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Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

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2021 to November 2022

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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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From the Editor



THIS ISSUE marks the Golden Jubilee of our Association. In well over 1,000 years High Sheriffs have faced many challenges and the last 50 years have been no exception. Legislation in 1971 and 2003 reduced shrieval responsibilities, although streamlining law enforcement, while parliamentary discussion about the nature of shrieval appointments took place in 1998 and 2008. Our Chairman alluded at the AGM to some of these and the Association's responses (pages 6-7).

Captain Jeremy Elwes was High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1969, a year coinciding with two significant publications proposing legal administrative changes. In the first the Royal Commission on Assizes and Quarter Sessions recommended those courts' replacement with the Crown Court throughout England and Wales, and introducing circuit judges instead of chairmen of quarter sessions and borough recorders and presiding High Court judges to oversee circuits. The Committee on the Enforcement of Judgment Debts then recommended the removal of High Sheriffs' responsibilities for writ execution, delegated to Under Sheriffs, whose loss of writ income might be offset by increasing their fees for assize duties – an inoperable notion were assizes abolished, the consequence of the Courts Act 1971. The

Courts Act 2003 eventually transferred execution and enforcement of writs to enforcement officers, removing any shrieval responsibility. The Royal Commission recognised that its and the committee's recommendations would have far-reaching consequences for the role of sheriff but preferred to 'leave this on one side for the consideration by others later'.

Elwes was concerned that without a collective response from High Sheriffs the Office would diminish, if not disappear. They had to be in the vanguard suggesting changes to their role if 'others' would not do so. He published his 'Memorandum on the Office of High Sheriff for the 1970s and the Future', suggesting that the appointment should be available to people from different walks of life, immaterial of the depth of their pocket, and might last for up to five years. He hoped that High Sheriffs would visit all parts of their counties and its hospitals, schools and prisons, himself instigating prison awards. Elwes called a meeting of 50 past and serving sheriffs on 14 April 1971, inaugurating our Association. He was elected chairman and led it through the Shrievalty Millennium celebrations in 1992, retiring the following year.

He was anxious to maintain shrieval ceremony, encouraging all High Sheriffs to start the legal year with a major church service and formal entertainment of the judiciary, while remaining responsible for the wellbeing and accommodation of High Court judges. Although some of his



Captain Jeremy Elwes, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire 1969

proposals went no further, he would be reassured to know that many progressed. In the 21st century nominations are more open, diversity in activities and appointments has increased and all counties hold a major annual gathering to honour and thank the upholders of the Queen's Peace. I hope that he'd also be pleased that our Chairman's uncle married one Elwes and the Editor's mother-in-law was another.

Positive self-generated shrieval evolution over the past 50 years has been accompanied by legislation recognising the serious purpose of the Shrievalty – for instance the Local Government Act 1972 stating that 'Sheriffs ... shall be known as High Sheriffs' (although both terms have been used interchangeably for centuries). The Representation of the People Act 1983 confirmed that High Sheriffs were returning officers for county constituencies while the Courts Act 2003 (despite abolishing shrieval writ responsibility) confirmed the Sheriffs Act 1887 requirement that High Sheriffs' Declarations should be made only before High Court judges or magistrates.

Without the inspiration of our Association's founders I question whether we would read so many imaginative and constructive articles in this anniversary issue. Several highlight the plight of both prison staff and inmates, many of whom have devised useful and interesting activities to occupy people during extended lockdowns. The Royal Horticultural Society's Windlesham award to gardeners at HMP Dartmoor is great news and another prison initiative High Sheriffs might pursue – farms and gardens provide much-needed therapy in prisons. Our charity National Crimebeat has thrived during two difficult years, bringing out the best in young people anxious to nip crime in the bud. Clearly the Shrievalty is giving an inspiring lead to surmount the continuing constraints on everyone's lives.

On behalf of the Association's Council, Jayne Lewis, our Production Editor, and Kelly Sadler, the Association's Membership Administrator, I wish High Sheriffs, serving and in nomination, and all readers a Happy Christmas and a fulfilling year ahead.

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

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06

Diary of Forthcoming Events

MARCH 2022 **High Sheriffs in** **nomination for 2022** *March*

The names of the High Sheriffs on the Roll for 2022 will be 'pricked' by Her Majesty The Queen at a private meeting of the Privy Council to be held usually at Buckingham Palace.

National Crimebeat *Tuesday 15 March*

The awards ceremony will take place face to face in London. All projects to be entered must be endorsed by a High Sheriff and submitted by **23 January 2022**. Finalists will be announced shortly after that.

APRIL 2022 **Meeting of co-ordinators** **of regional meetings** *April*

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.

JULY 2022 **Seminar for High Sheriffs** **in nomination for the** **years 2023 and 2024** *Friday 1 July*

The 2022 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Details of the programme and speakers together

with an application form will be sent in mid-May 2022 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2023 and 2024.

OCTOBER 2022 **The Red Mass** *Monday 3 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 current and past High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination who wish to process are invited to coffee beforehand from 8.30 am. There will be a ticket-only reception after the Mass and to obtain tickets, contact Stephen Hart by email at: secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk. A modest charge will be requested to cover the costs to the Thomas More Society, who organise the Mass.

The Ladies' Lunch *Early October*

The annual ladies' lunch will be held in London. When arranged, full details will be sent in May/June 2022 to those ladies who are in nomination.

NOVEMBER 2022 **51st Annual General** **Meeting and Luncheon** *Thursday 3 November*

The Association's 51st AGM and luncheon will be held at Fishmongers' Hall, London. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2022.



The Nomination of **future High Sheriffs** *Saturday 12 November 2022*

This will probably take place in the morning to avoid any clash with the Lord Mayor's Show on that date. The ceremony will take place in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court) at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At the ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 will be read out in court.

The Secretary will write in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2023 and 2024 inviting them to attend. It may be possible for a few 2025 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2025 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend. The numbers allowed into court may be limited due to COVID restrictions.

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

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2021

Chairman's Report 50th Annual General Meeting of the High Sheriffs' Association



WELCOME TO this the 50th AGM of the High Sheriffs' Association. I apologise for the lack of seating, but we felt that it was worth coming to Goldsmiths' Hall today despite the space restrictions, and we will keep the formal business of the AGM as short as possible. I will be giving a short talk about the 50th anniversary at lunch today when you will all be seated and rather more comfortable.

The main work of a High Sheriff nowadays does involve getting round their county, meeting, thanking, connecting and encouraging in person. Of course, this was severely curtailed in the last year and High Sheriffs demonstrated extremely well their ability to be inventive and adaptable. As indeed we, your Council have had to be: getting to grips with Zoom and encouraging the use of Twitter, which I have to say, despite reservations, has proved to be an extremely useful tool in being able to show what High Sheriffs are doing on a day-to-day basis.

The High Sheriffs of 2020-2021 were magnificent, keeping their heads up during difficult times. I very much valued speaking with most during their year, and I hope this was mutual and that we can repeat this in future years.

Council has also been magnificent. I would highlight just a few activities led by Council members: Virginia Lloyd put on an exceptional event at Burghley in July having had to arrange a postponed 2020 mini-Burghley by Zoom in January; Andrew Wells has produced the magazine again to a very high standard – editing the two issues takes up hours of his time, unpaid but not unappreciated; and Amanda Parker has continued her very effective work leading National Crimebeat. Other members of Council have been superb in their willingness to help, advise

and continue to steer the Association forward, but I would like to single out our Honorary Secretary James Williams who has been such a strong support: to me, to Council, to High Sheriffs, to those in nomination and to past High Sheriffs.

We will be asking for your approval that we welcome two new members of Council – Richard Cole, High Sheriff of Rutland in 2020 and Michael Gurney, current High Sheriff of Norfolk. I much look forward to working with them. There are no retirees this year as no one was elected six years ago.

I would finally like to pay tribute to Nick Hopkinson who sadly died earlier this year. He was High Sheriff of Cheshire 2020-2021 and an excellent one by all accounts. I understand that he knew that he had terminal cancer but completed his year with enthusiasm and grace.

So, on behalf of all of our Council, 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.

Chairman's Luncheon Address

- A 50th anniversary is Golden, so it is very appropriate that we are here in Goldsmiths' Hall to celebrate this occasion. We have to thank Captain Jeremy Elwes for his foresight in founding the Association in 1971 which, over the years, has guided nearly 3,000 High Sheriffs and has helped to steer the Shrievalty through some difficult times.
- The formation of the Association was a turning point: the Association gave cohesion and direction to High Sheriffs enabling them to be more effective within an organisation which still rightly prides itself on letting each bailiwick develop its own style within the law set down by the Sheriffs Act of 1887.
- The first challenge was in 1972, just a year after the Association was formed, when the Assizes were abolished and replaced by a single permanent Crown



High Sheriffs' Association Council members, AGM Goldsmiths' Hall, Nov 2021 L-R
Sarah Beazley, John Young, David Jones, Michael Gurney, Sarah Le May, Richard Cole, Hugh Tollemache, Elizabeth Hunter, Tom Birch Reynardson, John Lee, Andrew Tuggey, James Williams, Andrew Wells, Amanda Parker (absent: Robina Shah, Virginia Lloyd)

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2021

Court. This reduced considerably the duties and importance of the High Sheriff, leaving the ceremonial side intact.

- Then in 1998 the Lord President of the Council gave notice that changes had to be made in the composition of the shrievalty or 1,000+ years tradition of High Sheriffs would be ended. Some of the changes that the Association was told to consider were indeed timely. It was felt that High Sheriffs were nominated from too narrow a section of society, by too narrow a section of society, and that the social base of the Shrievalty should be broadened.
- One of the people instrumental in persuading the Lord President to change her mind and allow the Shrievalty to continue is here today. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Professor Robert Turner, among others, for putting forward very sensible suggestions that resulted in the Lord President backing down.

● Had the Shrievalty not been able to adapt and diversify in the last 50 years, it is unlikely that it would have survived.

● How different the Shrievalty is today. I was interested to find an article that was written just 10 years ago, which stated that 'the Office of High Sheriff is largely a ceremonial and honorary position'. Now, ceremonial is a small but important aspect of the Office. Only a few years ago lady High Sheriffs were a rare species. Next year, in 2022, we will have closed the gender gap to about half and half. We now have a far higher proportion of ethnic minority High Sheriffs than the national average among holders of public appointments.

● Diversity is the life-blood of the Shrievalty. The Nomination Panels are proving enormously successful in ensuring that there is one overriding criterion for those who are nominated – that they have served and will continue to serve their county effectively. It is also important that they should represent the fabric of their county.

● Now, all High Sheriffs are fully aware that they can and will make a difference to their county. They do get their hands dirty; they do work incredibly hard for the whole year, they do want to make a difference and they do succeed in this wonderfully well.

● Youth is not one of the main characteristics of a High Sheriff – never has been. Experience is an essential component, and it is likely that the majority of nominations will continue to be for those over 50. However, old dogs are getting pretty good at learning new tricks, as evidenced by the readiness with which High Sheriffs and those in nomination are taking to Twitter, Zoom, and other social media.

● The benefit of this is very clear – more people are able to see the High Sheriff in action, and to see the range of help that they can give.

● Quite rightly, High Sheriffs concentrate their efforts on the judiciary, emergency services, prisons and helping organisations that keep young people out of trouble – their traditional role. Last year, High Sheriffs needed to adapt and COVID became a focus, however unwelcome.

● This year, I would urge High Sheriffs, and indeed past High Sheriffs, to look at organisations relating positively to climate change. Details of the Queen's Green Canopy have already been circulated to High Sheriffs, and this is an excellent beginning.

● Finally, I do hope that there may be someone here who will say, in 50 years' time (well, I can see a lot of young faces) at our 100th anniversary: 'Well done the Shrievalty. It has continued to adapt to social change, and High Sheriffs continue to give a unique service to their counties.'

● We continue to be proud to serve.



Hugh Tollemache,
Chairman; Gloucestershire 2013-14



WINDSOR CASTLE

The Hon Hugh Tollemache,
Chairman,
High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Council and Members of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Fiftieth Anniversary which is being marked today at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all those who are present for an enjoyable day celebrating this notable anniversary.

ELIZABETH R

4th November, 2021.

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2021

50th Annual General Meeting 4 November 2021

♦ James Williams MBE

*Honorary Secretary to the
High Sheriffs' Association*

THE 50th Annual General meeting was held on 4 November 2021 at Goldsmiths' Hall in London.

It was an outstanding setting for our special 50th anniversary. The numbers attending hit an all-time high of 225 in spite of quite a few late cancellations relating to COVID.

In view of the high numbers and the small size of the available room, the AGM meeting actually took place standing up! At the meeting James Williams and Sarah

Le May were elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Richard Cole (Rutland 2020) and Michael Gurney (Norfolk 2021) were elected to Council and Amanda Parker and Tom Birch Reynardson were re-elected to Council. Amanda Parker gave a brief report about National Crimebeat, which she chairs, and urged all present to consider as much involvement as possible in its activities. During the meeting Robert Turner, a liveryman of the Goldsmiths' Company and a well-known past Queen's Remembrancer, gave a fascinating talk to members' guests in a nearby room about the Goldsmiths' history and current activities.

After the reception there was a wonderful lunch in the magnificent Livery Hall. Just before proposing the loyal toast, our chairman Hugh Tollemache announced that he had recently received a personal letter of best wishes from Her Majesty The Queen which he read out and which was greeted by everyone present with great applause. After the toast Lord Burnett of Maldon, the Lord Chief Justice, gave a most illuminating speech. He mentioned the very considerable work of the judiciary in all its aspects, both civil and criminal, in dealing with the COVID situation and its many repercussions on the court system.



Left: Farooq Hakim (Tyne and Wear 2021), Tim Fooks (W Sussex 2020), Lady Ruggles-Brise (Essex 2011)

Right: Dr Rita Dua, Col David Sneath (Notts 2017)



Left: David Cam (Under Sheriff Lancs), Amanda Parker (Council, Lancs 2017)

Right: Eric Masih (Beds 2021), Harminder Singh (Notts 2021)



RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2021



Andrew Morgan (Gtr London 2009), Mark Burton, Jeremy Burton (W Yorks 2009, past chairman)



Sally Burton (Herts 2022), Wade Lynn (W Mids 2023), V Gordon



Julie Wannop, Alistair Wannop (Cumbria 2017), Bishop Nicholas McKinnel (Devon 2023)



Michael Copestake (Derby 2022), Milan Shah (Northants 2023), Geraldine Feehally (Rutland 2023)



Above: New Council members Michael Gurney (Norfolk 2021), Richard Cole (Rutland 2020, 2024)

Right: Sarah Beazley (Council, Herts 2019), Professor Robert Turner (Speaker; Goldsmith)

Left: Sir Philip Williams (Dorset 2016; Goldsmith), Simon Muir (Berk 2023), Lady Hobhouse, Michelle Sheppard, Sir Charles Hobhouse (Wilts 2021)



Right: David Jones (Council, Gtr London 2013), Senior Master Fontaine, Julian Avery (E Sussex 2004, past president)

Below: Lionel Wallace (Herts 2021), Tom Frost (Glos 2014), Lord Burnett of Maldon (Lord Chief Justice, guest of honour)





Above, L-R:
Mr Justice Linden,
Lord Chief Justice,
Lynn Cooper (High
Sheriff, Greater
London), Lord Justice
Dingemans, Mrs
Justice May

Nomination Ceremony

♦ **David Jones, DL**
Greater London 2013-14; Council member

ON 12 November 2021 High Sheriffs in nomination gathered in Court Four of the Royal Courts of Justice to hear their names read out by the Queen's Remembrancer at a ceremony attended by two or more of the Great Officers of State, Privy Counsellors and the Lord Chief Justice and two or more High Court judges, as prescribed by the Sheriffs Act 1887, s 6 (1).

If the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not attend – and has not done so for many years – the Lord Chief Justice presides, as historically the Barons of the Exchequer did. Students of legal history will recall that the ceremony has its origins in the former Court of Exchequer, the oldest of the Common Law Courts, which in turn owed its name to the chequered cloth spread over the court table for ease of accounting money paid in by the sheriffs. This is one of the few instances when a judge, the Senior Master of the Queen's Bench Division, who is also the Queen's Remembrancer, may wear a hat in court since she is acting as the representative of

Nomination Ceremony



The Sovereign. On this occasion, because of the pandemic, High Sheriffs in nomination were limited to 60 attendees and no guests.

Consorts of High Sheriffs in nomination and their families were invited to attend the ancient Temple Church a few hundred yards away just inside the City of London. The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, whose official title is the Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple, most kindly addressed us himself. He educated those of us whose church and legal history needed brushing up on the formation by the Knights Templar of their base there in the 12th century to facilitate crusades and how this formed the beginnings of the banking system in the City of London. Later, as the need for crusades diminished, buildings were profitably let to barristers and so began the great legal practice of the Temple. High Sheriffs of Pembrokeshire may be tempted to make pilgrimage there to see the marvellous effigies of the Earls of Pembroke.

Meanwhile, across the march in Greater London, the Lord Chief Justice, accompanied by Lord Justice Dingemans, Mr Justice Linden and Mrs Justice May, joined Senior Master Fontaine, the Queen's Remembrancer, in reading out the names of High Sheriffs in nomination for 2022 and 2023.

Above: David Jones, Senior Master Fontaine, Hugh Tollemache

Right, from top: Richard Tilbrook (Clerk of the Privy Council), Marchioness of Lansdowne (Wilts 2022)

Milan Shah (Northants 2023), Dame Irene Lucas-Hays (Tyne and Wear 2023), Alexandra Raikes (Bristol 2022)

James Whitmore (W Sussex 2022), Sarah Beazley (Council, Herts 2019)

Below: Geraint Evans (Clerk to the Queen's Remembrancer), Revd Robin Griffith-Jones (Master of the Temple), Hugh Tollemache, Senior Master Fontaine, Andrew Wells (Kent 2005), Lynn Cooper (Gtr London 2021), Revd Mark Hatcher (Reader of the Temple)



Nomination Ceremony



Rosie and Hugh Tollemache, Pradeep Bhardwaj (Wilts 2023), Kay Marriott (Isle of Wight 2022), David Kelham (Warks 2022), Jeannie France-Hayhurst (Cheshire 2022)

The High Sheriff of Greater London attended and thanked the Judiciary on behalf of the Shrievalty.

The Lord Chief Justice addressed High Sheriffs with his unique view of the office, balancing his comment that the Shrievalty had 63 mentions in Magna Carta because of previous abuses of office, by giving high marks to High Sheriffs for ensuring the welfare of visiting High Court judges in their shires.

After this those attending Court Four joined the party from Temple Church in St Clement Danes for a sumptuous and restoring tea, which set a notably fine pace of shrievel entertainment for those in nomination! The Chairman addressed us and introduced the Queen's Remembrancer, who put the role of High Sheriff usefully into legal and historical context. Those attending generously gave a total of £870 for repairing the church tower (designed by Sir Christopher Wren 1680) and steeple (James Gibbs 1719). In gratitude St Clement have published a St Clement High Sheriffs' cocktail. This magic potion, guaranteed to ensure especially successful High Sheriffs' entertainments in their year of office, is available in *The Cocktail Collection*, published by St Clement Danes Church, with other recipes from the Air Force to make any party fly. If you're quick you might just receive copies in time for Christmas by ordering them from Jules Sherwood, Development Director, St Clement Danes Church Fund (jules.sherwood@stclementdanesraf.org; 020 7242 8282).

Right, from top: Lynn Cooper (Gtr London 2021), Heather Phillips (Gtr London 2022)

Amanda Parker (Council, Lancs 2015), Amelia Ashton (Hants 2023), Lady Edwina Grosvenor (Hants 2022), Marchioness of Lansdowne (Wilts 2022)

Russell Race (Kent 2022), Hugh Tollemache (Chairman, Glos 2012)

Susan Baker (W Yorks 2022), Aisha Karim, Saira Ali, Geraldine Feehally (Rutland 2023)

Below, L-R: Revd Robin Griffith-Jones (Master of the Temple), Sally Burton (Herts 2022), Mark Burton

James and John Crompton, Jennifer Crompton (Cambs 2022)

Jan McKinnel, Bishop Nicholas McKinnel (Devon 2023)



RECENT EVENTS

BURGHLEY



Burghley 2021

◆ Virginia Lloyd DL

Council member; West Yorkshire 2013-14

HOW WONDERFUL it was to be able to hold the seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination at Burghley House this year. After much debate and research into how we could make the event COVID-secure, it was with great pleasure I could confirm to those in nomination that the day could go ahead.

This year, because of the pandemic and to enable social distancing, the seminar took place in a marquee. Luckily, it was the most beautiful July day and the walk to the marquee took us through the rose gardens and we were able to admire the imposing south elevation of the house.

Hugh Tollemache, Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association, gave a warm welcome to all attendees.

The morning programme then commenced with the Right Honourable Lord Justice Coulson, who gave many amusing anecdotes and stressed

how important and valuable the High Sheriffs' hospitality and engagement is to visiting High Court judges.

Our next speaker was Richard Tilbrook, Clerk of the Privy Council. Richard gave a most enlightening talk covering the history of the High Sheriff in both an amusing and informative way. He also brought with him the bodkin with which the names of High Sheriffs are pricked by Her Majesty The Queen.



Above: Council members and speakers l-r: Richard Tilbrook, Lord Justice Coulson, Lee-Ann Williams, James Williams, Virginia Lloyd, Elizabeth Hunter, Marcia Reid Fotheringham, Hugh Tollemache, Rosie Tollemache, Sarah Le May, Kate Holborrow, Sarah Beazley, Simon Miesegaes, Andrew Tuggey, Riaz Ravat

Left: Sarah Le May (Treasurer, Hants 2019), Lord Justice Coulson (speaker), Simon Miesegaes (speaker, Warwicks 2019)

RECENT EVENTS

BURGHLEY



Above, L-R:
Lee-Ann Williams,
Governor at HMP
Swaleside

Richard Tilbrook, Clerk
of the Privy Council

Riaz Ravat, Deputy
Director of St
Philip's Centre

Hugh Tollemache
(Chairman)

Lee-Ann Williams, from HMP Swaleside in Kent, then spoke passionately about her experience there and the steps the prison is taking to build self-esteem and to encourage and enable prisoners to seek a better quality of life.

This was followed by Riaz Ravat BEM DL, Deputy Director of St Philip's Centre, Leicester, who gave us a talk on interfaith understanding which was both fascinating and insightful. He concluded with a quiz which tested our knowledge of diverse faiths.

Our final speaker for the morning session was Andrew Tuggey CBE DL, Association Council member, who spoke in Amanda Parker's absence on National Crimebeat, which Amanda chairs. Andrew also talked about Community Foundations in his capacity as Chair of UK Community Foundations.

We then stopped for lunch, which this year was split into three areas: the Great Hall, the Orangery and the Loggia. Also, another first at Burghley,

all those attending were seated with others from the same region. This seemed to work very well and we received so much positive feedback from those who attended. The lunch was both delicious and convivial, with those in nomination making connections with their soon-to-be neighbouring High Sheriffs.

After lunch, the afternoon session began with Simon Miesegaes, High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2019-20 who gave a wonderful talk about his year of office with much practical and meaningful advice. Simon was followed by Marcia Reid Fotheringham JP DL, High Sheriff of Cumbria 2019-20. Marcia's talk was upbeat and inspirational and again peppered with practical advice.

Finally, Kate Holborrow DL, High Sheriff of Cornwall 2020-21 gave a very helpful and excellent talk on the High Sheriff and communications – such an increasingly important aspect in a High Sheriff's year.



Left: Stephen Simmonds,
Sir Graham (Dusty)
Miller (Glos 2022), Rosie
Moriarty-Simmonds
(S Glamorgan 2022)

Right: Henry Robinson
(Glos 2003), Selina
Graham (Salop 2022),
Lady Lansdowne
(Wilts 2022)



Left: Dr Bharat Khetani
(Cams 2023), Pritty
Khetani, Jennifer
Crompton (Cams
2022), John Crompton

Right: David Bavaird
(Tyne and Wear
2022), Mehmooda
Duke (Leics 2022)



RECENT EVENTS

BURGHLEY

The afternoon finished with a question and answer session which was very lively and demonstrated how engaged all the attendees were with the seminar. We concluded at around 3.30pm and many stayed on for a delicious afternoon tea and a tour of Burghley House.

Huge thanks go to all our wonderful speakers who very generously gave up so much of their time to impart their knowledge and wisdom. Finally, we are grateful to Miranda Rock and the Burghley House Preservation Trust for allowing our seminar to be held in their majestic and magnificent house and garden.



Above: John Feehally, Mark Thorn, Mandy Thorn (Shropshire 2023), Geraldine Feehally (Rutland 2023)

Right: Mike Rice (E Riding 2023), Jacky Bowes (E Riding 2022), Diane Rice, Andrew Bowes

Right:: Alan McViety (Cumbria 2022), Kate Hill-Trevor (Clwyd 2023), Marie McViety, Lt Col Andrew Tuggey (Council)



Right: Sir Timothy Clifford, Lady Clifford (Beds 2022)



Left: Veronica Pickering (Notts 2023), Roy Pickering

Right: Sue Baker (W Yorks 2022), Clive Lloyd (W Yorks 2021)



Left: Mark Granger, Dame Irene Lucas-Hays (Tyne and Wear 2023), Clare Granger (N Yorks 2023)

Right: Nicholas Alston (Essex 2022), Charles Bishop (Essex 2023), Philippa Alston, Nellie Bishop



Thames Valley Multi-Faith Service: In Remembrance, Reflection and Hope

♦ George R Anson

High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2021-22

IN LATE July 2020 as High Sheriffs in nomination for the Thames Valley Region (Willie Hartley Russell MVO DL, Berkshire; George Anson, Buckinghamshire; Imam Monawar Hussain MBE DL, Oxfordshire) we held our first Zoom call to discuss matters of mutual interest in the run-in to our shrieval year. Although our respective Declaration ceremonies were nine months' away, it was clear that we all wanted to be as well prepared as possible so that we could hit the ground running. Besides comparing notes on our individual preparations, we also wanted to get to know each other better as we knew we could and should collaborate by scheduling joint visits to prisons, the police, and other organisations of mutual interest. We agreed to meet virtually every two months to compare notes and track our progress as the dates of our Declarations approached.

At our next call in September, we discussed how we would be dealing with the coronavirus pandemic during our shrieval year. Please remember that in mid 2020 infection rates in the UK were very low, and the outlook was cautiously optimistic. However, as the months passed, we came to realise that this was probably going to be an issue we would be dealing with throughout our year, and we should prepare accordingly.

At this virtual meeting the seed was sown by Monawar Hussain for the Thames Valley High Sheriffs to host a Multi-Faith Service during the year, 'in remembrance, reflection and hope in honour of the victims and their families of the COVID-19 pandemic'. We also agreed to involve the Lord-Lieutenants from our counties, and we quickly established workstreams and responsibilities across our group to make this idea a reality.

A date was proposed of Thursday, 22 July 2021, and a fantastic venue secured at the Rowing Pavilion at Dorney Lake, Windsor. Over the ensuing months a service programme was created featuring messages, readings, and songs from a multitude of faith



Below: Military Cadets far left and far right; The Countess Howe, Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire; George Anson (Buckinghamshire); Imam Monawar Hussain (Oxfordshire); Willie Hartley Russell (Berkshire); James Puxley, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire; and Tim Stevenson OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire



Photos: Marion Mason Photography

RECENT EVENTS

THAMES VALLEY MULTI-FAITH / LADIES' LUNCH



groups, civic leaders and public sector organisations from throughout the Thames Valley region.

As it turned out our date selection was only three days after the end of the lockdown restrictions in the UK, and there were just over 200 attendees from across the three counties who would continue to observe appropriate social distancing measures. One of the highlights of the programme was hearing from Sam Foster, the Chief Nurse for the Oxford hospitals, who administered the very first Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine.

For all of us, this was a triumph of hope over despair, and provided evidence (if any was needed) that the High Sheriff has such an important role to play in today's society.

To see video highlights of this event, please view on YouTube here: youtu.be/SibepTZqAy0.

Our thanks go to all the organisers, faith leaders, and other contributors for a most memorable and moving event.

Top: Willie Hartley Russell (Berkshire); John Campbell QPM, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police; George Anson (Buckinghamshire); and Imam Monawar Hussain (Oxfordshire)

Above: George Anson (Buckinghamshire); Imam Monawar Hussain (Oxfordshire); Sam Foster, Chief Nurse, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; and Willie Hartley Russell (Berkshire)

LADIES' LUNCH 2021

◆ Virginia Lloyd DL

Council member; West Yorkshire 2013-14

After the disappointment of having to cancel last year's Ladies' Lunch, it was a particular pleasure that this year's event could go ahead at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, London.

This year 31 ladies met in the Britannia Bar for a glass of sparkling wine followed by a delicious lunch in the Mountbatten Suite.

Thank you to Antonia Pugh-Thomas who brought a wonderful selection of ladies' court dress and who also gave some very helpful sartorial advice and guidance.

I was delighted by the number of High Sheriffs as well as High Sheriffs in nomination who attended. Our guest speaker was Elizabeth Hunter, High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire in 2010. Elizabeth was a High Sheriffs' Association Council Member and is now the first ever female President of the Association. She gave some practical and wonderful advice for those in nomination. So many ladies who subsequently kindly sent their thanks for the lunch have mentioned how useful Elizabeth's advice was for those in nomination.

Elizabeth's talk was followed by a very helpful question and answer session covering a wide and diverse number of topics.

Thank you to all the ladies who attended from all over the country. I am just so delighted that everybody seemed to get so much out of the event – after all, that is what it is about.



National Crimebeat

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

PLANS FOR the 2022 awards are in progress. The event will be held at the Royal National Hotel in London, and we are grateful to Alex Walduck for his continued support.

Following the sad death of our President and Patron, Richard Walduck, earlier this year, a representative of National Crimebeat attended his memorial at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 2 October. Richard was a remarkable supporter of National Crimebeat and we are very sad to lose him. It is our intention to celebrate his involvement by presenting a Richard Walduck Award at future ceremonies.

The active engagement with High Sheriffs in nomination is paying dividends. At the last High Sheriffs' Association Zoom it was heartening to see at least two counties whose High Sheriffs were determined, for the first time in their county's history, to find a project to nominate for the annual awards. The

support of all members of Council has, without question, contributed to this.

Each year we take all the finalists on the Big Bus tour and then they go on the London Eye. Our previous sponsor for the Eye trip can no longer support us and we estimate this will cost around £900. It is a hugely enjoyable part of the young people's London visit so we are looking for an alternative sponsor for this.

As always, we are looking for new trustees and welcome approaches from those who are in office or who have finished in the past couple of years. The Greater London High Sheriff is an important link with the Metropolitan Police and we are eager to continue with that. We are delighted that Dame Cressida Dick, the Commissioner of the Met, has accepted our invitation to attend the ceremony in March.

We held the 2021 awards ceremony via Zoom, and notwithstanding a couple of technical glitches it was incredibly well attended with around 200 people joining. Families, supporters, charities, dignitaries, sponsors and High Sheriffs present and future were all able to attend. The feedback was so positive that we would like to stream the awards ceremony in 2022 and in future.

We are limited to around 100 physical attendees at the hotel, and streaming the event would allow all those families and supporters to join us. Inevitably there will be a cost involved in this and I do not yet know whether the hotel has the technology or ability to help us with it, but I know people who can!

Our sponsors cover the costs of the prizes that we give to the finalists and the generosity of trustees with their time covers all the running costs in the lead-up to the event. With success come challenges, and one of ours is the extra demands on our time to deliver a successful event. Our sponsors are generous and each year we look to add one or two new ones and all enjoy being involved in the awards ceremony. Any suggestions for sponsors are very welcome.

Entry forms are available for download from the National Crimebeat website www.national-crimebeat.com and queries should be sent to info@national-crimebeat.org.uk.

Below: National Crimebeat Trustees, Goldsmiths' Hall, Nov 2021
L-R: Nicky Weston, Andrew Rayment, Elizabeth Fothergill, Andrew Tuggey, Amanda Parker (Chair), David Jones, Deborah Inskip



The key dates are:

Closing date for entries: **23 January 2022**
Awards Ceremony: **15 March 2022**

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 and High Sheriffs

**Bank holiday weekend,
Thursday 2 to Sunday 5
June 2022**

The busy national programme over the extended weekend covers the lighting of beacons on the 2nd and the Big Jubilee Lunch on the 5th. Major London events include HM The Queen's Birthday Parade (2nd, am), the Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign at St Paul's Cathedral (3rd, am) and the Platinum Party and concert at Buckingham Palace (5th, pm). These three events will be broadcast nationally so High Sheriffs need to be aware of them to avoid clashes of date.

Beacons

The Guide from the Pageantmaster, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons about lighting these has been emailed to High Sheriffs for 2021 and in nomination for 2022 by our Secretary, and is covered under News on the Association website and in www.queensjubileebeacons.com/guide.

To encourage lighting of at least 70 beacons in each county the programme is being coordinated by Lord-Lieutenants' offices. High Sheriffs should contact these if they wish to know more.

Big Lunch

The London lunch will be replicated throughout towns and villages countrywide. High Sheriffs could be involved with their own local lunches, or visit other lunches perhaps in deprived areas or being held by charities for elderly or lonely people.

Green Canopy project

High Sheriffs are no strangers to tree planting. In 1992, to commemorate the Sheriffs' Millennium, our Association's founder Jeremy Elwes presented 1,000 oak saplings to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, as Ranger of Windsor Great Park representing Her Majesty. The Jubilee Green Canopy project will see trees planted throughout counties by Woodland Trust

and International Tree Foundation branches and many local organisations to which High Sheriffs might offer support. During spring and autumn 2022 they could encourage young people to participate in school and club groups, and especially charities involved with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. See www.royal.uk/queens-green-canopy.



GARTER KING OF ARMS RETIRES

Fifteen former High Sheriffs of Lancashire marked the retirement of Sir Thomas Woodcock KCVO as Garter Principal King of Arms with a celebration at Browsholme Hall near Clitheroe, hosted by Robert and Amanda Parker. During his time as Norroy and Ulster King of Arms and latterly as Garter, Sir Thomas advised all those present and other High Sheriffs of Lancashire on the use of their coats of arms. These are hung ceremonially in Lancaster Castle at the start of their shrieval year, as are the arms of the Constables of the Castle. Sir Thomas is a longstanding Lancastrian and, like the High Sheriffs, is a Deputy Lieutenant. Those present congratulated Sir Simon, also the former Lord-Lieutenant, on his imminent 100th birthday.

Standing, L to R: Pamela Barker, Constable of Lancaster Castle; Col Alan Jolley OBE TD (2008); Robert Webb

(2017); Tom Bowring (2002); Catherine Penny (née Woodcock; 2020); Edwin Booth CBE (2021); Dennis Mendoros OBE (2010); Hon Ralph Assheton TD (2019); Peter Robinson OBE (2006); Tony Attard OBE (2018)

Seated L to R: Suzie Reynolds (2009); Rodney Swarbrick CBE (2000); Amanda Parker (2015); Sir Thomas Woodcock KCVO; Gail Stanley MBE (2004); Sir Simon Towneley KCVO (1971); Lady Shuttleworth (1999)





Traditions and technologies

BY MY calculations, there have been 777 High Sheriffs overseeing Buckinghamshire since 1125. Clearly centuries of traditions to uphold and cherish in our county.

Yet because of the lockdown restrictions imposed earlier this year, my Declaration ceremony on 26 March was only the second to have been held virtually. All the necessary protocols were followed, and thankfully we were all much more experienced with the use of video conferencing than we were twelve months ago, so it all went off without a hitch.

But it brings into sharp relief how technology has redefined the role of the High Sheriff. It became clear to me in the run-up to my shrieval year that to project my plans and ambitions to a broader audience then it would be necessary to embrace and enjoy using social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Image is now as important as impact, and if I cannot be seen in person, then there must be a visual alternative to get the message across. By using regular video calls on MS Teams or Zoom to introduce myself as the new High Sheriff early in 2021 it enabled me to set up



Declaring the results of the Chesham and Amersham by-election on 17 June

meetings and visits for later in the year when the lockdown restrictions were lifted.

And so it has proved. By using the modern technology tools available, I have been able effectively to plan and then execute the traditional events that each High Sheriff hopes to achieve during the 12 short months that we are in office. I now not only have a diary that records my endeavours in writing, but also many photographs that will enhance the experience for future High Sheriffs.

The accompanying images reflect a cross-section of the many and varied activities that I have undertaken during the year. Being the returning officer for the Chesham and Amersham by-election on 17 June where the Liberal Democrat candidate, Sarah Green, overturned a massive Conservative majority was certainly a unique experience.

In closing, I should also mention that I have developed very good working relationships with all the High Sheriffs in my neighbouring counties by having regular scheduled Zoom calls before our shrieval years had started to discuss matters of mutual interest. Rather than operating autonomously we have shared our best practices, and that has enhanced our year immeasurably. We now meet each other regularly at events across the counties, and at High Sheriffs' Association gatherings. Firm friendships have been formed.

It also reflects that we are in a new paradigm. This is the way in which the traditional High Sheriff will operate in this modern world. I look forward to the balance of my year using technology and social media to enable me to achieve the best possible results for the Office of the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

George R Anson

High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2021-22



Thames Valley Police and High Sheriffs meet (left to right) Willie Hartley Russell MVO DL (Berkshire), George Anson (Buckinghamshire), John Campbell QPM (Chief Constable), Imam Monawar Hussain MBE DL (Oxfordshire) and Matthew Barber (newly elected Police & Crime Commissioner)



George Anson with the Urban Search and Rescue team at Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue in Aylesbury



George Anson at the traditional Weighing-In Ceremony of the Mayor of High Wycombe (Cllr Andrea Baughan)



Thanks to those who jab

AS MY High Sheriff's year approached, plans for my Declaration ceremony would adapt with each government announcement until it became clear that it would not be at a venue, celebrating with family and friends but instead via Zoom, albeit joined remotely by even more guests.

However, the vaccination programme offered hope of some normality, and indeed, it's where I started my year in earnest. I decided to visit all of the mass vaccination sites across Cheshire, Warrington and Halton to meet and thank the groups who had come together to offer us some protection against COVID. A few weeks later, after many calls and emails to a myriad of NHS groups, I reached those given the responsibility for operating the different sites and my idea was welcomed and seen as a timely morale booster for the staff.

By the end of April, vaccinators had been relentlessly jabbing arms for months with the prospect of many more to come. Volunteers had been manning car parks and directing traffic throughout the winter in all weather and it was felt that it was a perfect time to visit and express gratitude to them all.

The sites chosen had to be of a certain scale, with parking and space allowing people to move through while maintaining social distancing, so it was no surprise that a number of sports clubs were identified, and as a result of great partnership work between the public,

private and voluntary sectors, they were fully operational within weeks.

I visited Warrington and Widnes rugby clubs, Chester Racecourse and Alderley Science Park, along with a number of smaller venues. BBC North West news filmed my visit to the Warrington Islamic Centre in a community where take-up had been slower but also to recognise that the centre was fully operated by volunteers.

Meeting and thanking all of the teams carrying out this lifesaving work has been a humbling experience. The brilliant NHS staff have been supported by volunteers from many organisations including St John Ambulance and the Royal Voluntary Service. Cheshire Fire and Rescue staff volunteering on their days off have given nearly 100,000 jabs.

At Alderley Science Park, I also visited one of three Lighthouse Labs in the UK, commissioned by the government to process the millions of PCR tests that so many of us have taken and where COVID variants of concern are identified – critical work that again is helping to save lives.

Thanks to the relaxations enabled by the vaccines, I have now been able to meet many of our superb first responders who have risked their own health throughout the pandemic to help us all. More about this in a future article, together with stories of our amazing charities and the volunteers who support them.

Finally, in early September we received the terribly sad news that my

Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to (above left) Suzanne Edwards, Director Cheshire and Wirral NHS Trust and volunteers at the Chester Race Course mass vaccination centre; (above) NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group vaccination team at Widnes Vikings rugby stadium



With Mark Wigglesworth, Site Director, Alderley Park Lighthouse Lab



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to NHS Warrington Primary Care team at the Warrington Wolves rugby stadium

predecessor, Nick (Hoppy) Hopkinson, had died following a short illness. Hoppy was a philanthropist, an ideas man and an incredible fundraiser who affected so many lives for the better and will be greatly missed.

Robert Mee DL
High Sheriff of Cheshire 2021-22



Emerging from COVID – a merging of the years

MY SHRIEVAL year began with my Declaration on Zoom and sadly the first three months' engagements were few and far between because of lockdown. However, I spent the time organising the fundraising concert I was planning that would raise funds for the Back Stage of the Buxton Opera House. This Matcham theatre is a vital cultural and architectural asset to the county.

My first engagement was an interview on BBC Radio Derby about the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and attending the live streaming of the Commemorative Service for His Royal Highness held in Derby Cathedral.

My first actual event was to attend the reopening of Poole's Cavern in Buxton, a wonderful tourist attraction with crystal stalactites and stalagmites renowned as the finest underground scenery in the UK.

Much of the first three months was spent in conversations and Zoom meetings with Tony Walker, last year's High Sheriff, as COVID brought about a merging of the years.

Tony says: 'I am very grateful to Louise for allowing the presentation of Derbyshire Beacon of Hope Awards in her year. Awards have been made to 150 individuals and organisations that had gone over and beyond what anyone

could have expected, serving their local communities during the pandemic. Recipients were identified online by public nomination through the Derbyshire County Council and Derby City websites and received certificates signed by the Lord-Lieutenant, both Louise and me, and the County Council Leader and Chair, or the City Council Leader and Chief Executive, plus a nice badge with our specially designed logo. It took some time to agree and organise this scheme and so while it was launched in my year all the presentations took place in Louise's. Recipients varied from schools to local shops, to health and community



High Sheriff Louise Potter outside Buxton Opera House



Peak pilgrimage with Ven Bob Jackson, George Gillespie OBE, Ken Sharples, Tony Walker (High Sheriff 2020-21), Bishop of Derby Rt Revd Libby Lane, Richard Cole, High Sheriff of Rutland 2020-21



Derbyshire boundary cycle ride: Lord Burlington (High Sheriff 2019-20) and Lee Timmis, world record-holder for the fastest cycle across Europe (3rd and 4th from right)

organisations, to individuals who just helped their neighbours. I am also very grateful to the Lord-Lieutenant, a team of Deputy Lieutenants and senior county councillors for making the presentations. All recipients were delighted to be recognised and we had some very heart-warming and touching ceremonies.

'Like other High Sheriffs in 2020-21 much of my year was virtual, but one event we could do was the High Sheriff's Peak Pilgrimage, walking 39 miles from Ilam to the plague village of Eyam. We walked in September, during the relaxation of lockdown restrictions at that time, and in socially distanced groups of six, over four days. Walking to Eyam in the COVID year was so poignant as we remembered the villagers' self-sacrifice during the plague of 1665-6. We saw beautiful scenery, had wonderful moments of reflection and an excellent service at Eyam when we finished.'

Also in September, Lord Burlington, High Sheriff in 2019-20, completed his 208-mile county boundary cycle ride – another merging of the High Sheriffs' years.

My visit to police headquarters at Ripley left a great impression on me. Listening to the 999 calls I was struck with the amount of social issues the police have to deal with on a daily basis. My thoughts and support go to our judges and magistrates, the prison and probation services, the police and emergency services. I am looking forward to the Legal Service to be able to meet them in person.

◆ Louise Potter DL
High Sheriff of Derbyshire 2021-22



No shortage of areas for focus

DECLARING IN Exeter's Guildhall, the oldest civic building still in use in the UK, where Judge Jeffreys held court, has framed my year so far.

It took a little while to feel my way into the role. The amount of research and administration is not inconsiderable, and I have found that with people changing jobs, working from home, and the challenges of running the business or organisation that they do, keeping up with the annual change of High Sheriff has been low on the list of priorities. However, I have been warmly welcomed once I made the approach, and visits and articles have been appreciated.

With two Crown and County Courts, two Coroner's Courts, Magistrates' Courts, Tribunals, three prisons, a probation service that has 'renationalised' (and will take four years to fully embed), and emergency services that overlap neighbouring counties, and civic responsibilities, there is no shortage of areas for focus.

Early on, I became even more aware of the many organisations, charities and volunteers that work with and 'satellite' around all these areas, and how many have adapted to continue delivering much of what they do through the pandemic months. Organisations like Citizens Advice and the Devon Community Foundation have responded creatively, and have found, as have others, new and more accessible ways of being available and giving the support so badly needed.

The increasing use of social media by High Sheriffs is a welcome development broadening the reach of the role, and as an effective way of rapid updates on the day-to-day goings-on in the many areas of interest. It is also time-consuming and needs constant vigilance to avoid potential Pooh traps.

The WhatsApp group for the Western Circuit set up in November quickly morphed into monthly Zoom drinks, and has been a great source of encouragement, advice and sharing, and also a pleasure; again, an unexpected upside of the pandemic in that we see each other much more than we might otherwise have.

The Lord Chief Justice held a Court of Appeal hearing in Exeter, only the second in recent memory. There being no room on the bench, I watched and listened from the witness box, only slightly surreal. It was a thorough, thoughtful and impressive process.

Visiting the prisons is salutary, but again, there have been unexpected upsides. As wings have been shut down, there has been a reduction in bullying as a result of reduced indebtedness among prisoners, and a stronger sense of community on landings. The staff have found ways to keep prisoners engaged with distraction packs of Sudoku, crosswords, and painting by numbers kits, and have also managed to keep literacy teaching going with individual learning packs, some prisoners doing much better with these than in the



Drawing of Court of Appeal hearing at Exeter Combined Court by court artist Elizabeth Cook; Below L-R with Mr Justice Gurnham, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Linden



classroom environment. I was delighted that HMP Dartmoor received the much under-publicised RHS Windlesham Trophy for the best prison garden – no mean feat inside a granite fortress on the top of a moor – where they have a nursery and grow vegetables.

I have recently discovered who was the first woman Sheriff in Devon. While spellings vary, National Archives and other records agree that William the Conqueror made 'that famous knight Baldwin de Brionius, hereditary sheriff of Devon' in 1068. His son Richard inherited it, and after his death in 1137 the office passed to his sister, Adelise fitz Baldwin, who held it until her death in 1142. She styled herself 'Vice-Commitissa Devon'. I rather like that!

♦ Lucy Studholme

Lady Studholme, High Sheriff of Devon 2021-22



With the High Sheriff of Cornwall Mark Thomas and the Governor Steve Mead at HMP Dartmoor



An award for outstanding bravery for Firefighter Shakespeare from Chief Fire Officer Lee Howell



Selflessness in many forms

My shrieval year started on 26 March when I made my Declaration in the court of the Resident Judge and Honorary Recorder of Durham at Durham Crown Court, His Honour Judge Adkin. It was very much socially distanced and only attended by seven of us, but the court kindly streamed it live to allow my sons and daughters-in-law and other friends to watch the ceremony.

The first few months were relatively quiet due to COVID-19 restrictions, although I attended a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in Durham Cathedral. It was a moving service.

I attended the Richardson Hospital in Barnard Castle at the end of April to help them celebrate Teesdale Primary Care Network administering their 20,000th COVID-19 vaccine. At that time, their vaccination rate was one of the highest in the country. I was impressed with the Dunkirk spirit of all the staff and volunteers, ably led by Dr Dilys Waller.

Judge Adkin has authorised three Crown Court Awards under the Criminal Law Act 1926, Section 28. I presented the first one in April to Jemma Wood who stopped her car after observing a serious road traffic accident on the A68 in September 2018. She called the emergency services and then stayed on the



Inspecting Air Cadets following the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service in Durham Cathedral

scene offering words of comfort to those who were trapped in the motor vehicles having suffered severe injuries. The certificate stated this was a 'particularly notable act of kindness and selflessness'.

I undertook another presentation of Crown Court Awards at Horden to each of the Singh brothers who were actively involved in the apprehension of somebody who had attempted armed robbery in their family's general store.

The Commemoration of the Battle of Britain organised by the Durham and Northumberland Wing Air Cadets was held at Durham Cathedral in September

and was followed by the cadets' parade. This was the first time that they had been together since spring 2020.

HRH the Duke of Gloucester opened the revamped Globe Theatre at Stockton at the end of September and was shown the extensive restoration works.

Early in my year I unveiled some benches at the Wetlands Trust in Langley Park. This area has been reclaimed from derelict ground and converted into a sanctuary for under-privileged children to visit and see the wildlife along the river bank.

The County Durham Community Foundation has been extremely helpful in directing me to support local charities in the county. I appreciate their help and will be supporting the High Sheriff's Charitable Fund within the Foundation.

I attended St Margaret's Centre in Durham City to celebrate its 30th anniversary and saw the good work carried out by an enthusiastic and committed group of helpers and volunteers in dealing with adult mental health issues. It has been a privilege to see how many good things are done by so many people. I would not have experienced this if I had not had the honour of serving the county as its High Sheriff.

J Robert Harle

High Sheriff of the County Palatine of Durham 2021-22



Judge Adkin, Jemma Wood with her court award, High Sheriff



Harjeevan Lally and Jaskarran Lally Singh receiving their court awards from the High Sheriff



Connecting over breakfast

AS I write this article, I will have completed the first half of my year as High Sheriff. What no one can prepare you for is the huge variety that a High Sheriff will encounter in their year.

Government restrictions in April meant that the date of my Declaration at Little Driffield Church had to be changed and the guest list reduced from 40 to 15. Also our summer reception followed by our civic garden party the next day was postponed from June until July and then unfortunately cancelled – it didn't feel right to go ahead. Despite these setbacks I have not had too many restrictions apart from social distancing, smaller gatherings, face masks and fewer civic ceremonies.

At my Declaration I set out my aims for the year with my special interest being Early Intervention. I organised a 25-mile sponsored bike ride to raise money for the Tribune Trust, a unique partnership between the High Sheriffs of the East Riding and Lincolnshire, Humberside Police, and Humberside Fire & Rescue. The trust is especially keen to support initiatives which involve young people because early intervention is so important in helping them head in the right direction in life. The bike ride was a huge success and thanks to everyone's generosity over £16,000 was raised, with Gift Aid to add to this figure.

It was important to thank as many organisations and people as possible for all that they achieved during the pandemic and to thank the volunteers on the vaccination programme. Wherever I went I was met with such enthusiasm and a feeling of better times ahead.

The police have been outstanding, giving their time to show me all aspects of policing.



At the Slavery Remembrance Day commemoration with Angela Murden (centre left), Hull AFRO Caribbean Association, Siddi Majubah and Bongi Mokone

The police community support officers work tirelessly to integrate all members of society with their tact and humour.

The opportunity to visit any organisation in the county is something I will never experience again. The variety is staggering – sitting on the bench with a High Court judge at a murder trial followed the next day joining litter pickers and then delivering on behalf of the food bank.

I enjoyed hosting recently a High Sheriff's Breakfast which managed to join

Below left: Richard Shepherdson with volunteers for the charity bike ride

Below right: At the wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the R38/ZR-2 airship disaster. With Lord Mayor of Hull, Admiral of the Humber, Cllr Lynn Petrini, Graham Petrini, Air Commodore Ian Stewart CBE DL RAF, Air Vice Marshal Clare Walton QHP RAF and Captain Kevin Quaderer USN



Issi and Richard Shepherdson with Ashley Mason (Sheriff of York and CPG Chair for Humberside) for the dedication of a new ambulance

leading representatives of the Lieutenancy, judiciary, police, fire and rescue, business, agriculture, education, health, church and sport with local charities. Many new connections were made that morning.

I look forward to so much more planned before my year comes to an end soon after my Legal Service in March.

Richard Shepherdson
High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2021-22





Behind Bras

WHAT A roller coaster it was before Installation in 2021. Would it be Zoom? Would it be 'in real life'? In the end my Declaration ceremony took place discreetly at home in the garden in the presence of my (socially distanced) close family. As I read my Declaration from the top of the garden steps, I was amused to see my new and not yet met next-door neighbours arrive home and look with astonishment over the hedge. They looked totally perplexed at the Sunday morning fancy dress activity next door. Fortunately, I did not lose my place and my Queen's Commissioners were able to report that I had read my Declaration in full without errors.

The plans I had made in the preceding years had been rewritten several times in the light of the pandemic. In the end I made as many contacts as I could and for the first few weeks spoke to many people on the phone or on Zoom and was delighted when I was actually welcomed for 'in person' visits. Since April, the balance has changed considerably and I am pleased that I am now able to make actual visits on an almost daily basis.

The variety of invitations to the High Sheriff has been considerable. One of my first engagements was to attend an open-

air service to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Chernobyl hosted by the Bolton Ukrainian Association. The spine-tingling a cappella singing of the choir was truly memorable, despite the fact that they had been unable to rehearse together for months. In contrast, shortly afterwards we visited the Lancashire Mining Museum, run entirely by volunteers, and were privileged to drive the steam engine.

It has been illuminating to visit the four prisons within Greater Manchester together with HMP Styal which is just in Cheshire, so I made a joint visit with the High Sheriff of Cheshire. The outcome has been 'Behind Bras', which I have set up to collect new underwear for women prisoners as a short-term measure until their sewing unit can be reopened to employ prisoners to make bras and knickers which are currently in very short supply. This is being enthusiastically supported by Greater Manchester magistrates and also the staff at HMP Buckley Hall. I have been able to make connections for Buckley Hall to explore hospitality training within the prison to enable men about to be released to gain skills to help them find jobs.

The absolute highlight of my year so far was the visit of HM The Queen when I had the honour of welcoming her to Greater Manchester before Her Majesty was whisked off to the *Coronation Street* studios. Such a privilege to meet her before continuing my day by hosting all the Greater Manchester mayors for afternoon tea at Bibbys Farm, which is owned by Bolton Scout Trust and caters for the needs of over 20,000 visiting children each year. I am fortunate to chair the trust, which won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2016 and is now seeking £750,000 to replace its Activity Barn.

The diary of a High Sheriff is one of enormous variety and contrast. There is a great deal to do and experience before April 2022!

◆ Diane Hawkins JP DL
High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2021-22



Making my Declaration as High Sheriff at home



Entertaining Greater Manchester mayors at Bibbys Farm



Visiting Lancashire Mining Museum with husband Stephen



Visit of Her Majesty The Queen



Less furtive and more normalised

AS WITH all other High Sheriffs of 2021 I had a slow start. On 20 March my Declaration ceremony went ahead amid consternation and concern. As a fully masked gathering of 30 people in the lofty nave of Hereford Cathedral it seemed somewhat unearthly and strange, but incredibly personal and with that perhaps even more special than the norm. With my long green velvet coat and broad hat with its feather, the addition of a matching mask gave the Sheriff an olde worlde vibe. Indeed, as we left the cathedral I heard a young boy exclaiming: 'Look over there, mum, it's Robin Hood!'

The year has ticked by and with that the COVID stress has decreased, and activity has become less furtive and more normalised. The COVID silver lining may have been that large gatherings have been abandoned so that smaller and more intimate presentations, meetings and interactions have been much more common. This has given me an opportunity to really get to know the people in the community.

And what an opportunity it is. I have worked all my married life on our estate in north-west Herefordshire which I took over from my father, so although always part of the wider Herefordshire community I was focussed on farming. Seeing a much greater and broader life has been such a privilege and truly humbling, and, although a cliché, I know all High Sheriffs



Photo: Sally Corrick

My Declaration at Hereford Cathedral with, left to right, Rt Revd Bishop of Hereford; Mrs Libhin Bromley JP; High Sheriff, Patricia Thomas High Sheriff 2020; His Honour Daniel Pearce-Higgins QC (Honorary Recorder of Hereford); Revd Andrew Mottran (High Sheriff's Chaplain 2020); Revd Ben Griffiths (High Sheriff's Chaplain 2021); Jeremy Wilding Under Sheriff, Herefordshire

of today would agree with me. Although I am not going to list the work I have seen – from the police to air ambulance; from the judiciary to the fire brigade; by charities of all shapes and sizes; by individuals and groups and volunteers sung and unsung – everything has been a pleasure. It has made me appreciate even more how very lucky I am to be part of the fabric of this part of England; and I take enormous, if slightly vicarious, pride in all of them.

I currently chair Visit Herefordshire so part of my work has been to carry this on promoting Herefordshire as a less visited treasure of the national tourism landscape. Alongside this, although I decided not to really have a 'theme' to my year, mental health is high on everyone's agenda and has remained very much at the forefront

of mine, but there are too many charities and too much work going on in so many charity sectors that it would be churlish to ignore any of them.

High Sheriffs are becoming quite au fait with social media, including me! Although we had Twitter workshops prior to taking office, I find Instagram a more suitable medium alongside Facebook. Starting from scratch I now have over 1,000 followers. My audience is the Herefordshire general public, rather than the businesses and charities which already know about High Sheriffs, and in this I believe I have helped raise the profile of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire while showing engagement in local charity and the services.

I have also started a podcast where on a bi-weekly basis I interview interesting Herefordshire characters, representing a large diversity from the well-known (Dame Kate Bingham and Quentin Letts) to local people punching above their weight, such as vaccine clinic volunteers, police officers, 15-year-old St John Ambulance cadets, a Duchy farmer who founded a mental health charity (We Are Farming Minds), and COVID superheroes. Search 'Bench Talk Jo Hilditch' on any podcast platform.

Six months and counting... much more to come – can't wait!

Joanna Hilditch DL
High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2021-22



High Sheriff Jo Hilditch's podcasts with Dame Kate Bingham and Quentin Letts



Investing in young leaders

I STARTED my year in April with a live Declaration ceremony and service, presided over by the Lord Bishop of St Albans in the iconic St Albans Cathedral. The forecasted snow in the morning gave way to glorious sunshine beaming through ancient stained-glass windows. Working for over 42 years with young people, they were always going to be my chosen area of focus. 'Youth in Herts' is my three-pillar theme for the year, focusing on increasing opportunities for young people.

The first pillar, building character in schoolchildren through the Young Leaders Award, is a programme developed by The Archbishop of York Youth Trust and delivered as part of school resourced activities. The programme supports the building of great citizenship characteristics. The second pillar looks to discover that 'Duvet Flip' as my friend Jack Parsons, President of The Youth Group, would say, i.e. the thing that gets young people out of bed in the morning, inspires them and motivates them to be entrepreneurial. Working with key stakeholders to create and signpost youth mentoring, employment and business opportunities is an important aspect of this pillar. The third pillar looks at how we increase youth

engagement in the magistracy. I urge you to take a look at the chart I have developed under 'Themes' on my website www.hsoh.org.uk which highlights a significant age diversity challenge affecting the way young defendants view our judicial system. Encouraging young people to consider this critical area of community volunteering is the objective of what is known as the '30' under 30' project. I am greatly assisted by the University of Hertfordshire Law School and have created a multi-stakeholder steering committee to guide some initiatives and a proposed research project. The developing youth and business engagement is very encouraging.

My predecessor Henry Holland-Hibbert, who executed an amazing year in unprecedented times, had prepared me well for potentially disruptive COVID-19 restrictions. I therefore deliberately planned a major event for the summer when we returned to the cathedral for International Youth Day on 12 August. Some 24 youth organisations exhibited. The intent was to platform great opportunities for young people, but we also found the event was amazingly successful in allowing county organisations to learn

Below left: Gospel Singing with neighbouring High Sheriffs: Michael Gurney DL (Norfolk), Lynn Cooper (Greater London), Simon Brice DL (Essex), Lionel C Wallace, Eric Masih (Bedfordshire), Edward Creasy (Suffolk) and Patrick George (UPMASS Choir Director, Britain's Got Talent participant), Sonia George (UPMASS Choir).
View online at www.facebook.com/Upmass07/videos/108646418105116/

Below centre: Lionel Wallace with his wife Dawn and sons John-Ellis and Jeremiah Joshua

Below right: At the Youth Talk stall (International Youth Day Exhibition) with High Sheriff's cadet, Belle Creighton



High Sheriff's Declaration with Hon Henry Holland-Hibbert (2020)

more about each other. We launched the Magistrates Support Scheme which will be administered by Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and available to members and non-members alike. Businesses signing up to the scheme offer company awareness training to staff and paid leave to sitting magistrates, a support many younger applicants would find essential. The event provided opportunity for a neighbouring High Sheriffs' liaison group meeting, with speakers from Hertfordshire Community Foundation, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Magistrates' Association, not to mention a rendition of some uplifting Gospel singing and swaying!

Lionel C Wallace DL
High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2021-22





ISLE OF WIGHT

News from and about members

Lifting the lid on the Isle of Wight

COPING WITH last-minute changes are part of life and High Sheriffs are not exempted! April 14 saw a much simpler Declaration than envisaged with a handful of attendees and the High Sheriff's chaplain attending by Zoom. The online theme has featured heavily this year and I am sure it will remain a key communication tool in running a successful year.

An invitation from the New Carnival Company to join the launch of National Children's Carnival Week was an exciting first introduction into attending a 'live' event. After lockdown gloom it was inspiring to see young people creating a positive message using dance, music and creativity to present 'mini-carnivals' in multiple locations. Maintaining the dignity of the office while being asked to practise some disco moves with the amazing performers was an early test!

A constructive contact with the Chair of the Bench prompted a focus on the work of magistrates and a reception was hosted by the High Sheriff at Shanklin Chine to thank them and the court staff for their hard work especially over the last 18 months. To underline the commitment magistrates provide, a long-service award was presented to Steve Howe – retiring after 39 years as a magistrate.

The links between our armed services and the local community have been a strong theme since April. In May I was honoured to be present at a memorial service for 40 Commando attended by serving and veteran Royal Marines from all over the UK. The pandemic has delayed so many important events – Arreton Church hosted a moving 76th VJ Day Anniversary service attended by several veterans – one of 100 years of age. I was thrilled to hear their stories. Cowes Week was lucky to have HMS *Ledbury* as guard ship – the Royal Navy went to great lengths to help strengthen bonds with the Island community.

One standout element this year has been the privilege to engage with the invaluable charitable sector. I was delighted to present medals to some of



The New Carnival Company – National Children's Carnival Week Launch at Barding Roman Villa with High Sheriff (right)



Presenting Steve Howe, retiring magistrate, with his long-service award

those who 'Walked the Wight' to raise funds for the Mountbatten Hospice – numbers were down but this great event was back. My focus for the year is mental health – especially relating to young people; I have visited many charities in this sector facing rapidly rising referrals



Above right: With Sarah Dunsterville and Abbie James at the Wave Project, Sandown Beach



With Alec Penstone at Arreton Church VJ Day Anniversary service

and stretched resources. The Isle of Wight High Sheriff's Trust has been making awards for mental health training for organisations such as Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and the Isle of Wight Youth Trust.

Using the natural environment to improve mental health has been a particular interest and it was fascinating to meet with the Wave Project using the Island's wonderful coast to build confidence and resilience in young people through surfing; on land, Wight Horse CIC was delivering similar advantages through working with horses.

It's only September so a busy six months ahead!

♦ **James Attrill DL**
High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight 2021-22



Law and order – no stone left unturned

THE FIRST few months of my term of office as the High Sheriff of Kent have proved to be as busy – perhaps hectic is a more appropriate description – and as enjoyable as I could have anticipated. However, it probably does not come as a surprise to hear that, due to the pandemic, my year did not begin exactly as I had planned.

Arrangements for my Declaration ceremony were affected by COVID restrictions and the agreed date was changed out of respect for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as it coincided with his funeral. The ceremony was held with a limited attendance in my local church, St Margaret's Rainham, and was live-streamed. His Honour Judge Griffith-Jones QC oversaw events, with Lord Reed (President of the Supreme Court) reading the Royal Warrant from the Privy Council. The Declaration was witnessed by Mandy Samrai JP, who is now the Chair of the North Kent Magistrates' Bench – a position I previously held (see <https://vimeo.com/540640641/1402f530fe>).

My main focus has been supporting the police and emergency services, especially considering the challenges and pressures they have faced over the past 18 months and my engagements

in that regard have been many and various. I have made a number of visits to departments of Kent Police, including the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, the Special Constabulary, the Rural Crime Task Force, the armed response team and the force control room, as well as several individual police stations across the county. An invitation to inspect the work of the Border Force in Dover and witness its anti-smuggling operations proved to be particularly illuminating.

As well as visiting all of Kent's seven prisons, I have arranged for a group of well-connected businesspeople, known as the Kent Ambassadors, to visit HMP Stanford Hill – an open prison for low category offenders on the Isle of Sheppey. This will take place in November, with a view to offering employment opportunities to offenders on release. The victims of crime have not been forgotten, and a visit to a women's refuge in Thanet gave an insight into the effects of domestic abuse.

As a former Chairman of the Bench, it is hardly surprising that I have made it a priority to visit several magistrates' courts, especially North Kent Magistrates where I was presented with a copy of a photograph taken when I was appointed in 1993.



At Tunbridge Wells Police Station with Insp Ian Foster, PC Henry Jewitt, PC Jake Cooper and Chief Insp Omid Changizi

I have been delighted to be involved in many awards ceremonies such as the Rainham Eco-Hub, a group endeavouring to improve the local environment, the Kent Fire and Rescue volunteers as well as attending the celebration of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Kent Bloodrunners, who perform a vital service transporting blood between hospitals.

Naturally I have been delighted to accept invitations to be the guest speaker at meetings of several Rotary Clubs, as well as other community groups across the county. It is a complete honour to serve as High Sheriff in this historic county and I look forward to continuing that role for the remainder of my year of office.

John Weir JP

High Sheriff of Kent 2021-22



Presentation to John Weir by Mackenzie Cameron JP, Mandy Samrai JP (Bench Chair) and Mandy Ellis JP



John Weir with paramedics from South East Coast Ambulance Service and Neil Davis (CEO Medway Council) on 999 Day



Solitude, sunshine and... breakfasts

DESPITE THE complex set of circumstances caused by the pandemic I took up my post as High Sheriff of Leicestershire in March. As the city of Leicester was one of the very first places in the United Kingdom to be 'locked down' due to COVID-19, much of the activity I had planned for my shrieval tenure needed to be adapted to address the challenges we all faced.

As a proud Leicester lad, I am immensely honoured to represent the county I've called home for my entire life and to continue the charitable activities undertaken by my predecessors for the place I love. I very much value the connection I maintain to Leicester and Leicestershire not only through my business activities, but also via the charitable trust I founded with my wife, Clare.

Following the long winter lockdown, as the country began to 'open up' this summer, I took the opportunity to cycle from my home in rural Leicestershire to Spey Bay in Scotland, 60 miles north of Aberdeen, a journey of 560 miles. Clare joined me on the first day of cycling and we enjoyed being out on the road together. The aim of the journey was to raise valuable funds for five worthy charities. Thanks to incredibly generous support we managed to raise £25,000 in

donations, which Clare and I personally matched bringing the total to £50,000.

Helping those around me has always been a key part of my life and when COVID-19 challenged us all, I looked for ways I could fundraise without relying on everyone being in a room together. I've always enjoyed cycling so combining this with my love of Scotland – and in particular, Spey Bay, a favourite fishing spot – meant it was a great ride. Many people thought I was a little crazy to do it during the hottest week of the year, but it was a glorious journey and I thoroughly enjoyed the solitude, the sunshine and the refuel breakfasts.

I also met up with my long-term friend Bob Woods, with whom I founded Mattioli Woods Plc in 1991 – so this year we celebrate 30 years in business together. The icing on the cake of what has been, and continues to be, an incredible journey from humble beginnings, was my royal appointment to the Shrievalty. Bob and I reminisced over a wee dram or two in Scotland!

Below left: Ian and Clare Mattioli at the end of the first day of Ian's cycling challenge

Below centre: High Sheriff Ian Mattioli enjoying one of his many refuel breakfasts – one of the highlights of his journey!

Below right: The High Sheriff with Yasin Patel, his Imam

The journey was a great success and ultimately gave me the opportunity to support some local organisations close to my heart including:

Warning Zone, dedicated to teaching life skills and safeguarding children;

LOROS Hospice care for over 2,500 people annually;

Rainbows, the East Midlands' only hospice for children and young people;

CKI School of Martial Arts, helping to improve children's fitness, teaching them discipline and to understand the importance of a supportive community;

and Aylestone Park Football Club, with over 25 teams from junior to adult including Leicester City Ladies.

Thirty thousand pounds was shared between the five charities and the additional £20,000 will be distributed to both local and national charities identified by donors.

With the nights now drawing in, I hope, restrictions permitting, to gather people together for an informal actual event. I want to thank our sponsors, honour my chosen charities and bring business, civic and charitable organisations together for the complex task ahead as we head into the 'new normal' post pandemic.

We continue to operate under challenging conditions, but I feel we must take time to recognise how fortunate we are, and to support and value the communities in which we live and work. After all they make us who we are.

♦♦ **Ian Mattioli MBE**

High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2021-22





A stop–start year



Police Commendation Awards ceremony with Chief Constable Serena Kennedy and recipient Constable Hannah Sims

MANY OF the 2021-22 High Sheriffs, including myself, are calling ourselves the ‘Hybrid HSS’. I rather like to refer to our year in another motoring analogy; I think we are the Stop–Start year.

My Declaration took place on 21 April at home outside with six people gathered on our patio. Our plans for the original event had to be abandoned and then cancelled for a second time. I have just had the celebration event in early September.

The first four months have flown by and I wondered what I was doing in the second lockdown phase of the year and whether I was doing enough and also the right things, but I guess that is the same for all the incoming High Sheriffs.

As a port, Liverpool and Merseyside have many associations with the sea. There have been events commemorating Arctic convoys, the sinking of HMT *Lancastria* in 1940, and Merchant Navy Day. These and others are inspiring and memorable on a grand scale.

I have visited many community organisations which have carried out exceptional work in the pandemic – real heroes, one and all. I have worn my uniform a great deal and this is when I feel for my predecessor. Our year has been very fortunate to be able to go out and about and I even hosted a royal visit when this was not possible last year. There are many groups which still need thanking and congratulating for their work over the last 18 months.

My particular interest during my year is in the wellbeing of young carers. I have been able to act as convenor for a number of meetings of all interested parties. These organisations are all dedicated, experienced and keen to help young carers but as with so many things nowadays money is short. There is also a link with the prison service where young carers are thrown in at the deep end by a parent or parents being incarcerated.

Looking forward to the rest of the calendar year it appears to be getting busy. I suspect there is much bunching of events as organisations have not been able to hold them earlier and want to catch up. Several dinners have been postponed already this year and are now being rescheduled. For myself I have been to the enthronement of four bishops in the area and it is very positive to attend these important events.

Following the excellent promoting by the High Sheriffs’ Association I have been using a Twitter account and now have a few followers. It is an excellent way of praising and encouraging the groups I have visited. My skills are rudimentary but I am coming to think that this has been a great initiative of the Association and must be continued.

So in summary, we have had the ‘Stop’ and the ‘Start’ has come into play.

❖ **Nigel Lanceley DL**
High Sheriff of Merseyside 2021-22



Presenting Roy Boardman, Director of the Palm House, to HRH The Princess Royal



With Under Sheriff, David Cam

Below: High Sheriff walking past A Case History (aka The Hope Street Suitcase) in Liverpool on his way to lunch after the Judges Service, Liverpool



NORTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members

Leaving Zoom behind

AS 2021 began and the country went into the third lockdown it was hard to imagine that my High Sheriff's year would be anything other than Zoom Declaration followed by Zoom meeting followed by Zoom interview. However, thanks to the determination of His Honour Judge Sean Morris and the cooperation of everyone at York Crown Court, I was very lucky that my Declaration ceremony took place as hoped on 29 March. Only a tiny percentage of my guests were able to attend, all masked and socially distanced of course, but it was still an incredibly special day and emerging into bright sunshine on to the steps of the court felt like a positive omen for the year ahead.

The theme of my year is 'connectivity', with my ambition being to raise awareness for the many small community charities which have been helping vulnerable people throughout the pandemic. In five months I have hardly scratched the surface but it has been heartening and inspiring to discover the innumerable local ventures, manned by enterprising volunteers who have supported the lonely, vulnerable and elderly during these darkest of times, giving so many isolated people an essential lifeline during the lockdowns.

For the first month, I was attempting Zoom three mornings a week. I found that the planning of these calls was the easy bit, while the execution of them was a very different matter! There were many victims of my inefficiency as I struggled with the technology but when we finally connected, I loved my conversations with the various inspirational charity founders and volunteers. The vital link between me and these charities is the Two Ridings Community Foundation, a fantastic organisation that provides logistical support and grants to underfunded charities across North and East Yorkshire.

As the weather began to improve, I breathed a sigh of relief and left Zoom behind and started having garden meetings with people like Trish Kinsella from the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough. Trish is an awesome lady with boundless energy and compassion. Her inspired lateral thinking meant that during lockdown Scarborough's underemployed traffic wardens pivoted to distributing food from the Rainbow Foodbank to those most in need.

As spring turned to summer my face-to-face visits began in earnest and never have I been more aware of how enormous North Yorkshire actually is. But what an opportunity to explore this amazing county



Declaration on 29 March 2021 [L to R] His Honour Judge Hickey, Johanna Ropner (Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire), High Sheriff, Canon John Manchester (High Sheriff's Chaplain) and His Honour Judge Sean Morris



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Helen Lambert for her commitment of over 20 years to Easingwold Community Care which looks after ALL the needs of the local Community – meals on wheels, hospital visits with patients, shopping for the housebound and a chat and check-up for the very lonely



Giving Filey hand-made chocolates to Trish Kinsella who runs the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Sam Bell, a Scarborough Fire Cadet, for his exemplary conduct and commitment throughout the pandemic

and see what is happening at the grass roots. There are too many highlights to mention, but I've visited community shops and special schools, inspirational prisons and intrepid fire and rescue teams, charities that teach autistic children to ride and a dancing class for the elderly and infirm.

I would like to thank everyone who has been kind enough to give up their time to talk to me so that I could learn more and appreciate what they are doing. The pluck and determination of the people of North Yorkshire is utterly astonishing – some visits have reduced me to tears, many others have brought much laughter but the underlying constant has been the willingness of all the volunteers to help those who are struggling for whatever reason.

Venetia Wrigley DL
High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2020-21



Dear diary...

DIARY ENTRY, 31 March, 2021: 'At last, after 3½ years of nervous anticipation, I made my Declaration as High Sheriff of Northamptonshire 2021/22'.

Despite initial COVID restrictions I have visited many wonderful organisations. The generosity and kindness of people is truly humbling and the pandemic has really inspired some extraordinary acts of kindness.

My primary focus has been on young people who have been so disadvantaged during the pandemic. Many of the Emergency Services Cadets come from difficult backgrounds; the ESC enable them to learn teamwork and significant skills. Many go on to make careers in their chosen course. COVID curtailed all training and the High Sheriff's police cadet for 2020, Alfie Kingston, was unable to attend any ceremonies last year so we decided to award him another year. I was delighted to meet Alfie, his family and some of his cohort. During the summer, a number of them walked to our house to gain some D of E



Above: Attending an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bangladeshi Independence at University of Northampton with Rufia Ashraf, first Bangladeshi female mayor of Northampton

credits, finishing with a barbecue tea in the garden. Our two dogs provided the entertainment, to the extent that we had to keep a sharp eye out in case they found their way on to the homeward-bound bus.

Young people with learning disabilities have particularly suffered during the pandemic. My husband Hugh and I have visited day-care centres around the county where people have moved heaven and earth to help their young people have fun as well as learn valuable skills so that they can achieve independence and some kind of meaningful employment. My first job was to attend the launch of a café where

young people can learn working skills in a commercial environment.

Unfortunately the pandemic has exacerbated inequality in the county and food banks have become more important than ever. We have been constantly amazed by the selflessness of those who give their time and energy to help others, accessing donations from supermarkets, Fare Share and generous local small businesses who contribute time, skills and materials. These enterprises have created self-financing food clubs, launched cooking classes and provided children with a square meal during the school holidays.

Northamptonshire has a very diverse population and I have attended interfaith events to promote unity and tolerance. We have raised flags for National Windrush Day and Bangladeshi Freedom 50, celebrating 50 years of independence, and attended Eid in the Park with around 2,000 of the Muslim community. Flags were raised again for Armed Services Day and Emergency Services Day and I have been able to visit RAF bases at both ends of the county.

All this and much more in six months! The High Sheriff's role is a busy one and being a lady High Sheriff has been a great challenge to my organisational skills. However, I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to find out about the amazing things taking place in Northamptonshire.

Amanda Lowther DL

High Sheriff of Northamptonshire 2021-22



Tea in the garden with the Emergency Services Cadets



Visit to Mower's Ark, Corby, a centre for young adults with learning disabilities



Visit to East Midlands Ambulance Service



Kettering Food Bank and 'angels in human form'



NORTHUMBERLAND

News from and about members

So much more to do!

MY SHRIEVAL year began in our garden with a select group of six, all socially distanced. It was quite a surreal experience due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, but the hard work began immediately with arranging Zoom meetings to enable me to reach out to all those agencies with which I wished to engage.

I was determined to deliver my plans for fundraising and awareness, and luckily for me a break in the restrictions allowed me to host a clay pigeon shoot with lobster lunch and a live auction to raise funds for the High Sheriff of Northumberland's Awards. It was a wonderful occasion, with generous bidders enjoying their first taste of freedom after the lockdowns, and clearly all in a mood to help me raise a record-breaking sum.

My next big venture was to host the High Sheriff's summer garden party – across two days – to raise money for and awareness of the High Sheriff of Northumberland's Awards, and to engage with our enforcement agencies. I was supported by the Chief Constable, Northumbria Army Cadets, Northumbria Police and Police Cadets, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (my neighbours at Albemarle Barracks), Northumbrian Crafts, and a programme of live music including the Cassino Band from the

Below: With Jean Davidson (Chair) and Tony Gates (CEO) of Northumberland National Park Authority at The Sill, Hadrian's Wall



Right: Northumberland Buffalo Community Centre staff



Below: Joanna Riddell presenting a water bottle to Val Hinchley, Tynedale Hospice at Home volunteer

Northumbrian Army Cadet Force, Northumbrian pipers and youth groups including the Sunshine Panners from Haydon Bridge High School, the Inspired group from Berwick upon Tweed, and Bad Apples from Ashington. Over a thousand visitors attended, and because it was the first time for two years that any one of the groups involved had engaged in a public event, to see confidence returning was quite emotional for everyone.

I have been seeking out wonderful individuals who have made magnificent contributions to their communities through their voluntary work to be

recipients of a High Sheriff's Award, and have invited all those to my home to chat across the kitchen table. They have all received a water bottle I designed with the High Sheriff's badge and definition of a hero, and will return for a special ceremony next February where citations will be read and they will be feted. I have also presented Court Awards to two people who have put themselves in great danger to apprehend dangerous criminals.

My visits so far have taken me to food banks, youth projects, schools, rural crime volunteer sessions, hospice charities, RNLI stations, ambulance headquarters, prisons, Northumberland National Park and award ceremonies. Looking ahead, the diary is busy with legal services looming, and many more visits to youth projects across the county. I can't believe that we are all halfway through the year – so much more to do!

My main thought from my experience thus far is just how much of the United Kingdom is run by volunteers through charities, and how fortunate we all are to live in this country. It is truly humbling to meet so many generous people who give so much of their time and energy for the greater good. I feel very honoured to serve Northumberland.

Joanna Riddell
High Sheriff of Northumberland 2021-22





A hidden iceberg

THE ROLE of High Sheriff dates back 1,000 years but, far from being antiquated, has never felt more relevant. The COVID pandemic has brought much pain and left countless scars. Dealing with the fallout – to health, education and the economy – is an enormous task. As High Sheriff, I am endeavouring to take a lead.

Tourism is an essential part of Shropshire's economy and was badly hit by lockdowns and restrictions. I have been working with Shropshire Council and promotional groups Visit Shropshire and Virtual Shropshire on a recovery strategy. I've had talks with MPs Owen Paterson and Daniel Kawczynski to take our case for funding to Westminster.

I set up a High Sheriff's schools' initiative to encourage students to think of local tourism. It was along the lines of Alan Sugar's *Apprentice*, where I set pupils the task of drawing up a tourism marketing plan to promote Shropshire. The feedback was hugely encouraging. Several schools took part, which delighted me as the aim was to engage young people in our tourism drive and take a pride in their county. My ambition on leaving office next April is to see Shropshire's tourism industry stronger than ever, with a sustainable framework that enables it to thrive for decades to come.

In the post-pandemic world, mental health is the 'hidden iceberg' in society. The past six months have shown me

the scale of the challenge. I have held talks on suicide, children's wellbeing, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. I have met a range of charities and organisations that offer crisis help and day-to-day counselling – and publicly championed their work – as well as talking to individuals about their own experiences. There is no doubt that tens of thousands of deaths, tough lockdown restrictions that separated families, the desperate isolation of people forced to shield alone, loss of livelihoods and many other factors, have damaged mental health. Many will need help.

I have championed our unsung heroes – police, firefighters, ambulance crews, doctors and nurses, charity workers and volunteers. I spoke at our annual 999 Day service at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury on 9 September, at which we hosted Tom Scholes-Fogg, founder and Chief Executive of the UK's Emergency Services Day.

I've supported our Armed Services with tours of RAF Shawbury and the Army base at Donnington. And I've embraced the ceremonial side of my office, a highlight of which was meeting HRH The Princess Royal on her visit to Harper Adams University.

The local press has been very supportive – *Shropshire Magazine*, the county glossy publication, used my picture on its cover, and I've supplied several stories for our local daily and



With the inspirational Kelda Wood, whose Shropshire-based national charity Climbing Out rebuilds confidence, self-esteem and motivation in adults following a life-changing injury, illness or trauma



Presented to HRH The Princess Royal at Harper Adams University. Photo credit: Harper Adams University



High Sheriff promoting tourism at Bridgnorth Cliff Railway with (left to right) Cllr Sarah Barlow (Mayor, Bridgnorth); Dr Malvern Tipping (the railway's owner), Mrs Eileen Tipping (railway director), Cllr Karen Sawbridge (Deputy Mayor, Bridgnorth)



High Sheriff at the 999 Service with Anna Turner, Lord-Lieutenant, and Tom Scholes-Fogg, the national event's founder

weekly papers, promoting the role of High Sheriff, and also used social media to get my messages across. I've had approaching 100 engagements in the first six months and my wife Clare and our family have been wonderfully supportive.

Having 'zoomed' into office in April, it has been rewarding to play a part in the 'opening up' of the county as online meetings have gradually been replaced by in-person ones.

Anthony Morris-Eyton
High Sheriff of Shropshire 2021-22



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members

A place with a purpose

I GOT to understand very quickly the purpose of being High Sheriff. While the baton was seamlessly transferred I must begin by recognising the work of my predecessor Mrs O'Neill, whose contribution to life across South Yorkshire was immense and delivered in extremely difficult circumstances.

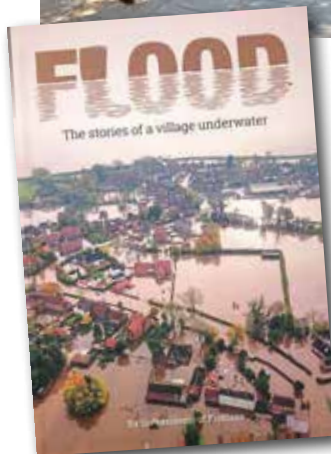
It is a time to be grateful, a time for renewal and hope, a time to be positive. It has been a privilege to experience at first hand the work of the NHS, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, the judiciary, the prison, probation and rehabilitation services, and those working in the voluntary and charity sectors across the county. I thank them all for the work they do and for the help and support they have given me. It is special to have the opportunity to walk in the shoes of so many wonderful and inspiring people whose work is so valuable and done for the benefit of everyone in South Yorkshire.

That feeling of renewal and hope is embodied in the work that I have witnessed by South Yorkshire Community Foundation; by Roundabout, South Yorkshire's youth housing charity providing shelter, support and life skills to young people who are homeless; by Adira, a survivor-led mental health and wellbeing service that supports black people with mental health issues; and by Sheffield Futures, providing health and wellbeing support to young people for more than 25 years through its award-winning Door43 emotional wellbeing service. I must also mention the Sheffield Sea Cadets, the Rotherham Military Community Veterans Centre and the Royal Air Force Association, just some of the wonderful organisations which welcomed me. They are special people doing special work.

As is often the case, there are some visits which have a really uplifting and positive impact. I was thrilled to visit the village of Fishlake near Doncaster, which gained national notoriety in November 2019 as the River Don, swollen by unprecedented rainfall, overtopped and flooded a huge swathe of land including



Above:
With HRH
The Princess
Royal at
Sheffield
Combined
Court Centre



Left:
Fishlake
village
flooded in
November
2019

more than 170 homes and businesses. Two years on it was amazing to join the community at St Cuthbert's Church for the book launch when the villagers told the full story of the flood, a truly fascinating exploration of what is an increasingly common symptom of climate change. What a resilient community they are.

In July 2021 HRH The Princess Royal visited the Sheffield Combined Court Centre to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the building by the then Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Taylor of Gosforth. Those who work there are rightly very proud of the court centre and it was important that this milestone should be marked. Milestones fulfil two purposes: to see how far we have come and how far there is still to go. The COVID crisis has compelled the court to innovate in a way that 25 years ago would have been unthinkable. It has done so due to the cooperation and collaboration of all component parts of the court centre in all jurisdictions: crime, civil, family work and tribunals. Indeed the court

Below: At the Inspiring Youth Awards (Back L-R) Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Lauren Poultney; South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Dr Alan Billings; Chief Superintendent Shelley Hemsley, Sheffield District; (Middle) Mr Roland Freeman, Principal of Sheffield Park Academy; Mrs Juliet McKervey, Chair of Governors, Sheffield Park Academy; (Seated) Mr Andrew Coombe CVO, Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire; Tamzin Begum, Sheffield Park Academy, Inspiring Youth Award Winner 2020/21, holding the South Yorkshire Police Shield; Martin McKervey, High Sheriff



has been on a voyage of discovery of new ways of working. I will just mention two: first, the Remote Dock for trials; second, the Fully Remote Court. What wonderful work our judges and all who work in the courts have done, led by His Honour Judge Jeremy Richardson QC, Honorary Recorder of Sheffield. Her Royal Highness was impressed.

What a privilege it was to attend the Inspiring Youth Awards Ceremony, operated and funded by South Yorkshire Police. The focus is on inspiring and motivating young people in schools and colleges in Sheffield and Rotherham to achieve their dreams and goals. We are proud of our splendid young people and their achievements.

There have been High Sheriffs for at least 1,000 years. Not everyone was that keen to be High Sheriff in the past; collecting taxes and rounding up criminals were perhaps not attractive. The role is nowadays largely ceremonial, but there is a purpose to it. I have thoroughly enjoyed the first six months and I am hugely excited about the coming months. It is simply amazing and hugely enjoyable, and it has a purpose.

◆ Martin McKervey
High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2021-22



Influencing beyond boundaries

Below: Declaration ceremony at St Andrew's Church, Roker, Sunderland with Sue Winfield, Lord-Lieutenant, my wife Susan and His Honour Judge Sloan QC, Honorary Recorder of Newcastle

Bottom left: At Gateshead North East Ambulance Service Training Centre with Helen Ray, Chief Executive, and other High Sheriffs

Bottom right: At the North East Land, Sea and Air Museum (NELSAM) with Jess Ord, High Sheriff's Police Cadet, a Police Guardian and Winton Keenen, Chief Constable of Northumbria

THE SHRIEVAL year started anxiously as to how we could conduct my Declaration ceremony within the COVID rules. I was determined not to be one of the many undertaking this on Zoom. A benefit of the restrictions was that coordinating the ceremony was less complex than normal when many more people are invited. In this case we only had to worry about the rule of six! It was a wonderful occasion with the sun shining on the ceremony after earlier rain and snow with freezing northerly winds.

After the ceremony and accompanying publicity, more invitations to actual events started arriving in the first month than my predecessor had received in the previous year due to COVID constraints. We started opening up, with one of my first engagements

being the Newcastle Cathedral Rededication Service. This celebrated a year-long restoration project which has revived the cathedral, turning it into a dynamic hub for the city. It now has a flexible seating arrangement and archaeological features have been restored which promote its heritage.

The visit to the new training facility of the North East Ambulance Service with other High Sheriffs from the region was a great experience. It is really well equipped with life-like adult and child mannequins that react to treatment – amazing technology that helps train our intrepid volunteers.

Inspiring and supporting young cadets

One of the highlights so far has been working with cadets whether they are police, air or army. It has been a privilege to be guest of honour and present awards and listen to some very inspiring stories from our young leaders and amazing volunteers. Cadets have had the opportunity to do things that others only dream about, gaining incredible experience. Research by the University of Northampton published in May 2021 noted that cadet participation was directly linked to increased social mobility, improved educational outcomes and greater employability.

I have heard their stories of life-changing experiences and the building of self-confidence that allowed them to meet challenges and gain knowledge they didn't think was possible. That self-belief provides them with the confidence to take on anything. It has been a privilege to inspire and support the young cadets, so much so that I





News from and about members



Above left: At Police Cadets' event led by Sgt Simon Auty, Northumbria Police Professional Development



Above right: At Newcastle Freedom of the City Parade with the Lord-Lieutenant, Cllr Habib Rahman, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, and Lt Col Paul Smyth MBE VR, CO 5th Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Far right: At Flying Circus Award Ceremony with Fit Lt Gary Richardson and Air Cadets

have appointed for the first time two High Sheriff's Police Cadets in Tyne and Wear. I aim to attend every cadet office in the region.

Aligning with the Lord-Lieutenant

It has been an honour to work hand in hand with Tyne and Wear's Lord-Lieutenant, Sue Winfield OBE, who has provided me with tremendous support and guidance. Her inspiration and enthusiasm has been infectious in supporting many communities and serving the North East.

Influencing beyond boundaries

ARY News, the largest news channel in Pakistan, asked me for an interview which they aired as a key news item in Pakistan. They wanted to get a view on the diversity and opportunities at all levels provided in the UK for those of Pakistani origin.

What next?

Invitations to actual events are now coming through thick and fast! It's a real privilege and honour to have this incredible and influential role and so far I have accepted every invitation. I hope the reduced constraints on activities enable me to continue to promote the role of High Sheriff and to lend my support to many different communities.

As I reach the halfway point of the shrieval year I'm especially looking forward to the High Sheriff's Community Awards to promote and reward the voluntary sector. This reminds me to acknowledge the generous contributions made by the many foundations and trusts which have helped raise funds to support the work of community and voluntary groups across the county. These funds and awards promote activity and projects that help to improve the quality of life and ambition for young people across Tyne and Wear.

♦ Farooq Hakim

High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2021-22



At Sunderland Maritime Museum with HRH The Princess Royal, the Lord-Lieutenant and Cllr Henry Trueman, Mayor of Sunderland

Photo: Steve Brock Photography



A news item on ARY News, Pakistan



Encouraging the necessary skills

I AM honoured to be High Sheriff of the County of the West Midlands. My appointment makes me the first High Sheriff from Coventry in 30 years, with my shrieval year coinciding with the city's year as the UK City of Culture.

It also comes at the most extraordinary of times as we continue our battle against COVID-19. Nonetheless I have met with some fantastic individuals whose mission is to make a difference in their local communities.

One of my priorities is unearthing such motivators and highlighting their achievements. Another is young people, showing what we can achieve when we invest our time and effort in them, not

least those in care. I have met with young people who haven't had the best start in life, but work hard and seize opportunities.

Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) was established 24 years ago with just £50 to improve prospects for young people in Coventry. Today it employs 30 staff, working with 3,000 eight- to 25-year-olds every year. Offering education, training and employment, its main focus is those who are the least likely to find employment. PYF helps them realise their potential and make a positive contribution to society.

Another early engagement was an online event promoting the voluntary sector contribution during COVID.

'United in Hope – United for Humanity' was also organised to coincide with Earth Day which promotes environmental protection – a hot topic with the devastating effects of climate change.

A visit to the Coventry Food Bank proved a real eye-opener, with distressing tales of families regularly going three or four days without food, and others starving because they are too embarrassed to visit the food banks in case they are recognised. However, it was also heart-warming to learn of the food bank's collaborative efforts to provide longer-term solutions enabling people to get back on their feet as well as providing its own programmes to encourage them to acquire the necessary skills to gain employment.

In July I held a summer reception where I presented certificates to local heroes from across the county whose selfless efforts in their communities have made tangible difference to others. These included a Solihull teenager who had spent her childhood caring for relatives and later established a book club for other young carers, benefiting their numeracy, literacy and social skills, and two Dudley women who used their own experiences in care to help improve opportunities for children in the system today. These stories have been eye-opening and inspiring in equal measures.

My diverse forthcoming schedule includes a day with West Midlands Police, meeting senior officers and cadets and I hope joining a police operation, attending Pakistan National Day celebrations, celebrating St John Ambulance volunteers, lunching with Women of Distinction, unveiling a plaque at Birmingham's Hippodrome Theatre and hosting my own Justice Service. I will be supported by my cadet Freya Pinnick whose journey to joining me started when, after breaking her toe at a charity event and seeking help from St John Ambulance volunteers, she decided to train in first aid with them and is now a fully trained cadet with ambitions in medical science. As well as studying for A Levels and supporting me, Freya still finds time to continue volunteering. She is a true inspiration!

◆ Louise Bennett OBE DL
High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2021-22



Above: High Sheriff's visit to Coventry Food Bank: (l-r) Hugh McNeill (Coventry Food Bank), Sarah Perry (Deputy Under Sheriff), Very Revd John Witcombe (High Sheriff's Chaplain), Gwyn Williams (Coventry Food Bank), High Sheriff, Gavin Kibble MBE (Coventry Food Bank)



Left: High Sheriff presenting her High Sheriff's Cadet, Freya Pinnick, with a High Sheriff's medal



From Zoom to Boom

Below: Commemoration ceremony in Worthing for the Canadians who died during the Second World War

WELL, THAT is what it has been like for me; and the question is: will it continue?

The Declaration ceremony was virtual as I became the High Sheriff of West Sussex at the end of April, and I have to admit to being quite nervous about whether or not mine would be another 'abnormal' year, with minimal contact with the people of West Sussex, other than at a distance.

My predecessor, Dr Tim Fooks, had weathered that particular storm heroically, meeting and speaking to a vast number of organisations online, while advancing his theme of loneliness and social isolation, so relevant to his year. (Tim has published a collection of the articles he wrote in the press throughout his year as a record of the pandemic in the county – proceeds to charity.*)

And so it started, with a small number of actual meetings, all socially distanced, masked, thoroughly hand-sanitised and limited in numbers; greatly appreciated by me and better than Zoom, but not yet the real thing. And of course there was the procession of Zoom, Teams and telephone introductions and meetings, all of which were invigorating and useful... but I wanted to meet people!

And I think they wanted to meet their High Sheriff, particularly the young lad at Springboard who was intrigued by my sword. It absolutely made his day.

We all agree that while Zoom has its place and will be a useful tool in the future, there is nothing to replace the actual meeting, the casual conversation, the visit



and inspection of a group or an activity. That is the way to really find out what is going on and how people feel. And of course there are the set-piece events, the pageantry, the processions, all of which are important to the Office and part of the fabric of civic society in the county. There is no substitute for the actuality of these events.

By the end of May the enquiries for meetings and events began to trickle in, and became a decent stream by mid-June, which saw the first diary clash – how exciting, we are on the way! By July the diary was filling up, and August was really quite busy. Isn't everybody meant to be away on holiday and not that interested in meeting the High Sheriff in August? Not this year.

Below left: Making this lad's day during a visit to Springboard Horsham

Below right: Virtual Declaration ceremony

There is still the rigmarole of handshakes or elbow bumps, mask on or maybe off ('it's up to you') and not too close, please. I adjust to what makes those I meet most comfortable; this is the way of life for now.

September and October are looking like being normal service, with receptions, dinners, judges' services and awards ceremonies aplenty; long may it continue.

But for how long? Will the winter see renewed restrictions? Possibly, and if so this High Sheriff will revert to Zoom. But at least I, and more importantly the good people of West Sussex, enjoyed the Boom in the summer.

*Tim Fooks (ed), *West Sussex in the COVID-19 Pandemic: a year like no other* (Kings and Princes Press, West Chiltington 2021)

◆ Neil Hart DL
High Sheriff of West Sussex 2020-21



THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 2021-22

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE	E Masih Esq
BERKSHIRE	R D Hartley Russell LVO DL
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	G R Anson Esq
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Mrs C L E M Bewes
CHESHIRE	R J Mee Esq DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	Mrs S J Davies BEM
CORNWALL	D M Thomas Esq
CUMBRIA	D G Beeby Esq
DERBYSHIRE	Mrs L T Potter DL
DEVON	Lady Studholme
DORSET	M M P Dooley Esq
DURHAM	J R Harle Esq
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	R Shepherdson Esq
EAST SUSSEX	M A Jenner Esq DL
ESSEX	S R Brice Esq DL
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Mrs R J Tufnell
GREATER LONDON	Ms L A Johansen
GREATER MANCHESTER	Mrs D M Hawkins JP DL
HAMPSHIRE	P R Sykes Esq
HEREFORDSHIRE	Mrs J P Hilditch DL
HERTFORDSHIRE	L C Wallace Esq DL
ISLE OF WIGHT	J R W Attrill Esq DL
KENT	J C H Weir Esq JP
LANCASHIRE	E J Booth Esq CBE DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	I T Mattioli Esq MBE
LINCOLNSHIRE	Mrs C V Birch
MERSEYSIDE	N S Lanceley Esq DL
NORFOLK	M A J Gurney Esq DL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	The Hon Mrs Lowther DL
NORTHUMBERLAND	Mrs J L Riddell
NORTH YORKSHIRE	Mrs V A Wrigley DL
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Professor H S Dua
OXFORDSHIRE	Imam Monowar Hussain MBE DL
RUTLAND	R D Wood Esq
SHROPSHIRE	R A Morris-Eyton Esq
SOMERSET	W H T Sheppard Esq
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	M J C McKervey Esq
STAFFORDSHIRE	J I H Friend Esq DL
SUFFOLK	E G Creasy Esq
SURREY	Dr J A Llewelyn
TYNE AND WEAR	F Hakim Esq
WARWICKSHIRE	The Lady Willoughby de Broke
WEST MIDLANDS	Mrs L D Bennett OBE DL
WEST SUSSEX	N Hart Esq DL
WEST YORKSHIRE	C R Lloyd Esq
WILTSHIRE	Sir Charles Hobhouse Bt
WORCESTERSHIRE	R J Amplett Esq

WALES

CLWYD	J S Thomas Esq
DYFED	J T Gravell Esq
GWENT	P M Alderman Esq
GWYNEDD	G P Owen Esq
MID GLAMORGAN	J Edwards Esq MBE JP
POWYS	P R James Esq MBE
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	P R Dewey Esq
WEST GLAMORGAN	Mrs J L Jenkins MBE JP DL

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
Mrs N Ahmed OBE DL	Kent	2023
Ms D Carey-Evans	Gwynedd	2022
Mrs M E Green	Hertfordshire	2023
Mrs L C Hewett	Worcestershire	2023
Mrs S Hilleary	Warwickshire	2023
Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL	Tyne and Wear	2023
Mrs J Phillips	Gwynedd	2023
M N Shah Esq	Northamptonshire	2023
Mrs S Taylor	Buckinghamshire	Under Sheriff

DEATHS

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

T R Baxter-Wright Esq Date of death: 11-Jun-21 Age: 89 County: Gwent Year of office: 1984	P G Lee Esq DL Date of death: 12-Jan-21 Age: 86 County: Essex Year of office: 1990
Sir David Black Bt DL Date of death: 22-May-21 Age: 92 County: Oxfordshire Year of office: 1993	Lt Col M R O Leigh Date of death: 2-Aug-21 Age: 80 County: Herefordshire & Worcestershire Year of office: 2008
J G P Buxton Esq Date of death: 18-Aug-21 Age: 82 County: Leicestershire Year of office: 2005	R F Loder-Symonds Esq Date of death: 25-Aug-21 Age: 82 County: Kent Year of office: 2000
Lady Clarissa Collin JP DL Date of death: 23-Jul-21 Age: 82 County: North Yorkshire Year of office: 1998	Dr A I Mukhtar DL Date of death: 7-Jan-21 Age: 75 County: Northamptonshire Year of office: 2015
Sir Timothy Colman KG JP Date of death: 9-Sep-21 Age: 91 County: Norfolk Year of office: 1970	C J Spence Esq Date of death: 13-Sept-21 Age: 84 County: Berkshire Year of office: 1996
N P Hopkinson Esq MBE DL Date of death: 2-Sep-21 Age: 61 County: Cheshire Year of office: 2020	I D P Thorne Esq Date of death: 17-Jun-21 Age: 76 County: Nottinghamshire Year of office: 1986
C J C Ibbett Esq OBE Date of death: 6-May-21 Age: 83 County: Bedfordshire Year of office: 2004	E S Tudor-Evans Esq Date of death: 15-May-21 Age: 80 County: Cheshire Year of office: 1997
J M D Knight Esq DL Date of death: 11-May-21 Age: 93 County: West Sussex Year of office: 1996	G R W Wright Esq DL Date of death: 5-Oct-20 Age: 92 County: Cambridgeshire Year of office: 1992

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
BEDFORDSHIRE	Lady Clifford	R A Beard Esq	B Shah Esq
BERKSHIRE	Miss A Kharbanda	S H Muir Esq	A Barfield Esq
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Ms D Brock DL	Dr A G Limb CBE DL	Ms K B Mirza
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Mrs J Crompton	Dr B N Khetani	D J Way Esq
CHESHIRE	Mrs J G France-Hayhurst	D Dunn Esq MBE JP DL	C E Hayward MBE DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	Ms A O A Raikes MBE DL	Miss S R Foster	The Revd R N Pendlebury MBE
CUMBRIA	A McViety Esq	Mrs S Scott	C N C Holmes Esq
DERBYSHIRE	M G Copestake Esq	Miss T M Peltier	R I Morgan Esq OBE
DEVON	R D Youngman Esq	The Rt Revd N H P McKinnel	Commodore J K Moores OBE RN
DORSET	Ms S Fine King DL	C W G Weston Esq MBE JP	A W Woodhouse Esq
DURHAM	Mrs S M Harper-Wilkes	Professor P Keane OBE	A Pattison Esq MBE
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	Mrs J Bowes	M Rice Esq	Miss C Cerutti
EAST SUSSEX	Mrs M J King	E R Bickersteth Esq	Mrs A D Brown
ESSEX	N K Alston Esq CBE DL	C R M Bishop Esq	D T Hurst Esq
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Air Marshal Sir Graham Miller KBE	H C W Robinson Esq DL	C O Lewis Esq OBE
GREATER LONDON	Mrs H J Phillips	Mrs I De	Ms M L Grant QC
HAMPSHIRE	The Lady Edwina Grosvenor	Mrs A S Ashton	J C Whitaker Esq
HEREFORDSHIRE	Mrs S L de Rohan JP	Robert C C Robinson Esq	Mrs P B Churchward
HERTFORDSHIRE	Mrs S D Burton DL	Mrs M E Green	Mrs A P Brewster JP
ISLE OF WIGHT	Mrs K A Marriott	Mrs D K Haig-Thomas	G R Bliss Esq
KENT	R J Race Esq JP DL	Mrs N Ahmed OBE DL	Dr G Fargher
LEICESTERSHIRE	Ms M Duke MBE DL	Mrs H J Chubb JP	J H Chatfeild-Roberts Esq
LINCOLNSHIRE	T M Strawson Esq	R J Lake Esq OBE	P H M Dymoke Esq
NORFOLK	D J McLeavy Hill Esq DL	Professor K K Sethia	D J Flux Esq
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	C D J Holborow Esq DL	M N Shah Esq	Mrs A L Crawford
NORTHUMBERLAND	J C Royds Esq TD	Mrs D M A Bakes	Mrs L M B Bridgeman
NORTH YORKSHIRE	J S Lambert Esq OBE	Mrs C D Granger	Dr R M Smith
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	P D Southby Esq	Mrs V M Pickering DL	N D Rubins Esq
OXFORDSHIRE	M G Beard Esq	Mrs S P Scott	J J Macnamara Esq
RUTLAND	P G Thompson Esq	Mrs G M E Feehally	R A Cole Esq TD
SHROPSHIRE	Hon Mrs Graham	Mrs A J Thorn MBE DL	B Welti Esq
SOMERSET	Mrs J M Duke	R N F Drewett Esq DL	R J Beckley Esq QPM
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Lt Colonel R A McPherson MBE	Professor J Ray	J Baddeley Esq
STAFFORDSHIRE	Mrs J Mitchell	C B Robinson Esq MBE BEM DL	Mrs V L Hawley
SUFFOLK	Major A J M Lowther-Pinkerton LVO MBE DL	J M Pendlington Esq DL	Mrs Y Gilchrist-Mason OBE
SURREY	His Honour C A Critchlow DL	T A de B Wates Esq DL	S Azeem Esq DL
TYNE AND WEAR	D W Bavaird Esq	Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL	Dr L J Whiterod CBE OBE
WARWICKSHIRE	D R Kelham Esq	Mrs S Hilleary	Mrs R J Gill
WEST MIDLANDS	D R Moorcroft Esq OBE	W C Lyn Esq CBE	D R Wright Esq
WEST SUSSEX	J N Whitmore Esq	A G Bliss Esq QPM	Mrs P M Gogarty
WEST YORKSHIRE	Mrs S K Baker MBE JP DL	Z A Karim Esq DL	R A Cryan Esq
WILTSHIRE	The Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne	P Bhardwaj Esq	Dr S O Chapple
WORCESTERSHIRE	A R Manning-Cox Esq	Mrs L C Hewett	C W Moyle Esq

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

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

COUNTY	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
CLWYD	Ms Z J Henderson	Hon Mrs Trevor	Mrs K A Farrell-Thornley
DYFED	D R Rees-Evans Esq	M D Raymond Esq CBE DL	Mrs H Jones
GWENT	M Davies Esq OBE	Prof S J Gibson CBE DL	Her Honour Judge Mifflin
GWYNEDD	Ms D Carey-Evans	Mrs J Phillips	Ms S J Foksett
MID GLAMORGAN	Mrs M K Thomas BEM JP	Professor J White CBE	Dr R J P Lewis MBE
POWYS	T H Jones Esq OBE	R Cawthorne Esq	Lady Silk
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Mrs R Moriarty-Simmonds OBE	D R H James Esq	Mrs J Davies
WEST GLAMORGAN	S H Rogers Esq JP	Mrs H B Davies	A Brayley Esq

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 113/4")
£35.00



The Lady High Sheriff's Badge

(on bow to wear on left shoulder)
£185.00
45mm x 74mm

Association blue and white ribbon (as above) for badges and hats
£10.00 per metre



High Sheriff's March

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

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 certificate over the years has provided High Sheriffs with a popular and practical method of achieving this goal.

The certificate, printed in 4-colour with gold border and illuminated Ts on 145 gsm parchment, can be provided in two formats:

HSA 1 has the text and name of the county already printed and blank spaces for the High Sheriff to insert the name of

the recipient, the date and High Sheriff's signature.

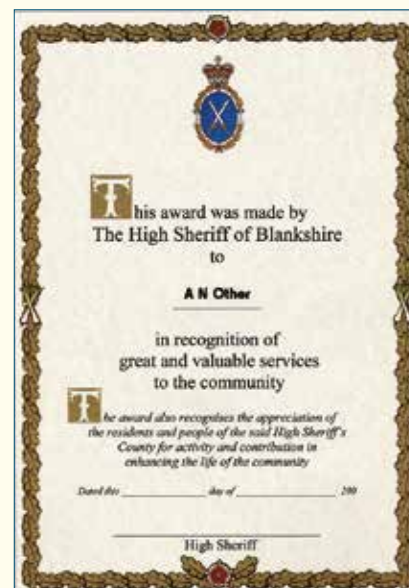
HSA 2 is a blank certificate. This enables the High Sheriff to overprint the recommended text which can be found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

The prices for these certificates, which include p&p, are:

HSA 1: 50 for £25

HSA 2: 50 for £20

Example HSA 1



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, printed in 4-colour with gold border on 145 gsm parchment, which can be provided in two formats:

CCA 1 has the text and name of the county already printed and blank spaces provided for the High Sheriff to insert the name of the recipient, the name of the Judge or Recorder, the date of presentation and the High Sheriff's signature.

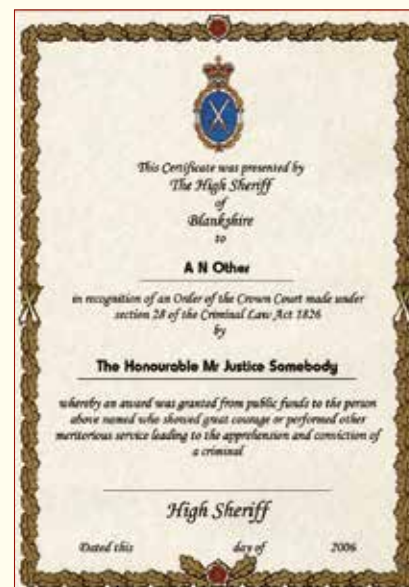
CCA 2 is a blank certificate. This can be overprinted using the recommended text, again found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

The prices for these certificates, which include p&p, are:

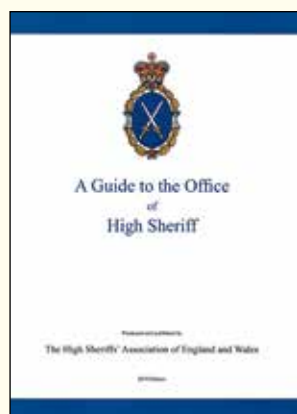
CCA 1: 50 for £25

CCA 2: 50 for £20

Example CCA 1



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 2022**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 15 April 2022**.

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

To advertise in *The High Sheriff*
please contact Grant Hosie
Tel: 01462 896688
Email: grant@hall-mccartney.co.uk
www.hall-mccartney.co.uk

HELPFUL TOPICS FOR MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

*Citizenship Ceremonies

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

*Court dress 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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