurer. Sally Bowie stood down from Council after serving for six years and Sarah Beazley (Hertfordshire 2019-20) was elected on to Council. John Lee, Virginia Lloyd and Andrew Tuggey were all re-elected to Council. Julian Avery retired as President and Elizabeth Hunter was appointed as the Association's President in his place. Hugh thanked Julian, Nigel and Sally for all the tremendous work they had each done on Council and said that presentations had been given to each in advance of the meeting.

After the formal part of the meeting ended two excellent talks were given, one by Tricia Thomas, current High Sheriff of Herefordshire, and the other by Professor Robert Turner who was the Queen's Remembrancer between 1996 and 2007.



Above: Sarah Beazley High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2019-20  
Above right: Sarah Le May High Sheriff of Hampshire 2019-20



## NOMINATION CEREMONY 12 NOVEMBER 2020

Following the lockdown restrictions the arrangements for the ceremony this year were somewhat different to those in past years. The Lord Chief Justice with the Queen's Remembrancer decided that the ceremony should go ahead but with a limit of twenty people attending from the Association in addition to the judges and court team, with all others watching the ceremony by live video link. Following tighter restrictions at the beginning of November, it was decided that after all no one could attend and all would have to watch digitally. In order for the court to know who would be watching digitally, only those whose details had

been submitted in advance would be let into the court cloud video platform on the day. In the half-hour before the start of the ceremony, all would apply to join and could raise queries about any digital difficulties. The live video showing worked very well as the ceremony went along and Alderman John Garbutt, the High Sheriff of Greater London, was highlighted at the end to enable him to give a short thank you address to the judges. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Burnett of Maldon, replied with some very warm comments about the wonderful work done by High Sheriffs especially during this difficult lockdown period.



Alderman John Garbutt, High Sheriff of Greater London, represented the Shrievalty virtually in thanking the Lord Chief Justice and his fellow judges for presiding at the nominations, especially in the difficult prevailing conditions

# The Digital Shrievalty

♦ Andrew Tuggey CBE DL  
*Council member; Gwent 2015*

**P**RE-CORONAVIRUS, the High Sheriffs' Association hosted an annual programme of events: regional meetings, the nomination ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice with tea at St Clement Danes, a Ladies' Lunch, the Annual General Meeting and lunch and the briefing day for High Sheriffs in nomination. That all changed on Monday 16 March.

2020's High Sheriffs could not make their normal Declarations and were faced with a dearth of normal shrieval duties. However, the pandemic has created great opportunities for the Association and the wider Shrievalty; the first one being innovative digital Declarations.

The Association and serving High Sheriffs have embraced digital technology. Our sponsored charity, National Crimebeat has followed suit – and in Merseyside on Friday 7 August, High Sheriff 2019 and High Sheriff 2020 made the first digital presentation of a National Crimebeat Award.

Starting with the first Zoom Council meeting on 31 March, to date the Association has hosted some 19 Zoom events. Council meetings and informal chats resulted in a digital series of webinars and workshops being delivered. The first webinar on 15 July for High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021 was a huge success. It justified beyond measure the detailed planning and preparations. The second, equally successful webinar on 17 September was for current High Sheriffs. It attracted most of those in office, plus some in nomination. Such engagement would not have been so usual pre-coronavirus.

Mindful of the importance of recognising and saying thank you to those in our communities who have been doing such fantastic work during the pandemic, the Association's first workshop on Thursday 4 November addressed the value of the High Sheriff's Award. The presentations and exchanges of experiences were well received and lessons have been learnt, one of which has been the introduction of a digital High Sheriff's Award certificate.

National Crimebeat trustees also have been meeting via Zoom. On Thursday 26 November, the Association's second digital workshop was devoted to National Crimebeat. The attendance was beyond what might have been expected and feedback suggests that 2020's High Sheriffs might make many more submissions for National Crimebeat's Awards.



*“Zoom and other digital platforms enable the Association's annual programme now to include webinars and workshops as well as the very important face-to-face events”*

The Association's first digital AGM was held on Tuesday 17 November and attracted more members than would have assembled in person. It demonstrated the great convening power of digital platforms and the feedback was hugely positive, raising the possibility of the AGM 2021 being a hybrid meeting.

The Association's Zoom workshops will continue and the second webinar for High Sheriffs in nomination 2021 will take place on Wednesday 27 January.

By embracing digital technology in such a positive and effective manner, the High Sheriff family has been brought closer together than it ever has been. Zoom and other digital platforms enable the Association's annual programme now to include webinars and workshops as well as the very important face-to-face events. Digital events will attract greater numbers and will enable High Sheriffs to do more across their counties thereby enhancing the ancient role of High Sheriff – an office for the digital age of the 21st century.



## RECENT EVENTS

### HIGH SHERIFFS IN THE 2020 PANDEMIC

# Being a High Sheriff in the 2020 pandemic

✦ Patricia  
Thomas  
*High Sheriff of  
Herefordshire  
2020-21*

**E**ARLY ON in my nomination, I was given some great advice: go to every event you can and meet as many people as possible. Knowing others in the same position proved invaluable in March as we went into lockdown just as High Sheriffs were being declared.

Those who spoke to me in the early days will know that I was totally bewildered and struggled as my plans were cast aside. I'm in business and have always been able to find someone to provide a solution if I could not find my own – not this time.

I am indebted to my regional West Midlands group including Wade, and other High Sheriffs I had met along the way, who rescued me by Zoom and Teams. Of course we are all from different backgrounds, and we also all had different starting points: some had been provided with databases, had already made good contacts, had a great relationship with their Lord-Lieutenant, were tech savvy, had good internet connection and knew about social media. None of us had all of the above, but we all knew the bit we knew, and this is what we shared. We have learnt so much from each other and these are treasured friendships.

The advice from my Lord-Lieutenant was to keep my head down, and to not catch the virus! But then how could I be the High Sheriff?

I, like others, got stuck in, sending hundreds of emails, making calls and Zoom came into its own.

**“High Sheriffs have been able to adapt and thrive**

You can attend many more virtual meetings in a week than actual, and no wasted travelling time. It's not the same but I found I got to meet more people, on a more personal level, and have made strong connections. Some High Sheriffs I know have been doing six back-to-back Zooms a day!

This was how I learned about my county, how it works and who is who; the structure of the



judiciary and the police; how the charity sector and local council integrate; how charities are run (and that not all like sharing).

As a novice, I hesitantly embraced social media, which I had thought would be a blog of the many accepted invitations which were going to be flooding my way. What a different world we were in when I heard that! Facebook became my shop front as I learnt from others how to be proactive and 'out there' in lockdown. It was my opinion not my experience I was sharing and when people were experiencing hardship and sorrow, it was a fine line, and anyway – who on earth cares what the High Sheriff thinks? But thankfully some did.

As easing started, we needed to be seen, to act responsibly and make progress with planned projects.

With my plan for improving employability skills in young people and with a work experience handbook for employers now in tatters, the task was how to reconstruct the year. I recalled a

# RECENT EVENTS

## HIGH SHERIFFS IN THE 2020 PANDEMIC

speaker at Burghley who said, 'Remember why you have been nominated and put your experience and expertise into your role.' It was a good thought to remember on days when one doubted oneself.

Change was needed! In October I launched a schools' competition called Just the Job for Year 6s and Year 7s, to raise aspiration of work opportunities and employability skills; I have 1,700 pupils signed up so far.

All High Sheriffs have had to dig deep and make use of a distinct set of skills; the list of achievements so far is diverse, lengthy and impressive. A few examples:

- Dean in Shropshire has been all over her county, talking, highlighting and documenting on her crusade to tackle domestic abuse, child poverty and deprivation. She must have worn her outfit 50 times.
- Mark in Worcestershire – with political neutrality – has lobbied MPs, county council and the business community about the direct impact of COVID-19 upon society and our communities.
- Helen in Gloucestershire has been active on a theme of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) working closely with Gloucestershire Constabulary, with funded training programmes for youth magistrates.
- And we've all been out: visiting market towns and mayors – oh those town clerks know a lot! – meeting charities and individuals doing amazing work, spending days in court, visiting police stations, fire stations and the armed forces. We have found funding streams for charities, connected people, had tea with carers, given online talks to groups and cadets and handed out High Sheriff's Awards.

Some High Sheriffs had events planned which could be adapted to the new regulations:

- Charlie's bike ride took him and his team all over Staffordshire, engaging with many people and was superbly supported by the police.
- Remony in Kent managed to fulfil hospitality by holding five seminar dinners on consecutive nights between lockdowns entertaining up to 30 people outside at one sitting.
- In August, I staged the High Sheriff's Foodie Tour of Herefordshire – a 60-car tour of our beautiful county – raising over £11k for the High Sheriff's Fund.
- My High Sheriff's Lecture changed to webinar, and last Friday I am proud to say the lecture was delivered by Baroness Hale of Richmond. And it reached 400 people instead of 80.

And during all of this busy-ness, it's been infuriating to be pitied! We do not want your pity! We are going about our duties with meaning and purpose! It is by no means a wasted year! John Manley of Bristol's reaction to pity is this: *The High Sheriff is the oldest secular office in the country and in the nearly 1100 years of history since Saxon times it has lived through the Black Death, the Great Plague, Norman Conquest, World Wars One and Two, English Civil War, 100 Years War... and every time we have adapted. This is another such year...*

*“Now we have the opportunity to preserve the history but move the Shrievalty forward with vision and innovation”*

Had we known what was coming, we could all have done with different sorts training.

- Mentioned frequently: Social media, introduction to Zoom, Teams, etc; how to chair virtual meetings, options for good internet.
- What about non-prescriptive handover packs with useful tips and suggestions that could be developed in each region?
- Advice as how to make key contacts before you start in office, and how to use technology to plan events, both real time and virtual
- Webinars and online meetings are the way forward. How about an earlier introduction to National Crimebeat, and hot topics like ACE and drug abuse?

In essence, being a High Sheriff in a pandemic has been an unusual challenge, but High Sheriffs have been able to adapt and thrive. Without events to attend, what we have shown is that the role of High Sheriff offers much more relevance than ceremonial duty – it can truly make a difference with meaningful and worthy contribution to our communities.

Post COVID-19, life is not going to be the same again and we need to consider how we do things going forward.

I am sure that the Association Council will take careful stock of what has been achieved by this year's High Sheriffs and take ideas on board. Now we have the opportunity to preserve the history but move the Shrievalty forward with vision and innovation ensuring that the role in our counties continues to be relevant and really useful in the future.



# RECENT EVENTS

## A SHERIFF'S ODYSSEY



# A Sheriff's Odyssey

❖ Professor Robert Turner, Senior Master of the Queen's Bench Division and Queen's Remembrancer 1996-2007

**T**HIRTEEN HUNDRED years ago, King Ine of Wessex published a set of Laws which included the appointment of a 'scirman – a man of standing in the shire before whom freemen could seek justice'. This may be the birth of the Office of Sheriff. So impressed was Alfred the Great by these Laws that he included them and the Office of Shire Reeve as part of his Great Laws two hundred years later in 890.

From these humble beginnings developed the Office of Shire Reeve and the Shire Court where he frequently sat alone, the caldorman (governor of the shire) and the local bishop being otherwise occupied.

The Shire Reeve in turn supervised the more local Hundred Courts, collected the taxes and goods due from the royal estates, maintained the bridges of the remaining Roman roads and, when necessary, raised the local levy.

King Athelstan in the 930s even required the Reeve to seek out each year a destitute man and provide him with food and clothing and to set free a man reduced to penal slavery – all to ease the king's path through the Pearly Gates into Heaven. And who had to foot the bill? The Shire Reeve, naturally!

William the Conqueror was impressed by the speed with which the Shire Reeves had raised for King Harold the local levies that helped him



# RECENT EVENTS

## A SHERIFF'S ODYSSEY

**Left:** With the traffic stopped in the Strand, the annual Quit Rents Procession of the two City Sheriffs (c1996). L to R: the two new City Sheriffs; the footmen of the Lord Mayor; the Chief Clerk to the Queen's Remembrancer, Miss Jenny Waine; the Writer to the Queen's Remembrancer, Robert Turner, the Queen's Remembrancer; the Tipstaff of the Royal Courts of Justice with his baton

**Below:** At the nomination tea party November 2017: the current Queen's Remembrancer Senior Master Fontaine with her Clerk Edward Boswell, her PA Elaine Harbert and the Queen's Bench Masters' Secretary, Linda Sandham

against all odds to his victory at Stamford Bridge. They also subsequently provided the shield wall in defence of the Golden Dragoon of Wessex on Senlac Hill. So impressed was William that he retained in office such Sheriffs as survived the battle, clearly impressed by their allegiance to the Office of Kingship.

By 1164, the Shire Reeves – now commonly known as 'Sheriffs' – accounted twice a year for the revenues of the kingdom from the king's rents and feudal dues to the Exchequer at Westminster under the eagle eye of Richard, Bishop of Winchester who sat beside the Chancellor to *'put the King in remembrance of all things owing to the King'*.

When in June 1215 there was a need to inform the country of the terms of the new Charter agreed at Runnymede, the task was given to the Sheriffs who in turn sought copies from the King's Writing Office in the Temple; on receipt, they read the Charter to all in their Shires by the end of July.

It was the Great Charter that gave Sheriffs the right to announce the results of Parliamentary elections. It only took a further 750 years for this to be recognised in the Representation of the People Act 1983.

When Henry II sent his justices throughout the country, it was the Sheriff of each shire who surrendered his jurisdiction for the time being to the King's Justices of Assize. Today the High Sheriff

is frequently invited to the first termly sitting of the High Court Justices in his Shrievalty though the number of venues visited by red judges has sadly decreased over time.

In the name of the Sheriff, the Enforcement of the King's Writ was carried out by his Under Sheriffs and his Sheriff Officers. When enforcement was reformed at the turn of this century, it was those officers who provided the core of the High Court Enforcement Service – appointed by and answerable to the same Remembrancer as was the case in the 12th century.

The judges who formerly went out on the six circuits brought back to London the nominations in order of preference given to them by the current High Sheriff and placed them before the Privy Council.

The Georgian monarchs in particular took a keen interest in the nominations and, almost irrespective of the order of the three names given to them, appointed or rejected at a whim the new Sheriffs who had little or no warning of the monarch's choice until after the event and who had to make hasty applications if they needed to avoid a very expensive appointment.

The monarch might object to a name as *'being only a farmer'*, *'being a rigid Presbyterian'*, or merely *'being in Trade'*.

Equally, those who sought to avoid the Office might plead *'being Master of Foxhounds and needing to hunt four times a week'*, *'of small estate and a large family'* or *'of insufficient income to entertain the judges in the manner to which they were accustomed'*.

So when the Remembrancer at the nomination ceremony pauses in reading the names and the Clerk to the Privy Council steps up and hands the Lord Chief Justice a piece of paper, it is a request for a name to come off the list and the Remembrancer then asks for *'two new names'*. A financial crash can give the clerk much exercise.

At the nomination the names must be read in full.

Once, when the counties of Worcester and Hereford were served by the same Sheriff, the same names were read out twice. One year Lieutenant General Sir John Foley, KCB, OBE, MC joined the list and this distinguished soldier had his name, titles and decorations duly read out four times each year by me.

Then just as he was due to become Sheriff, The Queen appointed him Governor of Guernsey and he pleaded with me to remain on the list but in third place for the duration of his time in Guernsey. There he remained for five years until at the end of his term of office he started to climb





# RECENT EVENTS

## A SHERIFF'S ODYSSEY

the list again. In 2006 his patience was rewarded and he rightly took up his office as High Sheriff of Hereford and Worcester. He holds the record for having his full names, titles and decorations read out some 40 times

The composition of the bench (it is not a court) is equally curious as it consists of the two puisne justices, notionally High Court Judges who have been on circuit that summer and have collected from the Sheriffs their nominations (not that they did so); a member of the Court of Appeal who being a Privy Counsellor represents that august body; and one of the Great Officers of State – but herein lies a problem.

Traditionally the Chancellor of Exchequer presided but he has not done so in recent years, hence the notes contain the instruction:

*'In the absence of the Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice will preside'*. A curious note, as in fact Court 4 is the Chief's own court and he hardly needs permission to preside in his own court! I have often wondered what might happen if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, duly robed, arrived unannounced at the door of Court 4. Just imagine the panic as the ushers sought to find him a chair!

The proceedings, save for the Remembrancer who has a very difficult task to perform, can be a little tiring for a judge who has had a very busy morning list. On one occasion the Lord Chief Justice fell asleep as I called twice for *'one new name'* until the Lady Justice sitting beside him, poked him in the ribs and whispered in his ear *'wake up'*. I won't give his name but he shook his weary brow and gave me a new name.

The ladies today form almost half of the body of Sheriffs though there is some rivalry between Gloucestershire and Wales as to which county or country appointed the first lady High Sheriff in recent times. There were a number of royal ladies in earlier times who held the Office as part of their dowry.

But I prefer the claim of Dame Nicola de la Haye, Sheriff of Lincoln, who held her castle against an invading French army and English rebels who had occupied Lincoln town in 1216. She let in reinforcements through a hidden gate in the walls, sprang open the main gates of her castle early the next morning and caught the French troops unawares. She succeeded in achieving a noticeable speedy victory with so little shedding of blood that it was the *Battle of Lincoln Fair*. The French retreated and left the country.

Benjamin Franklin, a noted Anglophile, urged the Constitutional Conference in Philadelphia in 1787 to include the Office of High Sheriff in the

new American Constitution, saying: *'the office and functions in a county in England is an honourable office but it is not a profitable one. It is rather expensive and therefore not sought for. But yet it is executed and well executed and usually by some of the principal gentlemen of the county.'* Sadly this sound advice went unheeded.

Republican India still retains in the cities of Mumbai and Kolkata the Office of High Sheriff, given to persons of high standing in the community and performing much the same functions as you will be called upon to perform.

A pedigree of 1,300 years of service to all is an achievement of which all of you can be extremely proud.

**Below:** Professor Robert Turner, Senior Master of the Supreme Court and the Queen's Remembrancer 1996-2007, in his library at the Royal Courts of Justice



## Entries for the 2021 awards are open!

### Deborah Inskip DL

Trustee, National Crimebeat  
Bedfordshire 2013-14

**T**HIS YEAR'S awards ceremony for National Crimebeat was planned for Wednesday 18 March which, as it turned out, was a few days before the national lockdown. This meant that at the very last minute we delayed the ceremony and everything that went with it. Nevertheless even though the groups that reached the final were not able to present their projects in public, there were a few local virtual ceremonies at which the certificates and cheques sent to each of the winning counties were presented to the groups. The group from Merseyside had a particularly excellent virtual awards ceremony.

For this coming year we are actually going to plan on having a virtual ceremony from the start. We will organise the day as if we were all together and invite the groups making the finals to present via Zoom or similar media.

Do you know a group of young people who deserve recognition for the work they do in combatting crime? If so, we want to hear about it. Please consider endorsing them for an award, it's simple.

The important dates to be noted are as follows:

- Closing date for entries:  
Wednesday 31 January 2021
- Judging panel meets:  
Tuesday 2 February 2021
- Awards ceremony:  
Tuesday 16 March 2021

In order to help everyone's understanding of National Crimebeat, it is worth addressing a variety of questions that crop up from time to time:

### What is the connection between National Crimebeat and the various county 'crimebeats'?

There is no organisational connection between us and the county 'crimebeat' charities, which often operate under



different names. We do, however, have many common ideals, principally encouraging young people from all walks of life to engage in activities aimed at reducing crime.

National Crimebeat arranges an annual awards ceremony where groups of young people are invited to present their project to a national audience. We will support the High Sheriff and county in finding projects to put forward for our awards.

### What criteria should the projects meet?

I find it helps occasionally to remind myself of our charity's objectives, namely:

1. To promote for the public benefit, and in particular for the young and for the elderly in England and Wales, a safer and increased quality of life through the prevention of crime and the protection of people, of all ages, and property from criminal acts.

2. To secure the advancement of education particularly among those between the ages of 5 and 25 but also for the public benefit generally in all matters relating to crime and to alcohol, drug and other solvent abuse at large.

There are two categories, Adult Led and Youth Led and each has to meet these objectives. The National Crimebeat judges use these objectives to guide them when assessing the entries, while also considering the ongoing impact on the local community and the age and number of young people involved.

### Where can I find the projects?

There is often a recurring theme among entries. In 2020 it was mental health; in 2019 many addressed abusive relationships; in 2018 it was knife crime. What are young people in your county most concerned about now? Is it county lines, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, racial abuse and discrimination, people trafficking or the abuse of the more vulnerable members of society?

Sources of inspiration include your local primary and secondary schools, colleges, youth associations, police and fire cadets.

We do appreciate that this year it will be particularly difficult physically to visit different groups in action around your county. However, many of the cadet groups are holding their meetings virtually and are managing to take part in different types of training and create new projects. During this pandemic some groups have been engaged in projects to support their communities, perhaps creating more cohesion and a sharing strategy to cope with these most extraordinary times.

You never know where the winning projects may be found in your county!

### Trustees

We are always on the lookout for new trustees. If you have an enthusiasm for working with young people and educating them about crime prevention then please get in touch by writing to [info@national-crimebeat.org.uk](mailto:info@national-crimebeat.org.uk).



Awards ceremony 2019: Trustees of National Crimebeat (Amanda Parker, Chair, L centre), High Sheriffs' Association Council members, sponsors and guests with Julian Polhill (Bedfordshire 2018, second R) and the Countess of Erroll (Bedfordshire 2015, second L). Lady Erroll, Chairman of Bedfordshire Crimebeat, was a great supporter of National Crimebeat, endorsing sponsorship by Bedfordshire Crimebeat of the third prize of £500 for these awards. Very sadly she passed away in January 2020 and leaves a big void in Bedfordshire and beyond.



# A photographer's nightmare



Above:  
Alex at work

 Alex Farquhar

**I**N MY career as a photographer I have been fortunate enough to attend many high-profile events, a number of which were at Fishmongers' Hall. Eight years ago, I found myself there again at the High Sheriffs' Association AGM and that was the beginning of my relationship with the Association. Twenty-five events later, I'm still here!

Before this, I had never really given High Sheriffs much thought. I naively assumed a High Sheriff was someone in velvet breeches and silk tights, who opened a few buildings, shook a few hands and posed for a camera when asked. It has since become clear to me that I really knew very little about the role. My eyes have been opened to the importance, opportunity and valuable contribution such a role can hold. As I have listened to many inspirational talks from behind the lens, I have learnt first-hand what a High Sheriff does in his or her year in office and can appreciate the work, dedication and expertise that each individual has – and what a difference those breeches and tights can make!

While on the subject of clothing, perhaps the velvet frocks have also rubbed off on me. As I sneak around the events with my camera, I like to think of myself as fairly invisible. But there was one occasion when I started chatting to a very nice

lady who seemed to be terribly interested in me and what county I came from and my particular interests. As I began to excuse myself so I could carry on working it dawned on me that the long velvet coat I happened to be wearing that day had given totally the wrong impression and the lady had mistaken me for a future High Sheriff. I explained who I actually was, we had a laugh about it and then I took a very nice photograph of her.

Just a warning to those of you who haven't seen me at an event yet, I have a novel way of recording who you are. No need for pencil and paper anymore – just point and shoot at your chest! It does take some people slightly by surprise but I promise nothing suspect is intended, it's only the name badge I'm after.

In order to fit around my family life and other business commitments, I have begun to slowly wind down some of my photographic work but the High Sheriffs' Association is one of the select clients for which I have continued to work. Obviously this year has been an exceptional one with very few events able to take place but I hope we can return to normal and all be back at Burghley with High Sheriffs in nomination again next year. If we are, I have vowed that I will finally take advantage of the 'end of day house tour' which sadly I have never managed to do. Oh and yes, the sun always shines brightly, and everyone is thinking what a glorious day it is except me – strong contrasting light is a photographer's absolute nightmare!

Below: Burghley 2019:  
easier than pen and  
paper





# Good people need to act

**FUNDRAISING HAS featured high on my agenda since my Declaration. Many charities have seen demand increase from their beneficiaries since the crisis took hold but at the same time their ability to raise cash has been diminished. They have their own survival crises and many need help.**

The COVID appeal launched with the Cheshire Community Foundation has been a particular highlight in the county with individuals and businesses digging deep and donating funds. With a generous match funder I found, we have now raised around £1.5m.

I have personally provided 300 tablets to hospitals so patients so can have some video contact with the loved ones they are prohibited from seeing. I have also provided tablets to disadvantaged families to enable their children to have lessons virtually.

My whole family has become involved; after I ran three marathons in a week around my garden, my sons organised a marathon relay across their advertising agency network engaging 500 runners and raising over £17,000.00 for local charities.

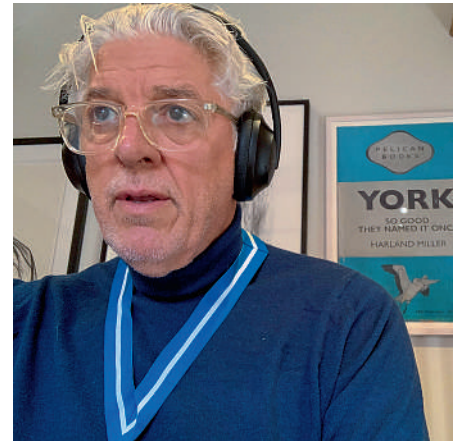
I have engaged with the art world and been the ideas man behind a couple of national campaigns which has seen £2m raised very quickly and subsequently distributed mostly to health-related, food, and homeless charities. I am working on another project with Maggie's Centres which is on target to raise £750,000.

I'm running an online fundraising campaign for Warrington Youth Club which is now guaranteed to raise over £500,000 to ensure that the new £7.5m youth zone under construction will have the funds to continue to provide mentoring for vulnerable young people in the town for the next three years. This has been made possible with some very kind donations and a government-backed match-funding scheme. It's vital work that saves young lives.

I have offered lots of charities my ideas, mentoring and guidance on



With two of my Kilimanjaro climbers on a training walk up Snowdon



Zoom fundraising training, helping to raise cash for victims of domestic abuse



VJ Day commendations while in quarantine

fundraising and I have just launched a big initiative to raise £1.5m for an MRI brain scanner for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. This is an essential bit of kit which will save tens of thousands of children's lives across the world every year. RMCH is the largest children's hospital in the UK and a world pioneer in treating brain disease, tumours, autism and epilepsy.

My plans for 2021 include leading a group of 16 ladies up Kilimanjaro in February to raise funds to pay for the mentoring and support of young women in the county.

Many have commiserated that it must be a terrible time to be High Sheriff. I have a different view. This is a crisis and in a crisis good people need to act; they need to create plans and they need to make a difference.

Representing HM The Queen's interests in respect of law and order in the county is a great honour, but it's also an opportunity to encourage good people to get involved and engage with the more vulnerable members of society who need help, guidance and looking after – now more than ever.

With no travelling, dinners, openings and other events I am able to dedicate my time to positive, impactful and vital activity for the good of the county.

Cheshire is a great county; we have many fantastic people here who are committed to making sure that we come out of this crisis stronger and more together than we went into it and I for one am proud to play my part.

**Nick Hopkinson MBE DL**  
*High Sheriff of Cheshire 2020-21*





# Beachside briefings

**IT IS a strange but fascinating time to be High Sheriff; sworn in one day, into lockdown the next. Like all other High Sheriffs, and in fact most businesses across the country, in Cornwall I had to pivot my planned approach to my year very swiftly.**

Lockdown brought the requirement to take the Shrievalty online and specifically on to social media sharply to the fore. It also threw many of the traditional events and diary entries up into the air, giving the opportunity to rethink and reshape the entertainment and ceremonial aspects of the role. Third, there has been the opportunity to emphasise the position of the High Sheriff not only at the heart of the police and judiciary but crucially for the future relevance of the role, as a truly positive presence in the community. Without in any way detracting from the integrity and stature invested in the Office.

Across the country, my fellow High Sheriffs have been embracing social media, not only to thank, recognise and encourage but also as an 'at a glance' snapshot of the varied elements the role entails. I am fortunate to have a background in communications and therefore a broad brush understanding; nevertheless it is a daunting and time-consuming commitment and one for which I hope the

High Sheriffs' Association will offer specific training going forward. There were no existing social media channels in Cornwall so I have started (@HSofCornwall) from a base of nil. Twitter is especially popular among the emergency services and while follower levels might seem low, do not be discouraged as my posts are invariably the first subject to be mentioned on meeting people. I have also established a generic email address which will be passed on to my successor, hopefully avoiding the perennial issue of misaddressed invitations.

In this climate, entertaining works best with a clear sense of purpose. Working within COVID-19 guidelines (and with the approval of Devon and Cornwall Police) I am hosting a series of High Sheriff's Briefings in a beachside restaurant to throw a spotlight on just a few of the very impressive individuals and organisations I have met since taking office. With speakers representing those working in the areas of domestic, alcohol and drug abuse and those supporting vulnerable children and young adults, guests (keeping totals to within 30) are drawn from different influential aspects of Cornish life.

One of the first initiatives I announced was the High Sheriff of Cornwall Unsung Hero Awards, recognising those individuals or groups



High Sheriff of Cornwall at her Declaration with Chaplain Canon Pat Robson MBE

who with small acts of everyday kindness, dedication and selflessness played such a crucial role in our communities during lockdown. There are many who deserve recognition and applauding, but for various reasons could fall below the radar for the larger scale awards. Nominations were invited by the local media, with award presentations (mostly in person at an appropriate distance) to date including community shops, a head teacher specifically looking out for struggling families, organisers of online community support groups, the inspiring Chaplain of Devon and Cornwall Police, a charity maintaining vital 1-2-1 support for vulnerable young adults and last week the Cornwall Waste Team.

'What did you do during lockdown?' I feel very privileged to be able to answer 'I was lucky enough to be High Sheriff of Cornwall'.

On a final note: Cornwall has always prided itself by being different and it is even so in the appointment of its High Sheriff. While I represent HM The Queen's interests in law and order, I am appointed by HRH The Duke of Cornwall and am proud to wear a beautiful Cornish badge designed by Cornish silversmith Charles Hall – complete with Cornwall's fifteen golden bezants emblem and the Prince of Wales's feathers.



High Sheriff of Cornwall, Kate Holborow, presenting Unsung Hero Awards to the Cornwall Waste team



High Sheriff of Cornwall, Kate Holborow, presenting Unsung Hero Award to Mawgan Stores, Helford, Cornwall

**Kate Holborow DL**  
*High Sheriff of Cornwall 2020-21*



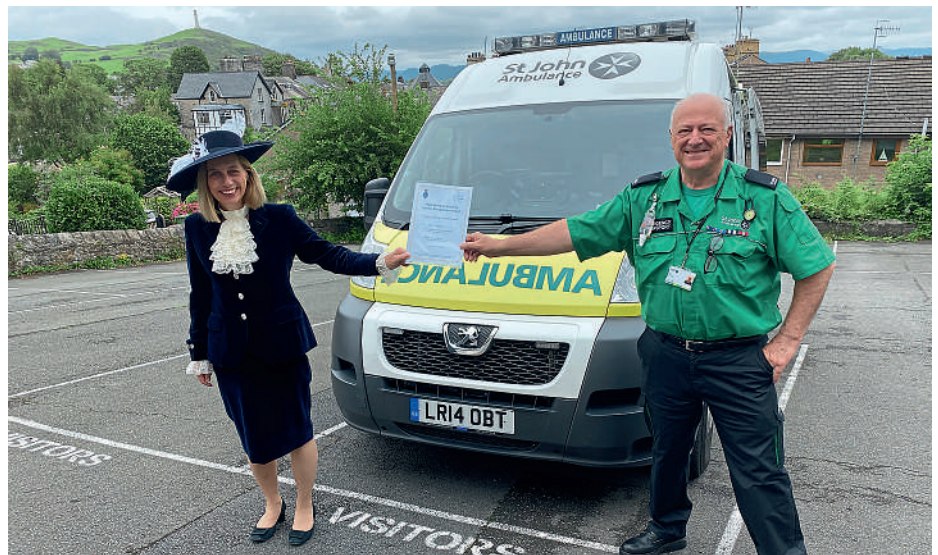


# The power of appreciation

**TWO DAYS** after my Declaration, lockdown started. My diary emptied and for a brief time my years of planning seemed wasted. Not surprisingly during an international pandemic, no one's first thought was: 'oh I must contact the High Sheriff'. I was, however, determined not to do some quiet nightshift. Instead, out of necessity my year to date has been a proactive one, and as there is no blueprint for a High Sheriff in lockdown, I was free to take a fresh approach to lending active support.

Initially I concentrated on contacting virtually those charities and projects which were working to tackle social isolation and loneliness, the focus for my shrieval year. Organisations have appreciated both 'meeting' the High Sheriff and having the office recognise their work via social and local media. The COVID-19 crisis has made fundraising so difficult for charities but press coverage has brought visibility to their causes.

Summer has enabled me to get out and meet people. From launching a walk



Presenting Ian Gaynor with his Special Recognition Certificate

with 'Happy to Chat' benches in Kirkby Stephen, climbing mountains for charity and visiting natural flood defences on the River Eden, to visiting mental health, farm-based charities, delivering reminiscence boxes in Milnthorpe, sitting on the bench in Carlisle Crown Court and celebrating VJ Day with care home residents in Whitehaven, I have met some amazing people. Most of these activities only happened because I proffered a visit. This has been met with enthusiasm, as have my efforts to share each visit on social media.

In June I launched a High Sheriff of Cumbria's Special Recognition Award Certificate to acknowledge and thank those volunteers, voluntary organisations and individuals who have been outstanding in their support of others during the COVID-19 crisis. I was inundated with amazing stories of generosity and kindness shown to often complete strangers and it was a privilege to select and send out certificates and personal letters to recipients. Judging from the reply letters I received, I have also made a lot of people cry... but in a good way. I am pleased I included in my letters the option for recipients to contact me to give permission to share details of their award. I was delighted that the majority wrote back in agreement. Working with

BBC Radio Cumbria, every recipient was given the option of an interview resulting in the most wonderful stories and pride in local communities being broadcast. This in turn led to more nominations being submitted and local newspapers running positive stories about those who have done so much to support others. Every time I posted recipients' stories on Facebook, they were shared many times over and up to 12,000 people per post were reached. It is certainly appreciated when the Office of High Sheriff publicly acknowledges and thanks others.

Looking ahead, new risks keep emerging in our strange new world. The Lake District has been inundated with more visitors than ever before, while local businesses elsewhere are struggling. Cumbria has twenty mayors and I am proactively planning walking tours with each of them. These are opportunities to put a spotlight on 'shop local', and 'visit local', as well as tackling social isolation and loneliness. I now have so many other new plans in the diary for what is developing into a very different, yet thoroughly engaging year in office.

**Julie Barton**  
*High Sheriff of Cumbria 2020-21*



Presenting Joan Johnstone with a Bench Walk Map which includes Happy to Chat benches in Kirkby Stephen



Delivering a Powsowdie Box to Butty Hayhurst. The box contained reminiscence resources, activities and afternoon tea





# Using the press during lockdown

AS WAS the case for most of the new High Sheriffs, what was supposed to be a glorious day with eighty guests witnessing my Declaration, actually came down to me – home alone except for my wife – reading my Declaration down the phone to a JP in Plymouth. My Under Sheriff and Deputy Under Sheriff did exactly the same from their own homes. At least we celebrated with a bottle of bubbly and smoked salmon sandwiches. The ‘virtualness’ of the day was to become something of a theme during the following months.

As a career journalist, my first intention was to spread the word about the purpose and responsibilities of being a High Sheriff. An initial article in the county magazine *Devon Life* was probably the first anyone knew about me personally or that I was now in post. It was the first step in raising the profile of the role.

Next I approached all the local papers that I know were part of a publishing group – one article about your aspirations for the year and it could appear in four or five fellow editions. I wrote to the CEOs and senior officers of the blue light services and offered messages of thanks to those who had gone above and beyond during the pandemic. These were seized on for their in-house newsletters, usually with a photograph in court dress. They appeared in publications for prisons, the police, the air ambulance, the fire service and the Border Force. And I always

followed these up with a slightly modified version on headed paper so it could be put on appropriate noticeboards.

In Devon we have a plethora of small freebie magazines, supported by advertising. A 1,000-word article for one based in Dartmouth was picked up and used by several other free magazines. The advantage of them is that they reach a demographic that probably wouldn't usually have ever heard of the role of High Sheriff. Besides 4,000 copies going through private letter boxes, they are distributed through pubs, take-away premises, opticians, clubs and small corner shops. And in the case of Devon, many were picked up by tourists and presumably found their way up-country.

The other useful outlet for getting the message across was of course virtual media. An invitation to ‘attend’ the monthly Zoom training session of 100 police cadets from across the county led to an energetic question and answer session about the purpose of a High Sheriff. A request to say thank you to



A lonely Declaration

seven retiring magistrates was attended by 60 current magistrates and court staff. Wreath laying for VJ Day got 1,500 hits on Facebook. And there were several large online panels that were obviously curious about the High Sheriff; these varied from the Lord-Lieutenant's charity panel to the Police and Crime Commissioner's online crime update.

But perhaps the most valuable source of information and exchange of ideas resulted from our highly successful online meetings of the nine West Country High Sheriffs, from the Isle of Wight to Cornwall and up to Gloucester. Tactfully ‘chaired’ by a computer-savvy HS, each person was able to update the others on successes and disappointments. The group, formed last year at the regional meeting at Athelhampton, quickly became supportive and deeply useful cyber-friends. It was at times a daily invaluable resource for requesting advice or notifying original ideas. And the online meetings made us realise both how diverse but also how similar our challenges in this extraordinary year have been.



A rare in-person event: the High Sheriff with PCs Caitlin Labajo and James Despard-Clark from Torquay Police Station



Using the press to raise the profile of the role of High Sheriff: articles in the county magazine *Devon Life* and a free newspaper

**Gerald Hine-Haycock**  
*High Sheriff of Devon 2020-21*





# Nothing normal

**ON MARCH 15, in a break from recent custom, I made my Declaration as High Sheriff during the Durham Legal Service, held at Durham Cathedral. The service was attended by approximately 300: members of Her Majesty's judiciary and civic dignitaries, together with representatives of the emergency services and local charitable organisations, and friends and family. Little did any of us know how much COVID-19 was going to impact on all our lives and, within 48 hours of my taking office, cathedrals and churches throughout the United Kingdom were closed to public service and we started the lockdown procedure.**

Clearly the role that I had intended to fulfil has been severely curtailed, with appointments planned for March, April and May postponed or cancelled but, following the freeing-up of movement in

England, I decided that I could at least try and raise some money for those in the front line of the fight against COVID-19 in County Durham, but perhaps not those who first come to mind.

Accordingly, I set up a fund with the County Durham Community Foundation which will not only provide assistance now but also a future source of funding to benefit organisations looking to help those less fortunate, particularly in respect of poverty and hunger, mental welfare and domestic abuse.

Having identified four local charities from different parts of the county, I undertook to walk the two main rivers, the Tees and the Wear. I started from the county boundary with Cumbria and travelled down to the estuary in Middlesbrough, along the coast to the mouth of the Wear in Sunderland and then up to its source on the county

boundary and finally over the watershed to where I had started. When I came up with the plan, we were in a very different place; nothing was normal although I managed to take more exercise than usual, but was still a couple of stone overweight – with a welded back as well as a wobbly knee, painful shoulder and a sore left foot! Limited company was allowed, with correct social distancing and I am pleased to report that the fundraising currently stands at just over £41,000.

The experience was fulfilling and the money will certainly make a difference to a significant number of people who are in desperate need. My focus is now on the next six months, with courts opening up and the opportunity to carry out a number of visits, so I hope that I will be able to perform some of the usual duties of the High Sheriff before my term comes to an end.

 **David Gray**

*High Sheriff of County Durham 2020-21*



Durham Legal Service Left to right: Revd Paul Sweeting (High Sheriff's Chaplain); His Honour Judge Sloan QC, Hon Recorder of Newcastle; Chief Constable of Durham Jo Farrell; Lord-Lieutenant Mrs S Snowden; David Gray, High Sheriff of County Durham; The Hon Mr Justice Goss; Assistant Chief Constable Steve Graham (Cleveland); Assistant Chief Constable Helen McMillan (Northumbria); John Robinson JP, chair of County Durham Magistrates; Nick Kincaid, President of Newcastle Law Society





## A proactive approach to my year in office

**WHAT** A year 2020 has turned out to be! None of the High Sheriffs who are dedicating a year of service to the counties they represent could have predicted the challenges ahead. To say we are operating in strange times is an understatement.

In my career as an entrepreneur and project manager, I learnt the best way to deal with problems is to meet them head on and turn them into an opportunity. That is what I, and counterparts across the country, have been doing.

The first thing I realised was that due to lockdown, my diary would not fill up with events and engagements. I would have to be proactive and reach out to make my difference. If the present situation has an upside, it is that many small organisations sprang up to help others through the crisis, and they all needed one thing: money.

Therefore, working with the HEY Smile Foundation, I took part in the #HighFiver social media campaign that raised £31,000 and we distributed this to 60 organisations in awards of £500. I also wrote to the leaders of these groups commending them and their teams on a job well done.

However, it is not all about the little guys. When I became High Sheriff, I wanted to help a big project – one I could see through to the end. For me, that has been refurbishing St Paul's Boxing Academy in Hull city centre.

That might sound a strange choice but let me explain. St Paul's has been operating in Hull since 1948 and in that time has created thousands of champions, but the majority of those are champions in life, not in the ring. It draws from the most deprived areas of one of the UK's most deprived cities and gives young people – who are often without any role



#HighFiver campaign

models – the focus, direction and skills to lead happy and successful lives.

The total cost of the refurbishment was £930,000 – a big ask – but work got underway in May and I am delighted to advise practical completion was achieved on 6 November. We hope to open the gym as soon as CV19 guidelines permit. Everyone is very excited.

As well as this, I have taken part in an online commemoration of VE Day viewed by over 15,000 people; undertaken a Friends Against Scams course to raise awareness of online fraud; delivered thousands of PPE items to BAME communities; cycled more than 1,000 miles for charity; and devoted time to raising greater awareness around suicide prevention.

And there is still just under half the year to go! There is a lot High Sheriffs can do alongside this virus, and I am proud to serve as my county's High Sheriff at this time of crisis. It has enabled me to decide where I can make the most difference and concentrate on that.

The use of technology that the virus necessitates has helped me reach more people than I otherwise would have done and to highlight what the role involves. I believe this is helping to modernise the image of the role, which can only be a good thing for the future of the Shrievalty.

◆ **Andrew Horncastle MBE**  
*High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2020-21*



Friends Against Scams certification



St Paul's Boxing Academy



Out with the Hull Street Angels Trinity in Hull city centre





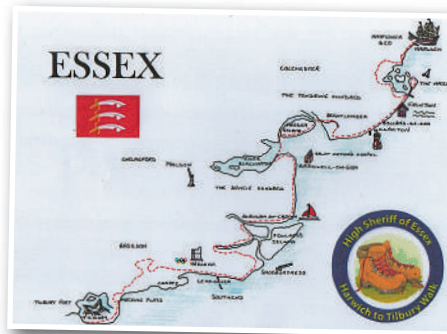
# Doing what I can to walk the walk

THE HA'PENNY Pier was glowing in the early morning sunshine. We left Harwich with a spring in our step, for this was the High Sheriff of Essex Walk of 150 miles to Tilbury. Leading the way, with an amazing rendition of 'Walking with the King', was the aptly named Wash Your Hands Band, formed to raise the spirits of communities in the Tendring area during lockdown. And so began another 'first' in a shrieval year that has become like no other.

My Declaration did not go as planned. The initial arrangements in County Hall were rapidly pared down to three of us, in full court dress, in our garden – at least the sun shone! My attentions then turned to what I could do – a sentiment shared by so many. The traditional garden party now involved sending 650 invites to a virtual 'Wish You Were Here Summer Party', asking for a photo or short video clip and a request for donations. It provided an amusing, uplifting and generous response. To view the montage visit [Essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://Essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk).



The invitation to the 'Wish You Were Here' virtual garden party during lockdown



The dotted red line shows the walking route north to south along the Essex coast

The original aim of my walk was to complete it during term-time and engage groups from coastal schools. With schools closed the walk was moved to mid-August. The sun beat down on us for most of the first five days. There were wild swims in the cool North Sea. If you haven't visited the Tendring coast in recent years then do – it will not disappoint. Fossil hunting on the Naze; the new sea defence of 22 fishtail groins between Holland-on-Sea and Clacton-on-Sea a work of beauty; as is the award-winning Clacton Pier.

The beautifully renovated Lady Grace took us across the estuary mouths to the Grade I listed seventh-century St Peter's Chapel – a remarkably spiritual place of pilgrimage for all persuasions and none. The golden glow from the freshly harvested fields provided a spectacular backdrop for a thoughtful reflection and blessing from my chaplain.

It is while walking along the Dengie peninsular that you feel so close to the elements, so unprotected from the encroaching sea, so vulnerable. The inlets and saltings can be misleading, encouraging you to attempt a short cut but sucking away at your boots with each step.

We enjoyed the culinary seafood delights at lively Leigh-on-Sea. So fuelled, we climbed to the 13th-century remains of Hadleigh's ghostly castle. It has stunning views over the estuary and is adjacent to the site of the 2012 Olympic mountain bike course.

Below: High Sheriff Julie Fosh at Kirby Creek near Frinton-on-Sea on her walk



Crossing the Crouch on the Burnham Ferry, COVID-19 compliant, with James and Lucy Bettley, Paul Fosh, Bess and Finty

In total I was joined at various stages by over 100 people including several mayors and chairs. The group on the National Citizen Service programme epitomised all that is great about young people: supportive, enthusiastic and good fun. So too, the 2nd Stanford-le-Hope Scouts with their twenty-five strong chorus of 'Oggy, Oggy, Oggy' on Mucking Flat.

Passing the well-preserved Coalhouse and Tilbury Forts I finished at the World's End pub and reflected on the journey north to south on the Essex coast. Now I wonder... the next steps into the unknown for 'High Sheriff 2020'.

**Julie Fosh**  
High Sheriff of Essex 2020 -2021





# Shrieval evolution

**BEFORE 1889, the Sheriffs of London had always been the City Sheriffs because 'the City' was London. They were also the Sheriffs of Middlesex. In that year the County of London was created and the Sheriffs were separated into those representing the City and the equivalent Sheriff for the County of London, i.e. the part of London outside the City. (I am also a City of London Alderman and the last time someone in my position was also a Sheriff for the rest of London was in 1895, 125 years ago, so I'm particularly humbled to be appointed.) With the County of London's abolition in 1965, Greater**

**London was created out of what was inner London, Middlesex and parts of Surrey and Kent at that time.**

Today, as High Sheriff of Greater London, I am nominally responsible for all matters relating to the judiciary and the Rule of Law in the 32 boroughs but excluding the City of London. I cover the following main areas:

- **Royal Courts of Justice, including the Queen's Bench, Family and Chancery divisions of the High Court**
- **Nine Crown Courts**
- **Eight prisons**
- **Metropolitan Police**
- **Charities supporting the justice system**

As can be seen from the list, my primary focus is on the main stakeholders in the judicial system in Greater London. I also work in co-operation with the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London.

My Declaration would normally have occurred physically at the Royal Courts of Justice in front of the Lord Chief Justice, the Queen's Remembrancer and other senior High Court Judges. This year, for the first time ever due to the COVID-19 lockdown, it took place virtually with all of us dialling in from home! Since then, my planned visits to courts and prisons, and so on were all postponed to the autumn or even the new year. I have just started making some of these visits, having previously been in shielding. Otherwise, I have spoken virtually to almost all the resident judges at the Crown Courts and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Chief Inspector of Prisons and others upholding law and order.

My virtual engagement initiative is ongoing and will, I intend, cover all parts of the judicial system over the coming months. Hopefully, if things return to 'normal', I will also be involved in more physical engagement, not least to thank all those in the Greater London legal system for their contributions during the pandemic and more generally. I see my role as convening and facilitating between different participants of the justice system in and will pursue this as far as I can, including closer ties between Greater London and the City in the judicial area. A specific initiative I have been given by the High Sheriffs' Association, already started, is to co-ordinate communication between those High Sheriffs across England and Wales who are responsible for the major conurbations, primarily through sharing ideas. Last, but most certainly not least, I hope to hold one or more Justice Awards. Huge thanks must go to my wife and my Under Sheriff, Lynn Cooper, for their support and resilience.



Attending Isleworth Crown Court for a presentation to the Operations Manager, Ms Harpreet Dale, for outstanding service provided by her and her team during the COVID-19 crisis

**Alderman J Garbutt JP**  
*High Sheriff of Greater London 2020-2021*



## High Sheriff in lockdown and lock-up

**IN A situation that none of us could have predicted, we slipped seamlessly from High Sheriff in nomination to High Sheriff in lockdown. That has presented all of us with challenges unique in the history of the Shrievalty.**

My reaction to the postponement of many physical events was to create the High Sheriff's Special Recognition Awards. They were launched through effective and targeted use of social media, support from the local press and broadcasters, and very quickly through word of mouth. I also wrote directly to the local authorities and mayors of all the Greater Manchester boroughs.

There was an enormous response to my requests for nominations for ordinary people doing extraordinary things to support their communities. While I was obviously unable to meet the recipients in person, they were delighted to receive a letter and certificate through the post, with the promise of a celebration gathering whenever that might be possible.

One of the first awards was made to a man with whose work I was familiar before it reached national attention. Marcus Rashford, the Manchester United footballer, had been working tirelessly but anonymously to highlight and ease the plight of child poverty, particularly those children going hungry. His tweet about his surprise and delight at being given the High Sheriff's Award showed his humility and before long there was a photo opportunity with the prime minister and government agencies were clamoring to pledge support. I am thrilled that he has been given national recognition and extremely proud that the wider international audience was reached thanks to the initial recognition of the High Sheriff.

I am sure I am not alone in my quest to determine a blended approach to my work during this challenging time. Alongside the many virtual meetings, I have turned out to some wonderful events.

The GMP Special Constabulary, led by Chief Officer Mike Walmsley MBE, is a 300-strong body of women and men who volunteer to support our regular



**Above:** Eamonn O'Neal High Sheriff of Greater Manchester in the cells at GMP Police Museum  
**Below:** Eamonn O'Neal HS Greater Manchester with Chief Supt Stuart Ellison, Mike Walmsley MBE, Chief Officer of GMP Special Constabulary and Mr Stephen Paine JP  
**Right:** The High Sheriff's Award Certificate awarded by Eamonn O'Neal, HS of Greater Manchester to footballer Marcus Rashford



police service. It was a great privilege to take part in the most recent recruits' attestation and offer some words of thanks on behalf of our communities.

I was invited by the Chairman of the Bench to unveil a plaque in the Manchester Magistrates' Court to mark the centenary of the first female magistrate in the country. Ada Summers sat in court at the beginning of 1920. She was well known for influencing great change in the magistracy. I reflected that as she was at the forefront of so much innovation, perhaps the story of Ada Summers MBE should be told more loudly and proudly.



The Greater Manchester Police Museum is a rich archive of law and order. While we have been unable to visit and benefit first-hand from the wonderful projects and exhibits, the museum has developed a way of engaging with schools and other groups through the digital world.

I was able to appear in person to be part of the museum's digital revolution and they wasted no time putting me in a lockdown of a very different kind – an hour in an Edwardian cell.

◆ **Dr Eamonn O'Neal DL**  
*High Sheriff of Greater Manchester*  
2020-21





# Socially distanced dinners

WITH THE COVID-19 crisis still in full force as we head into the autumn, I really had to put on my thinking cap (or High Sheriff's bonnet in this case) and come up with some ideas to make the most of my year.

I was keen to do something special to highlight some of the wonderful teams and people that I have been able to meet, be it at socially distanced meetings or over video chats in my time as High Sheriff of Kent thus far.

In order to adhere to the government guidelines, I arranged for a marquee in the garden to host a number of seminar dinners, with a maximum of 30 guests each night at socially distanced tables.

On the first night, I was delighted to host Lennox and Bali Rodgers, founders of the charity Refocus. As the main role of High Sheriff is to represent HM The Queen's interests in respect of law and order in the county, Lennox and his team could not have been a more suitable charity for me to support. Lennox had spent time in 21 different prisons or detention centres, before turning his life around and setting up the charity Refocus; he gives talks in schools and youth centres to inspire young adults to turn away from a life of crime. He explained this and more to my guests; it was lovely to be able to connect him with potential supporters for the charity as well as educate guests on the vulnerability of the youth in Kent.

The second night I hosted the Border Force; having been out on their boat and seen first-hand the marvellous work



On patrol with daughter Alex and three members of Border Force



With Garnet Johnson, Bali and Lennox Rodgers of the charity Refocus, for the first of my dinners



With the Deputy Chief Constable at a socially distanced dinner for Kent Police

they do, I was keen to invite them to speak. With the ever-increasing number of migrants trying to enter the country on small boats, it was so important and interesting to hear how their role has changed in the last couple of years. The day of the seminar was also the day a record number of 416 people made the precarious voyage across the channel. I am therefore so grateful that they took the time to impart their knowledge and stories to us that evening – even bringing along wonderful props to showcase the cleverness of the 21st-century smuggler.

On the third evening we enjoyed the company of the excellent members of Kent Police. The Deputy Chief Constable gave

a presentation which was wonderfully informative and showcased the hard work of the county police, especially during these unprecedented times.

On the Friday I entertained twelve of the county's criminal judges and their partners for a dinner; I was delighted to meet the judges and be able to offer them hospitality.

Overall it was a brilliant (if fairly exhausting) week of hosting, and although my year will be different, there are still ways to show appreciation for those involved with law and order in the county.

 **Remony Millwater**  
High Sheriff of Kent 2020-21





# Ripping up the script

**MY YEAR** started with a Zoom Declaration – no doubt standard operating procedure for all High Sheriffs now. As someone who was entirely unfamiliar with video-conferencing before, it was a good introduction to how my shrieval year would be conducted.

The year has not exactly gone to plan but I have tried to find the positives in ripping up the script and adapting the role to work within the constraints of COVID-19. Thanks to the internet, I have been able to meet a wide range of people in all corners of Lancashire – far more individuals than if I had conducted a traditional programme of visits. In particular, I have learnt a lot about the voluntary sector at work in the county and how they have been coping with and supporting others through this pandemic.

In June I sent out a call to request nominations for a special High Sheriff's Award to recognise individuals who have been helping out in the community at this challenging time. After a slow start, over 200 nominations have come in from a wide geographical area of the county as well as from a wide range of different people. I still, optimistically, hope to meet as many nominees as possible in the coming months.

After nearly five months it was lovely to be able to make my first visit in person.

My husband and I were treated to a most interesting morning at Lancashire Police headquarters at the end of August. A generous hour with the Assistant Chief Constable got us up to date with how the police have been managing over the last few months. They have had to balance business as usual with additional duties, trying to police the COVID-19 Regulations. Significant restrictions have been imposed to manage the rate of infection in a number of Lancashire towns throughout the summer, which has added to the challenge.

It was fascinating to have the opportunity to learn about modern policing. One of the excellent resources the Lancashire Police have is their mounted division. It is the second largest mounted force in the country after the Metropolitan Police and an excellent tool for coping with people gathering in larger numbers than they should. An officer on top of a 17-hand horse is an imposing prospect and socially distanced too.

During my visit I was treated to a demonstration of the use of drones in modern policing – another tool for



Sergeant James Cooper, Mounted Branch, with his horse Guild

combating crime from a distance. I also met an officer in the wellbeing unit, which has been formed recently. This is a necessary resource in these stressful times. Finally, it was a privilege to spend time with some of the key members of the Lancashire Resilience Forum which is based at the police headquarters. An advantage of having a nuclear power station in the county is that the Forum was already in place and was able to respond to the onset of COVID -19 swiftly.

**Catherine Penny**  
*High Sheriff of Lancashire 2020-21*

**Below left:** The High Sheriff of Lancashire with Andrew Penny and Colin Lewis of Oscar Kilo, the National Police Wellbeing Service  
**Below right:** Andrew Penny with members of the drone team, part of the tactical operations department







## Take each day as it comes

**I AM delighted to contribute an article to The High Sheriff as it has afforded me the opportunity to reflect on an unprecedented first six months as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan.**

My year began in March with my Declaration ceremony arranged for Friday 27 March at the historic Miskin Manor, Pontyclun. With two weeks to go and after many sleepless nights and three years of planning and preparing, I excitingly but somewhat nervously went through all the arrangements, meticulously checking and double-checking that everything was in place. With the rehearsals perfected and the school choir, harpist, 200 guests, court dress, shirt, tights, sword and shoes at the ready, I was more than prepared for the biggest day of my life – what could possibly go wrong, I thought?

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown saw everything quickly grind to a halt; these were indeed worrying times. On 18 March with numbers kept to a minimum (three) and with social distancing in place, I signed the Declaration. I felt so proud and honoured but at the same time a little saddened that my two sons – Thomas (aged 16) and Morgan (aged 12) – family and friends were unable to attend this very prestigious moment in my lifetime.

Following my Declaration, I had no time to look at the schedule of events I had planned for my year in office; not only were we going through unprecedented times with a world pandemic but the



Meeting His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

situation was exacerbated even further by torrential rain and flooding within my local community. The results were devastating, and I soon became involved in the evacuation and rehousing process, ensuring all occupants were safe and well.

Due to government legislation on shielding, I heard that elderly residents without families of their own were unable to do their regular shopping. I immediately contacted our local store and with myself as driver, Thomas as navigator, and Morgan as grocery carrier,

we set up a free home-delivery service. To see the residents' faces when we placed the groceries outside their doors was priceless.

As we all know, the NHS is going through the greatest challenge in its lifetime, so it was important for me to show my appreciation by providing 'free' transport to NHS and frontline workers, attending the weekly 'clap for carers', and awarding High Sheriff's Special Recognition Awards to deserving doctors' surgeries and practices.

Who would have thought that behind the scenes, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales had got to hear about my local community work? On Monday 3 July, Prince Charles made a personal visit to Abercynon, a very small village in my community, to show his thanks. I was speechless (for once).

At the time of writing this article, if I were to give any tips to my successors, it would be to enjoy and take each day as it comes.

**Jason Edwards**  
*High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2020-21*



With volunteers at the Salem Chapel food bank



Special delivery to the Tirion Birth Centre



## Onwards and upwards!

**IF SOMEONE had spoken to me at the start of my year in office using terms like 'social distancing', 'self-isolation' and 'pandemic', I would not have comprehended what I would be faced with throughout my shrieval year. These terms are now punctuating all our lives, along with 'Teams', 'Zoom' and 'virtual visits'; even my Declaration required a crash course in video conferencing!**

Thinking hat on, I asked myself: 'who really needs my help?' and 'who needs to know, or indeed might be interested in knowing, about the role of the High Sheriff?' Let's face it, in normal life, there are many who are unaware, particularly the younger generation in our communities.

One of the main areas of focus during the pandemic has been our key workers, and our county's support for them has been outstanding. But what about their children? I decided to pay some virtual visits in full court dress complete with sword to some of the primary schools in North Yorkshire to show support and provide a little shrieval education.

Barrowcliffe is a school with many challenges, due not only to the pandemic, but to its location in a deprived area with high crime rate and many vulnerable children. Using video conferencing, all the children gathered around their TV screen, and after a brief introduction from Headteacher Mark Rodgers, I talked to the children about the history of the role and what my duties involve which raised a number of questions including: 'Do you have a Sheriff's badge?'; 'Have you ever met The Queen?'; and 'When everything is back to normal, will you come and visit us?'

There have been virtual visits to the lifeboat stations at both Whitby and Scarborough, a meeting with Cleveland Mountain rescue, and of course conversations with two chief constables, the chief of the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and a meeting with the police and crime commissioner. Interestingly I also connected with the British Transport Police Chief which resulted in naming a BTP cadet as one of my appointed cadets for the year.

Talking of trains, I was asked to say a few words and then ride on a new summer service from Skipton to Appleby called *The Staycation Express* – the first train in the country with specially fitted screens and pulled by classic diesel locomotives.

I was pleased to head up a campaign by York Community Volunteer Service to raise funds for the many small charities suffering during the crisis and give out Business and Tourism Excellence Awards for the town of Richmond. North Yorkshire media have been very kind and I have managed to get the message out to our communities about the role of the Shrievalty which is a big positive.

A great honour has been giving out High Sheriff's Awards and writing endless letters of support to those who were giving exemplary service within our communities.

My theme for the next six months – onwards and upwards!

◆ **David Kerfoot MBE, DL**  
*High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2020-21*



**Above:** 'In' the classroom at Hutton Rudby Primary School. **Above right:** *The Staycation Express* provides a new Skipton to Appleby service





## High Sheriff's no mug

**IT WAS** a huge honour to be asked to serve as High Sheriff of Northumberland, and when the call came, I spent some time wondering how my year would run. While we are all told that we have a blank canvas, that the year is ours to do with it as we will, I was lucky enough to have a canvas that had some helpful pencil sketches left as a guide by my predecessors. Northumberland is, however, pretty relaxed, and we certainly don't have the pressure experienced by many to conform to a strict plot.

Like the rest of the 'class of 2020' I pulled on my Sheriff's trousers and grabbed my sword as COVID-19 started to make its presence felt. My Declaration was small, distanced and relatively discreet, pulled forward so that we could slip in before lockdown started. Across the country, the established infrastructure of society started groaning under a cloud of uncertainty and conjecture. While some organisations had contingency plans, others were found stunned in the headlights. It became clear

that while the established norms would not work, there was still a job to be done.

Amazing people, all over the county, emerged from the chaos and started doing the job in front of them, many going above and beyond the call of duty: come the time, come the person... recognising these people is what the High Sheriff's job is all about and this was clearly going to be my main effort.

While we do have the High Sheriff of Northumberland's Award Scheme which focuses on organisations who help young people reach their potential, I was keen to have something more immediate, wider ranging and, importantly, something that would enable me to deliver support and recognition without interfering with key work rhythms... So the High Sheriff's Mug scheme for extremely special people was born.

I have commissioned a number of High Sheriff of Northumberland's Mug of the Week for Extremely Special People mugs. Every week I choose a small number of folk who are being 'fundamentally good eggs' and send them a mug and a little letter. The award criteria are simple and subjective: I send them to people



The High Sheriff's mug with letter



New recruit at the North East Ferret Rescue Centre

**Below:** The High Sheriff ready for some Northumbrian piping



I think deserve them. I am, however, indebted to a wonderful network of folk around the county who pass me potential candidates for the list. Of course, there are some other hares running, with a huge amount of online, video and telephone engagement, with a bit of Northumbrian piping and a visit to the North East Ferret Rescue Centre thrown in, but I must confess to having lots of fun sending mugs far and wide – even, rather naughtily, across the border into Scotland (where Sheriffs are rather different beasts!).

This has been a fascinating year so far and though tough for many, I have been humbled and heartened by the way that so many folk have stepped forward – perhaps this is the silver lining that will shine out of the COVID cloud!

**Tom Fairfax, TD**  
High Sheriff of Northumberland 2020-21





## Time to SING

**I DIDN'T expect, when becoming Under Sheriff for Oxfordshire a little more than a year ago, to be part of a meeting of getting on for 80 High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination, with a small sprinkling of Under Sheriffs, arranged with virtual and efficient aplomb by the High Sheriffs' Association last September. No bets on what's around the next corner. It was impossible not to be impressed – moved, even – by the innovation, energy and 'getonwithitism' shown by High Sheriffs up and down the land.**

Oxfordshire's High Sheriff, Amanda Ponsonby, had her plans grievously thwarted. The county is of course well known for learning and car manufacture, but it is powered by agriculture too. Amanda had intended to infuse as many people as possible with Oxfordshire food and wine (the latter includes a pretty palatable sparkling). She had intended too to use her office to give a boost to underappreciated parts of the county. The city of Oxford is of course a gem – a vast number of tourists from the world over are there every August, but none of them go to Banbury, a fine, quirky town.

Not much of this could happen. Instead, like many other High Sheriffs, she spent the early months almost melting her telephone in introducing herself to everyone whom she had hoped, and still hopes, to meet. As restrictions eased she was able to get out and match faces to voices.

I may be wholly wrong, but it does seem to me that there is something solitary about the High Sheriff's role. They may be surrounded by kind and well-meaning folk but the responsibility for making a success of the role rests on a single pair of shoulders. Amanda has greatly valued her regular Zoom meetings with the other Thames Valley High Sheriffs and also her SING. This mellifluous acronym represents our Sheriff In Nomination Group, which consists of the High Sheriff, her two successors, the Shrieval Remembrancer, and me, and which meets three times in the year. It has for several years proved invaluable in supporting the High Sheriff and in assisting a smooth change in April.

By contrast, in Oxford, the principal town in Lafayette County, Mississippi, the Sheriff has 26 full-time deputies. This is fine, of course, but there is no escape after a single year. Sheriff F D 'Buddy' East held office from 1972 until his death in 2018. His son Joey was Oxford's Chief of Police concurrently, which might make some feel uncomfortable. But Joey is now the Sheriff so I suppose that's all right.

High Sheriffs, from my undershrieval perspective you have responded to the crisis magnificently, but still I fear that many of your plans have been shredded. I wonder if any of you have given any thought to agreeing to your name being put forward again in three or four years' time. Just a thought.

♦ Michael Payne  
*Under Sheriff of Oxfordshire*



High Sheriff Amanda Ponsonby and Tagore Ramoutar of the Oxford Artisan Distillery



**Above:** One of the main courtrooms in the Oxford Combined Court Centre for a SING meeting – not our usual comfy venue. Shrieval Remembrancer HH Patrick Eccles QC, the High Sheriff Amanda Ponsonby and Michael Payne, Under Sheriff

**Below left:** The High Sheriff with her Chaplain, the Revd Dr Stephen Blake, the Lord-Lieutenant Tim Stevenson OBE, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Mrs Justice Whipple and Judge Pringle

**Below right:** The High Sheriff presenting gloves to Judge Pringle, the Revd Philippa White, the Succentor beyond them







Photo credit: Paul Davis, PVD Media Ltd

# Blending the virtual with the in-person

**T**HERE WERE times during the planning I did in the years ahead of taking office where I wished I had an official handbook to tell me exactly what to do as High Sheriff. But then COVID-19 hit, and if I'd had a blueprint I would have needed to throw it away and start all over again anyway!

My plan had always been to utilise digital technology to connect with the people of Shropshire, but I had no idea how important this would be within the first few months of my shrieval year, in the midst of a global pandemic (not words I ever expected to use!). Zoom and Teams video calls replaced face-to-face meetings, almost everything in

my diary was cancelled, and all of the organisations I'd planned to connect with also suddenly had to completely change the way they worked.

My husband Mark and I sat down to develop a revised plan and went through the contacts database I'd developed to set up Zoom meetings, while also developing a structured social media and press campaign. Mark's role became (and still is) very limited in terms of events and he has been more focused on supporting the writing and researching that goes on.

As I reflect on this halfway through my shrieval year, lockdown has eased enough to allow me to travel around the beautiful county of Shropshire





## News from and about members

**Left:** Dean Harris focusing on addiction with some of the team from the Shropshire Recovery Partnership to support September's Recovery Month

**Below:** Face-to face meetings with the mayors of Newport and Bridgnorth to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on businesses and the community as part of a 16-town blitz after the end of the first lockdown period

(adhering to social distancing) – it would be easy to revert back to 100 per cent in-person meetings. And yet there are things I've learned since April which have convinced me that 'blending' face-to-face and virtual appointments is the way forward, not only for the remainder of my year but also for future High Sheriffs too. Evolving the role by embracing technology as a communication tool is the single biggest way to ensure the role is kept relevant in today's society. In addition, it allows us to be more efficient; for example, a meeting in Ludlow in south Shropshire followed by another in Whitchurch to the north could see me needing to leave 80 minutes or so between the two (and that's on a day with no traffic). Scheduling both as video calls means I don't even need eight minutes

between them. There's nothing like meeting face to face but video calling does remove many barriers such as distance.

Of course, getting out and about to see first-hand the fantastic work communities are undertaking (especially in light of the extreme difficulties coronavirus has presented for our charities and volunteers) is vital, and it's something I spend several days a week doing. But I've been able to do so much more – connect businesses and charities together, source funds for projects, spread awareness for my key topics – by spending one day a week at my computer.

The other huge advantage is using social media; again, something I'd planned to do anyway but it became all the more important once we were in lockdown. I post on Facebook and Instagram every weekday, connecting with the community, voluntary organisations and local groups, and I also make use of LinkedIn to liaise with the business community.

I'm by no means a social media expert but I firmly believe it's the way forward for High Sheriffs to share the good work we do with the public, raise the profile of organisations/groups, highlight key causes

*“Evolving the role by embracing technology as a communication tool is the single biggest way to ensure the role is kept relevant in today's society.”*

and raise awareness of the history and importance of the role. It's absolutely not about vanity, but the power of social media should not be ignored – the reach of some posts has truly astounded me, it's a game changer! Plus, with more than three-quarters of adults under 50 active on Facebook, using social media is essential for us to get younger people engaged – after all, those we connect with online could be the High Sheriffs of years to come!

My advice for future High Sheriffs is yes, by all means 'just do your own thing', but also consider how you utilise technology during your shrieval year, blending virtual and traditional to make the very best of taking on this prestigious role while being agile and proactive in the modern post-coronavirus world.

◆ **Dean Harris JP**  
*High Sheriff of Shropshire 2020-21*







## Post it!

**LOCKDOWN SHUT** us all in just after I had managed to make my Declaration at Wells Cathedral. I know other High Sheriffs were not so lucky and had to make their Declarations virtually but after that, we all had the same problem. If we had had more time to get stuck into the office, we would have had something to work with. As it was, those of us who inherited a blank sheet of paper had only what preparation we had done and the internet.

Those twenty-odd invitations received were all postponed or cancelled. I had made some contacts in advance but that was not enough. It was a bleak picture ahead. After a couple of weeks in shock, I saw that something had to be done.

Now, I am not remotely techy but I saw that using social media was the only way to get the message of the High Sheriff out there. I found some furloughed children of friends who helped me set up the lot: Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. I began to learn. I made mistakes. I joked about my mistakes. On cutting off someone's head, I commented that sadly my powers did not include that! I just posted every time I could think of something to post. The post had to have a photograph. If nothing was happening on a day which meant so much to us all, I would just post the countryside, with thoughts on, say Easter, for example.



The High Sheriff with Mo one of the burger chefs on the Key4Life programme

On VE Day I held a homemade sign for 75 years of peace in my court dress. My followers increased.

As lockdown has eased, I have been able to get out more and I have posted every time. People are finally getting an idea what the High Sheriff does. We don't have a website in Somerset – no wonder some people may have thought

**Below left:** The High Sheriff with Jamie Paterson (on the Key4Life at risk programme) and Eva Hamilton MBE, CEO of Key4Life  
**Below right:** Michael Winter and Lolly Walters who set up Jack Winter's Leg Up Legacy in memory of their son; the fund is administered by the award-winning charity Key4Life

the office irrelevant. I am determined to resolve that too.

From the fingerprinting paraphernalia to the beauty of an AONB, I've been able to showcase so much of our wonderful county. Take Key4Life's Food Cell, for example. Key4Life's aim is to reduce the rate of young adult re-offending. The charity runs an innovative seven-step to programme for those in prison or at risk of going to prison. The programme focuses on emotional resilience, employability skills and ongoing support after release from prison. Michael Winter and Lolly Walters raised the money (Jack Winter's Leg Up Legacy) to fund the burger van in memory of their young son who died of cancer. The Food Cell gives young offenders valuable business skills and experience to help them get future work and in doing so helps to reduce the reoffending rate. On my visit the burger van was staffed by three young men, one who was recently out of Brixton. By posting pictures of their happy faces, grateful for the second chance they've been given, I've managed to help the charity get greater exposure.

To see what I've done, go to Facebook: @highsheriffsomerset, Twitter: @someretsheriff1 and Instagram: highsheriffsomerset.

Go on, High Sheriffs, get out there and post!

**Mary-Clare Rodwell**  
*The High Sheriff of Somerset*







## Tomorrow will be a better day

**AS WITH all High Sheriffs in this COVID year, I was unfamiliar with exactly what to expect. We know to expect the unexpected, but I was unable to appreciate how much I might be missing and what I would have had the privilege to be party to. I have very much taken the attitude of *Que será, será*.**

With an expectation of what may lie ahead, my predecessor as High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Dr Isabel Graham, brought forward the handover dinner, which so far has been the only social function we have all attended; this was held with an almost full complement of the county's previous High Sheriffs and partners shortly before the lockdown.

At the restricted Declaration ceremony (before social distancing), presided over by His Honour Judge Twomlow, Jeff Edwards JP managed to swear in both Jason Edwards for Mid Glamorgan and myself at the same time.

When the pandemic hit in March I had already managed to adapt one of my factories to produce hand sanitiser. And so despite working 24 hours 7 days a week, I was in some ways thankful of the easement from my ceremonial and social duties. Making and supplying hand sanitiser and other PPE equipment to the NHS, police forces and MOD was certainly a great honour and privilege.



The High Sheriff with Gabriella Howell and Maroof Pirzada from Muslim Charity loading donations bound for Yemen

As my official duties had ground to a halt before even beginning I switched my attention to the charitable role of High Sheriff, and have taken the motto 'Protecting the Protectors' as a daily duty. I was able to help many among us both locally and overseas, who were in need during the early days of the pandemic as well as those less fortunate than ourselves. I managed to donate to those in the 'new front line': homeless charities, medical centres, care centres, hospices, fire service, police and military. It was inspiring to meet these heroes as my family and I personally delivered the vital PPE so that they could continue doing their work. It meant that (within social distancing rules) I was given a better understanding of their needs and the desperate situation they were in. Further afield I donated our PPE to those medical personnel in critical situations attending refugees in Yemen, the indigenous people in Guyana, the Lebanon (the camps and the residents of Beirut after the terrible explosion), and islands in the Caribbean which are experiencing economic meltdown with the lack of tourism which is mainly their only income.

In partnership with my fellow High Sheriffs – Jason Edwards in Mid Glamorgan and Debbie Williams in West Glamorgan – and with the IT skills of my daughter Isabella, we produced a video of a very uplifting and enthralling COVID poem, read by a number of Welsh celebrities. This can be seen on: [www.highsheriffssouthglamorgan.com/poem](http://www.highsheriffssouthglamorgan.com/poem).

Michael Sheen, Sir Gareth Edwards, Griff Rhys Jones, Sir Bryn Terfel Jones, Rhod Gilbert and Alun Wyn Jones are among those featured. We raised over £18,000 for the NHS and are still open for donations. Please pass on this link; it is very moving, and you even catch a glimpse of the three Glamorgan High Sheriffs!

The show must go on in these surreal and uncertain times. As unprecedented as this pandemic is for all of us, we must look for positives and can take inspiration from past High Sheriffs who no doubt battled on through worse pandemics



Screenshot during the reading of the poem



Philip Evans (Under Sheriff South Glamorgan), Jason Edwards (Mid Glamorgan), His Honour Judge Twomlow, Andrew Howell (South Glamorgan) and Jeff Edwards JP at the joint Declaration

like the Black Death (1346-1353), the Spanish Flu (1918), Asian Flu (1956-1958) and even the flu pandemic in 1968. Experts say that the Little Ice Age, which followed the Black Death and lasted until 1850, may have been partly due to the Black Death plague. We have certainly seen COVID's impact on the environment, which we can take as one positive from this insidious virus's devastating destruction.

Looking for other rays of sunshine and hope: I always loved the sentiment from the Morecambe and Wise song 'Bring me Sunshine' which I'm sure we all find uplifting whenever we remember it. We now also have Colonel Sir Tom Moore's truly inspirational Yorkshire grit and humour, hope and positivity, with his key message of *Tomorrow will be a better day*.

Keep smiling, keep sanitising and keep safe.

**◆ Andrew Howell**  
*High Sheriff of South Glamorgan 2020-21*





# Staying local

**THE SHERIFF'S Ride 1-8 August 2020** was a great success on many levels. First and foremost it raised comfortably over £3,000 – a significantly larger sum than the £2,000 that we targeted – for the first-class Staffordshire Community Foundation which has done so much to help out the people of Staffordshire through the COVID-19 crisis.

Second, it covered over 300 miles and visited 30 tourist attractions and other points of interest throughout the county. Third, we met numerous charming, interesting people committed to making a great contribution to our communities in Staffordshire. It was also a lot of fun, not only for all of us who participated, but for our hosts who enjoyed the publicity and buzz of promoting the amazing landscapes and places of Staffordshire.



**Above:** Flash, the most northern and highest point – the summit of our ride and a little way past the halfway point of our 300 mile journey

**Below:** The finish at Blithfield Hall – Charlie Gillow was substituted by Revd Simon Davis for the last two days Photo credit: John Hyde

**Below right:** At Wightwick Manor where the T-shirts came into their own



The cycling posse taking an ice cream break at Moseley Old Hall (National Trust). Left to right: Swampy, Charlie (the High Sheriff, Charles Bagot Jewitt), Rupert, Toby and Charlie Gillow, wearing the T-Shirts printed for photo shoots at each venue

Would we all do it again? Unequivocally yes; we had a great group with a fifty-year age range from youngest to oldest, who completely 'gelled' as a team. We also visited a huge number of fascinating places, learning a lot as we went. Staffordshire is too easily forgotten by people as they thunder through on the M6 but as we proved, it is a fascinating and hospitable county with the most incredibly varied rural and industrial landscape. We only scratched the surface but our conclusion was the same as that of the opening line of Phil Drabble's excellent book, *The County Books: Staffordshire*, written over 60 years ago on the character of Staffordshire:

'I believe that nowhere in England is anything to be found which can approach the variety of Staffordshire.'

It is hard to express the pleasure of cycling and camping as a 'holiday' but there is something special in setting out from home and being self-contained and

without the need for trains or boats or planes or expensive accommodation. The bonus of having a group of people to do it with makes it even more special. I was very impressed by the two 16-year-olds who had no real idea of where we were going or how long it would take each day, but they approached each ride like young puppies – flying ahead of us and veering off to do tricks and jumps on any wide verge or open space with the enthusiasm of youth and always laughing and joking with each other. I was also quietly pleased that as the oldest member of the group by far I was able to keep up and tackle some of the punishing climbs and descents found between Leek and Flash, the highest village in Britain.

For a while we were able almost to put behind us the events of 2020 and to witness the efforts of people around the county who are all trying to re-shape their lives and livelihoods to accommodate the increasing demand for local days out and 'staycations' in Staffordshire. If we can all re-learn how to live and shop locally and to appreciate the remarkable places on our doorsteps rather than travelling further and further to satisfy our holiday demands then I for one would be delighted.

### Howard Price

*Member of the High Sheriff of Staffordshire's cycling posse; landscape gardener*







# Multi-faith collaboration

**LIKE MOST High Sheriffs in the UK I suspect, I felt a degree of frustration as the national lockdown was implemented. The very first realisation for me was the fact that my Declaration, usually held at Guildford Cathedral, would not go ahead as normal.**

However, my background is in technology, providing web and app solutions so, not to be beaten, the previous High Sheriff Bridget Biddell and I set about planning a very different experience, bringing together the various people involved online for Surrey's very first virtual Declaration which was screened afterwards on the shrieval website and social media. Facebook alone recorded almost 2,000 views resulting in many more people getting to see the ceremony than ever before and sharing in my taking the oath traditionally – the first Muslim High Sheriff in Surrey in some thousand years.

Thereafter, unable to take part in civic events and visits due to cancellation, and with travel around the county restricted, I concentrated on supporting my local community as much as was allowed.

Being in a position to shine a light on the Muslim community and generate awareness of the good work they do across Surrey, I worked with Muslims who played their part in the COVID-19 lockdown period, particularly in Woking where I am based. Woking is home to the Shah Jahan Mosque – the UK's first mosque, purpose built in 1889 – and there, volunteers on furlough decided to help vulnerable people by delivering food and essential supplies, supported by financial aid from nearby St Dunstan's Catholic Church. The end result was a multi-faith community, working closely together to support people of all faiths during the pandemic. The group was featured in the national news and received a visit from TRH the Earl and Countess of Wessex – an occasion which really brought the community together.

During lockdown I also joined the Lord-Lieutenant on a visit to Surrey Police headquarters to see the Strategic and Tactical Teams in action managing COVID-19. We saw the true partnership between the public, private and armed services, along with retired officers with

Photo credit: Andy Newbold Photography



High Sheriff with grandson Muhammed Ali

vast experience who volunteered their help. It gave me confidence that we were in safe hands. Surrey University rallied students for volunteer services and converted part of the veterinary school into a temporary mortuary, just some of many stories about volunteers in the county... and not forgetting the incredible work by our NHS and other emergency services.

While adhering to government guidelines and as lockdown relaxed, I was honoured to take part in VJ75 and other remembrance events as well as to work with youth and charity groups. As I write, further restrictions are imminent and so I will be returning to technology to make the best of my position by arranging Zoom sessions with schools, groups and charities across Surrey and trying as actively as possible to make the most of being High Sheriff in the most difficult of years for everyone.

**Shahid Azeem DL**  
High Sheriff of Surrey 2020-21



High Sheriff at the Shah Jahan Mosque with Imam Hashmi, his wife Kawther Hashmi and THR the Earl and Countess of Wessex

Photo credit: WABF





# Championing those who help others cope with loneliness

**LONG AGO I decided that during my year as High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear I would focus my time on supporting local organisations which help alleviate the effects of loneliness.**

Loneliness affects people of all ages and backgrounds. It's an area where so many volunteers and community groups do valuable work, work which all too often isn't recognised or appreciated. I wanted to give thanks and recognition to the people who give their time and skills to help others overcome the debilitating effects of feeling isolated.

While the arrival of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown has led to changes for all of us, it's only reinforced

my determination to focus on the theme of loneliness. The work of these groups is more important than ever as more people experience isolation and access to support becomes more difficult.

It had been my plan to visit as many community groups as possible in person, and, as my year as High Sheriff coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Tyne and Wear Metro, I planned to mark this anniversary by using the network to visit community groups based close to each of the 60 Metro stations across the county.

Although my Metro journeys remain on hold, I've still been able to support the work of groups such as Age UK North Tyneside and Newcastle's Silverline

Memories by finding new ways to replace personal visits. It's clear that technology will be key to the way we operate for the rest of this year, and indeed in subsequent years, so we must all look to fulfil our roles in new ways.

As a result, like everyone, I've attended more online events this year than ever before, including sitting in on Crown Court proceedings and videoing messages of thanks and support for local organisations, including Northumbria Police.

As well as its effect on people's mental wellbeing, the pandemic is having a serious economic impact, none more so than on young people living in Tyne and Wear. For that reason, I'm also supporting the work of voluntary groups which are helping to improve the job prospects of young people and this has become the focus of this year's High Sheriff's Awards for Tyne and Wear.

The awards give recognition and financial support to organisations that help young people develop new skills or overcome personal challenges, and this year we're especially keen to support groups that promote skills development, training and employment opportunities. During this difficult year, I want to use the awards to help young people in Tyne and Wear to overcome the additional hurdles they face as a result of COVID-19.

So, although it's been a very different year from the one I expected, the challenge remains to find new and innovative ways to support those who work so tirelessly to help others – for me that means supporting groups working to alleviate loneliness and to champion those helping young people to find and follow their chosen vocation.



Photo credit: Doug Jackson

The Ocean Youth Trust North is a charity specialising in the personal development of young people and adults and a former winner of a High Sheriff's Award for Tyne and Wear

**Sarah Stewart OBE DL**  
*High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2020-21*





## Tales of the unexpected

WITH THE announcement of lockdown on 16 March it became clear that 2020-21 was likely to be a very different year for incoming High Sheriffs. Adapting to the new circumstances was going to be key, along with a certain amount of resilience and determination to serve, whatever the frustrations associated with the cancellation or postponement of long-planned events and the wholesale disruption to the civic calendar.

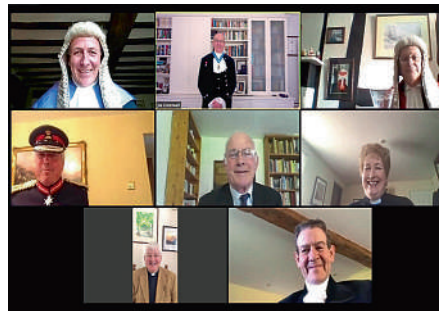
Like many other High Sheriffs this year my Declaration was via Zoom. This was my first real introduction to such platforms and subsequently they have proven vital in developing and maintaining connections and progressing projects.

**So, first tip for my successors: become familiar and proficient with video-conferencing platforms as well as Instagram/Twitter.**

My court dress has not had as many outings as anticipated thus far but I shall certainly remember the first after my Declaration. I was delighted to present an award to the wonderful Maggie Durston of Long Itchington, a volunteer for over 20 years with Warwickshire Vision Support in her lovely garden. It was a hot sunny day so I had taken off the dark blue velvet coat for the journey. As I leapt out of the car I found my movement curtailed by the prong on my waistcoat clasp which, being quite sharp, had buried itself into the seat back material. As I reached behind to release myself I cut myself on said clasp resulting in a bloodied hand and an unseemly kerfuffle on Maggie's drive – mercifully unseen by Maggie or her neighbours – involving one flustered, newly minted High Sheriff, one long-suffering consort, and many tissues.

**My second tip therefore: expect the unexpected.**

I also had the pleasure of presenting an award to the Maya Bar and Restaurant in Atherstone for their outstanding efforts under the Food4NHS initiative in providing hundreds of meals for NHS front-line workers at the George Eliot and Walsgrave (now University Hospital



**Above:** Presentation to Maya Bar and Restaurant  
**Left:** The Zoom Declaration ceremony in April  
**Below:** Presentation to Maggie Durston, volunteer for Warwickshire Vision Support



Coventry) Hospitals and for vulnerable local residents.

My theme for the year is 'employability' with a particular emphasis on apprenticeships and traineeships for those with special needs. The challenges facing the 16-24 age group in terms of education, training and employment have been made much more acute by COVID-19 and even more so for those with special needs. I am pleased to be working with Fay Winterburn of Warwickshire County Council and Claire Cookson of DFN Project Search on business engagement to try to increase training and job opportunities for this vulnerable group.

As I write there is talk of a second

wave and another lockdown. Despite the continuing uncertainty I can see the diary filling up with new and rescheduled meetings and events involving the judiciary, police, fire and emergency services, local charities. I shall also be presenting High Sheriff's Awards to deserving individuals and organisations: so many have gone the extra mile in the last six months.

Despite the challenges this is already proving to be a very fulfilling year in so many ways. I am expecting a very busy second half and I look forward to reporting on that in due course.

**Joe Greenwell CBE DL**  
*High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2020-21*





# Connecting, listening, and thanking



**O**N 11 March I retired as a GP in Pulborough in preparation for my year – within two weeks I was back at work. The predictions of at least one hundred COVID-related deaths a day in West Sussex alone created a sense of urgency in the NHS and the wider social care community, not witnessed by the health service since it began in 1948.

Since 1974 when the two counties of West and East Sussex were officially formed, there has been a joint declaration in the Crown Court at Lewes in East Sussex. So my plans to be the first High Sheriff, let alone the first physician, to make their Declaration within West Sussex had to be rapidly changed and, instead of a major event in Chichester Cathedral, I began my shrieval year at home and on Zoom. Little could I have predicted that my theme of ‘safeguarding the vulnerable’ would prove so appropriate.





## News from and about members



**Above:** Declaration montage

**Below:** What to wear this morning: court dress or PPE for a COVID 'hot hub' clinic?

For me, cancelled shrieval events were replaced by 'hot hub' COVID clinics and court dress was exchanged for PPE. Rapidly introduced new clinical practices to minimise the risk of infection spoke of the unprecedented danger of this novel infection and the public's weekly show of support for the NHS was greatly appreciated.

Although many sadly lost their battle against the virus, West Sussex was thankfully spared the worst. The local hospitals had just enough ventilator capacity in ITU and our senior coroner did not have to open the 'Nightingale' mortuaries which she had established.

However, my role as High Sheriff was by no means sidelined by medicine and, for me, three activities have become paramount: connecting, listening, and thanking.

As annual ceremonies and receptions had to be cancelled, or moved online, so I became very busy adapting my role and proactively reaching out to

connect with leaders from every sector across the county. In this, the administrative help of Julia Mansergh, who is also a local JP, has been invaluable.

There can be few years where a crisis has created so much uncertainty for, and required such a rapid and extensive response by, so many different elements of our society; the judicial, education and voluntary sectors all remain greatly challenged as are the police, prison and probation services.

Listening to the key architects of our county's response to COVID and on behalf of West Sussex thanking them and their colleagues for their exceptional efforts has been, and continues to be, a deeply significant element of my role. Perhaps it has never been so important.

However, the unique independent position of a High Sheriff within the county has led to other opportunities and initiatives.

The inspiring acts of altruism and kindness carried out by individual members of the public, acting in a voluntary capacity, are being recognised in a new and specific award. To replace my summer reception, I convened a Zoom conference 'Tackling Loneliness Together' which connected 120 representatives from every locality and sector of the county to focus on this very significant issue. I am currently visiting businesses to highlight their role in supporting communities to remain resilient and, once a week, the West Sussex local news media publishes my High Sheriff's briefing so that I can inform the public about the great work going on in the county to support them.

There is certainly a great deal to write about.

### ◆ Dr Tim Fooks

*High Sheriff of West Sussex 2020-21*



### OPPOSITE PAGE

**Top:** Attestation of Police Constables, Sussex Police

**Far left:** The High Sheriff with Jo Shiner Chief Constable Sussex Police, Simon Carello JP, Katy Bourne Police and Crime Commissioner Sussex



# 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	The 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 Ponsoby 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	M Kuo Esq
WEST SUSSEX	Dr T J C Fooks
WEST YORKSHIRE	J H Thornton Esq
WILTSHIRE	Major General A E G Truluck CB CBE
WORCESTERSHIRE	Lt Col M L Jackson OBE

### 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

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

## NEW MEMBERS

The Association welcomes the following as new members

Name	County	Year of Office
D W Bavaird Esq	Tyne and Wear	2022
Lady Clifford	Bedfordshire	2022
J T Gravell Esq	Dyfed	2021
F Hakim Esq	Tyne and Wear	2021
Ms L A Johansen	Greater London	2021
Major A J M Lowther-Pinkerton	Suffolk	2022
LVO MBE DL		
P R Sykes Esq	Hampshire	2021
J N Whitmore Esq	West Sussex	2022

## DEATHS

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

<b>The Hon Mrs Chapman MBE DL</b> Date of death: 6-Jun-20 Age: 80 County: Bedfordshire Year of office: 2001	<b>F T B Jowitt Esq</b> Date of death: 13-Sep-20 Age: 86 County: West Yorkshire Year of office: 1997
<b>S W B Dereham Esq</b> Date of death: 29-Nov-20 Age: 84 County: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Year of office: 1998	<b>J G Pearson Esq</b> Date of death: 10-Dec-19 Age: 81 County: Northamptonshire Year of office: 2002
<b>M G S Frampton Esq TD JP</b> Date of death: 11-Jul-20 Age: 88 County: South Yorkshire Year of office: 1994	<b>B Watkins Esq CMG</b> Date of death: 23-Aug-20 Age: 87 County: Gwent Year of office: 2004
<b>J R Holt Esq JP</b> Date of death: 16-Jun-20 Age: 88 County: Lancashire Year of office: 1991	<b>Sir Philip Wroughton KCVO DL</b> Date of death: 7-Nov-20 Age: 87 County: Berkshire Year of office: 1977
<b>Major P W Hope-Cobbold DL</b> Date of death: 8-Jul-20 Age: 76 County: Suffolk Year of office: 2005	

# THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
BEDFORDSHIRE	E Masih Esq	Lady Clifford	R A Beard Esq
BERKSHIRE	R D H Russell Esq MVO DL	Miss A Kharbanda	S H Muir Esq
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	G R Anson Esq	Miss D Brock DL	Dr A G Limb CBE DL
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Mrs C L E M Bewes	Mrs J Crompton	Dr B N Khetani
CHESHIRE	R J Mee Esq DL	Mrs J G France-Hayhurst	D Dunn Esq MBE JP DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	Mrs S J Davies BEM	Ms A O A Raikes MBE	Miss S R Foster
CUMBRIA	D G Beeby Esq	A McViety Esq	Mrs S Scott
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs L T Potter DL	M G Copestake Esq	Miss T Peltier
DEVON	Lady Studholme	R D Youngman Esq	Rt Revd N H P McKinnel
DORSET	M M P Dooley Esq	Ms S Fine King DL	C W G Weston Esq MBE
DURHAM	J R Harle Esq	Mrs S M Harper-Wilkes	Professor P Keane OBE
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	R Shepherdson Esq	Mrs J Bowes	M Rice Esq
EAST SUSSEX	M A Jenner Esq DL	Mrs M J King	E R Bickersteth Esq
ESSEX	S R Brice Esq DL	N K Alston Esq CBE DL	C R M Bishop Esq
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Mrs R J Tufnell	Air Marshal Sir Graham Miller KBE	H C W Robinson Esq
GREATER LONDON	Ms L A Johansen	Mrs H J Phillips	Mrs I De
HAMPSHIRE	P R Sykes Esq	The Lady Edwina Snow	Mrs A S Ashton
HEREFORDSHIRE	Mrs J P Hilditch DL	Mrs S L de Rohan JP	R C C Robinson Esq
HERTFORDSHIRE	L C Wallace Esq DL	Mrs S D Burton DL	Mrs A P Brewster
ISLE OF WIGHT	J R W Attrill Esq DL	Mrs K A Marriott	Mrs D K Haig-Thomas
KENT	J C H Weir Esq JP	R J Race Esq JP DL	Mrs N Ahmed OBE DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	I T Mattioli Esq MBE	Ms M Duke MBE DL	Mrs H J Chubb
LINCOLNSHIRE	Mrs C V Birch	T M Strawson Esq	R J Lake Esq OBE
NORFOLK	D J McLeavy Hill Esq DL	M A J Gurney Esq	Professor K K Sethia
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	The Hon Mrs Lowther DL	C D J Holborow Esq DL	M N Shah Esq
NORTHUMBERLAND	Mrs J L Riddell	J C Royds Esq TD	Mrs D M A Barks
NORTH YORKSHIRE	Mrs V A Wrigley DL	J S Lambert Esq OBE	Mrs C D Granger
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Professor H S Dua	P D Southby Esq	Mrs V M Pickering
OXFORDSHIRE	Imam Monowar Hussain MBE DL	M G Beard Esq	Mrs S P Scott
RUTLAND	R D Wood Esq	P G Thompson Esq	Mrs G M E Feehally
SHROPSHIRE	R A Morris-Eyton Esq	Hon Mrs Graham	Mrs A J Thorn MBE DL
SOMERSET	W H T Sheppard Esq	Mrs J M Duke	R N F Drewett Esq DL
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	M J C McKervery Esq	Prof Dame Hilary Chapman DBE DL	Lt Col R A McPherson MBE
STAFFORDSHIRE	J I H Friend Esq DL	Mrs J Mitchell	C B Robinson Esq MBE BEM DL
SUFFOLK	E G Creasy Esq	Major A J M Lowther-Pinkerton LVO MBE DL	M Pendlington Esq DL
SURREY	Dr J A Llewelyn	His Honour C A Critchlow DL	T A de B Wates Esq DL
TYNE AND WEAR	F Hakim Esq	D W Bavaird Esq	Ms I Lucas CBE
WARWICKSHIRE	Dr D M Rapley	The Lady Willoughby de Broke	D R Kelham Esq
WEST MIDLANDS	Mrs L D Bennett OBE DL	D R Moorcroft Esq OBE	Dr M Hashmi
WEST SUSSEX	N Hart Esq DL	J N Whitmore Esq	A Bliss Esq QPM
WEST YORKSHIRE	C R Lloyd Esq	Mrs S K Baker MBE JP DL	Z A Karim Esq DL
WILTSHIRE	Sir Charles Hobhouse Bt	The Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne	P Bhardwaj Esq
WORCESTERSHIRE	R J Amphlett Esq	A R Manning-Cox Esq	Mrs L C Hewett

*\*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	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
CLWYD	J S Thomas Esq	Ms Z J Henderson	Mrs K L Hill-Trevor
DYFED	J T Gravell Esq	D R Rees-Evans Esq	M D Raymond Esq CBE DL
GWENT	P M Alderman Esq	M Davies Esq OBE	Prof S J Gibson CBE DL
GWYNEDD	G P Owen Esq	Ms D Carey-Evans	Mrs J Phillips
MID GLAMORGAN	J Edwards Esq MBE JP	Mrs M K Thomas BEM JP	Prof J White CBE
POWYS	P R James Esq MBE	T H Jones Esq OBE	R Cawthorne Esq
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	P R Dewey Esq	Mrs R Moriarty-Simmonds OBE	R James Esq
WEST GLAMORGAN	Mrs J L Jenkins MBE JP DL	S H Rogers Esq JP	Mrs H B Davies

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



# ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS



## The High Sheriff's Badge

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



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



## Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

Single **£27.00**, 2+ **£20.00** each  
(2 for preaching scarf/tippet)



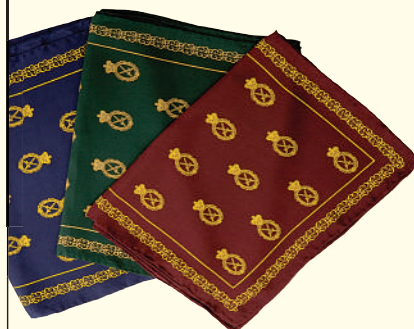
## Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

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.  
Cheques etc. payable to 'The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales'

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

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

# ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS

## HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD CERTIFICATE

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

The certificate can be provided in two different styles:

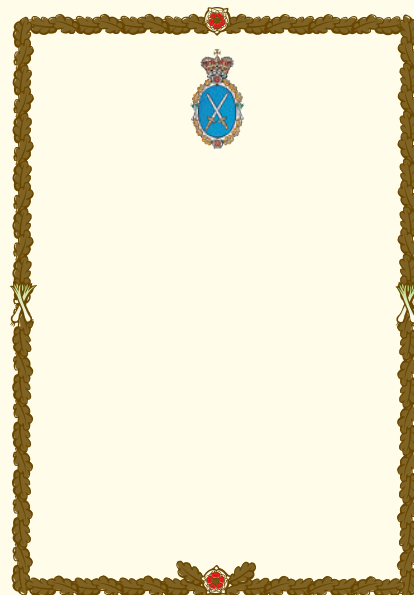
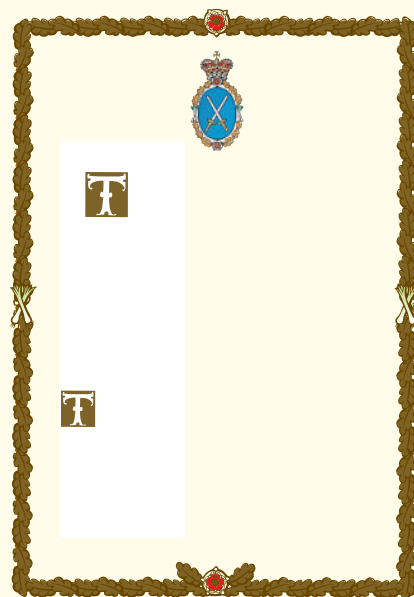
**STYLE 1** comes as a blank certificate printed in 4-colour with gold edging on 145gsm parchment. The template for the wording can be found on the

website for you to change and overprint with your county, date and names.

**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 these certificates, which includes the cost of postage and packing, is:

**Style 1: £22 for 50; Style 2: £3.00 each (special quote for more than 10 copies with the recipient's name left blank)**



## CROWN COURT AWARD CERTIFICATE

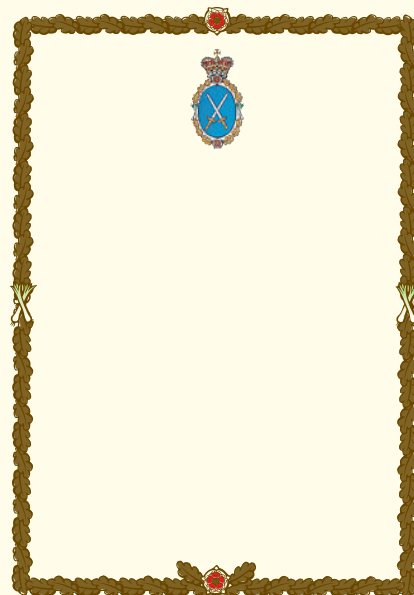
Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate in two different styles which can be bought by High Sheriffs.

**STYLE 1** comes as a blank certificate printed in 4-colour with gold edging on 145gsm parchment. The template for the wording can be found on the website for you to change and overprint with your county, date and names.

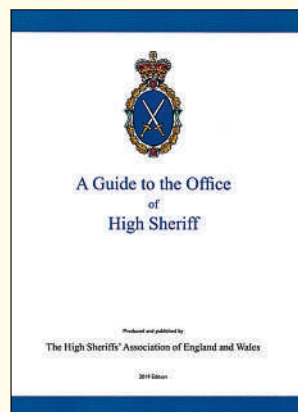
**STYLE 2** lets the High Sheriff, at the time of placing an order, supply the name of the recipient; the name of the Judge or Recorder; and, if known, the date on which the certificate will be presented. All these details are then printed on the certificate in an attractive script.

The price for these certificates, which includes the cost of postage and packing, is:

**Style 1: £15.00 for 10; Style 2: £3.00 each (special quote for more than 10 copies with the recipient's name left blank)**



## PUBLICATIONS



### Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

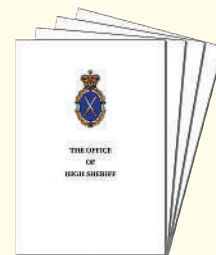
This comprehensive and revised guide outlines the key elements of the role of High Sheriff in the 21st century and gives practical advice to those preparing to take Office  
**£2.80**



**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 **June 2021**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 16 April 2021**.

**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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