



# The High Sheriff

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

**SUMMER 2021**



***Socially distanced  
but still involved***

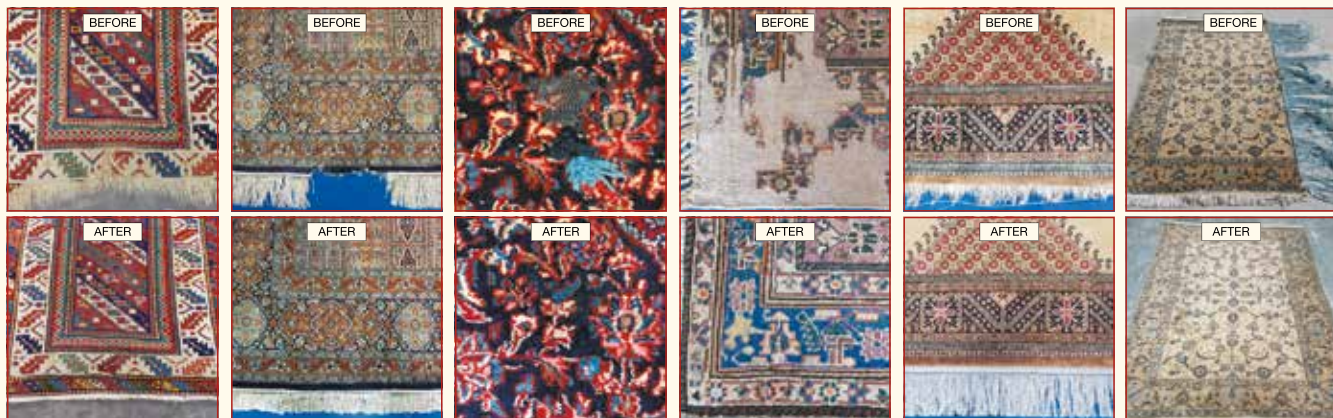
***ALSO INSIDE: National Crimebeat Awards 2021, The Last Assize***



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## The High Sheriff

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

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

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**Front cover: High Sheriff of Cornwall, Kate Holborow, presents an Unsung Hero Award to Michael Bunney on Gorran Haven beach**

*Photo credit: Paul Williams*

*Please note that not all images are socially distanced as some were taken pre-COVID. Michael Kuo, High Sheriff West Midlands, served two terms 2019-21.*

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



## From the Editor



BEFORE CHRISTMAS I hoped there was light at the end of the tunnel but this continues to be elusive. Last year's High

Sheriffs faced the unknown. While this year's will experience many similar constraints they can be grateful to their predecessors for putting in place procedures to make the High Sheriff's role workable and meaningful. I have been so struck by the shrieval optimism which permeates the articles in this issue – another bumper crop for which your Council is grateful. Although last year's High Sheriffs' activities have generally been virtual, they have taken any opportunity to reach key people and volunteers in their counties who are keeping the wheels moving. Comments that shrieval years have been awful or a disappointment are demolished by the High Sheriff who said to me 'I can't tell you how un-disappointed I was'. Several contributors have commissioned films highlighting the

changing shrieval scene and exposing the darker corners of their counties, all salutary viewing on YouTube.

The Chief Constable of Leicestershire's encouragement to 'take part of your life into the lives of those you meet' (Burghley, 2019) fell on receptive years, but not as anticipated. High Sheriffs' awards ceremonies have been superseded by presentations made virtually or one-to-one, reaching more people than usual and in a very personal way. Most articles refer to the large number of awards made, in one county over 2,750 volunteers receiving commemorative badges.

It is not just the volunteers whom High Sheriffs have thanked. Central to the shrieval role of representing the interests of The Sovereign relating to the judiciary and law and order, contributors have noted how lonely a judge's job can be. In the absence of the usual social and ceremonial welcome to visiting judges, one took them on walking tours away from the law courts. Lockdown in prisons has taken on a new meaning, with cells occupied for 23 hours a day, week after week. This has not gone unnoticed, with High Sheriff's Awards being made to those locked up in recognition of selfless acts, as well as to prison staff. These increase self-respect and can help in finding accommodation and employment on release.

At the other end of the spectrum, more awards have been made to young people, with special Young Citizen of the Year Awards being made to children as young as four. The pandemic has highlighted the digital poverty of many children home-schooling in difficult circumstances, adding to the adverse childhood experiences, ACEs, from which many suffer with a consequential risk of future social problems. High Sheriffs have found mentors and raised funds for hundreds of digital devices to help children to catch up with their education.

Despite the pandemic the Association's charity National Crimebeat goes from strength to strength, reflecting the resilience of youth groups it supports. Powerful initiatives by young people to improve the lives of their peers have gained awards and I urge readers to report deserving cases to their High Sheriffs for consideration from 18 October.

To finish on a lighter note, readers will share my sorrow over the demise of the Apostrophe Protection Society although its rules will continue to be upheld in this magazine.

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06

## From the Chairman



Before anything else, I would like to congratulate the 2019-20 High Sheriffs for doing such a wonderful job in a very difficult year. Many of

the projects that I have heard about are enterprising, effective and inspiring; some of these you will read about in this magazine. The 'Burghley' seminar was held virtually in January when the speakers who had been booked for

Burghley all kindly gave their talks to those in nomination for 2021.

Following a request by a High Sheriff on behalf of a small charity which had received a High Sheriff's Award, Council have gladly agreed that recipients of awards should be allowed to use on their literature the Badge of the Association with the year of the award. This will help to spread the word about awards and give the person or organisation recognition for their work.

A positive consequence of the pandemic was that I was able to speak to all but seven of the High Sheriffs in the months before they retired this year (apologies to the seven!). As a result, I gained a clear insight into the work that they have been doing and how to develop the help that the Association

can give. Following suggestions, the website now contains a calendar to enable High Sheriffs to plan ahead with notice of events of national importance and a paper advising High Sheriffs how effective continuity can be achieved with their successors.

Each year I repeat that the work of High Sheriffs does not finish when they hand over to their successors. They have gained a very special knowledge of their counties and I hope will continue to use that knowledge to strengthen their community.

Hugh Tollemache,  
Chairman; Gloucestershire 2013-14

# Diary of Forthcoming Events

## **JULY 2021** **Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2022 and 2023**

*Friday 2 July*

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

## **OCTOBER 2021** **The Red Mass**

*Friday 1 October*

Arrangements are being made for the annual Red Mass, which should take place at 9.30am at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1P 1 LQW to celebrate the start of the legal year. The arrangements are subject to any official restrictions and social distancing which may be in force at the time and to the permission of the Cathedral.

Those High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination who wish to process will be invited to coffee beforehand from 8.30am. There will be a ticket-only reception in the Throne Room after the Mass. To obtain tickets, contact Stephen Hart: [secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk)

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

The annual Ladies' Lunch will be held in London. When arranged, full details will be sent in late summer to those ladies who are in nomination.



## **National Crimebeat** *Monday 18 October*

This is the opening date for submissions for the 2022 awards. See page 7 for more details.

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

For the Association's 50th anniversary we have reserved our AGM luncheon at Goldsmiths' Hall in London. We are very hopeful that the event will take place but we aim to make a decision with the Hall in late July or early August about the event when members will be notified. If we are able to proceed, the agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2021.

## **The Nomination of future High Sheriffs**

*Friday 12 November 2021  
probably at 2.00 pm*

The Ceremony of the Nomination of High Sheriffs will take place on that date in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court) at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At this ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 will be read out in court. As usual we hope to arrange a tea party afterwards at a nearby venue.

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

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

# National Crimebeat Awards 2021

## ❖ Amanda Parker JP DL

*Chair, National Crimebeat; Council Member; Lancashire 2015-16*

**I**n late 2020 we took the decision to host the 2021 awards ceremony via Zoom. All High Sheriffs in nomination for 2021 and 2022 were invited to attend the presentation. On the day, 235 people logged in to view the awards which is extraordinary and provided food for thought about including live streaming in future events.

Arranging the awards online had its trials and tribulations, and all trustees played their part with commitment and determination to make the young people feel appreciated for their efforts. There was some complex and demanding choreography, and full credit to the cool

heads for taking us through. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Amanda Pearson of the Metropolitan Police represented Dame Cressida Dick. This was an inspired choice, and DAC Pearson addressed the audience in an engaging and positive way. Our sponsors expressed their pleasure at seeing the young people's efforts and enjoyed giving a brief address to 'their' prize-winners.

Without the generosity of our sponsors, not least the High Sheriffs' Association, these young people would not get the opportunity to showcase their work to a national audience. We are very grateful for all the support we receive.

As ever, the young people stole the show and their charming manner, creative talents and enthusiasm shone through. All were worthy finalists and deserve high praise.

## YOUTH LED WINNERS AND WINNERS OF THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AWARD 2021

### MERSEYSIDE

*Stop the Knives Ending Lives*



This initiative was started by Jess Hughes when she began her campaign for election to the Knowsley Youth Cabinet. She decided to make a campaign against knife crime the focal point of her manifesto and once elected to the Youth Cabinet she quickly gathered the support of other members.

Throughout the development of this project the young people of the Youth Cabinet have been extensively involved in the design and delivery of the project which has now reached over 8,000 individuals. A badge was designed to indicate the opposition to knife crime with both the logo and design coming from the young people themselves.



We hope the Big Bus tour will play a part in the 2022 awards' day



## YOUTH LED RUNNERS UP

### WEST SUSSEX Tackling Knife Crime



The West Sussex Youth Cabinet, with the approval of Sussex Police, Councillors and Director of Education, have designed and created a selection of posters aimed at reducing knife crime. These have been posted on social media and sent to schools to be placed in prominent locations around their buildings. This project originated from within the Youth Cabinet and seeks to combat the issue of concern most frequently cited by young people in their area.

Their approach was to develop four posters that conveyed a very direct message about the consequences of knife crime, for the victims, perpetrators and others. The project has received plaudits from the local prison governor, the Chief Constable and a local MP.

## ADULT LED WINNERS

### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE #StopViolence



This project seeks to use social media as a powerful means of communicating with young people. In addition to extensive use of Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat and Instagram, the project has produced nine videos that were largely devised by the young people. The videos deal with issues such as County Lines, sexual exploitation and knife crime.

Students from a local college acted out these scenarios with accompanying music written and performed by young artists.



Amanda Parker, Chair, National Crimebeat

These videos have been described as 'hard hitting' and 'edgy'. Some 134 young people have been involved in various ways in this project. The videos are intended to be both relevant and credible to the target audience through the use of 'their voice' and 'their language'.

## ADULT LED RUNNERS UP

### MERSEYSIDE Web



Web takes referrals from multiple agencies for young people who have experienced self-harm, social isolation, bullying, domestic abuse, behavioural issues, rape, child sexual abuse, incest, family breakdown, childhood ACEs, PTSD, and a variety of mental health issues including anxiety, depression, OCD, suicide ideation, and self-harming behaviours.

Most referrals are for girls but some boys are also accepted on to the programmes which are aimed at

increasing their hopes and aspirations, building their resilience and coping techniques, improving their personal and professional relationships and increasing their self-esteem and confidence.

## ADULT LED THIRD PLACE

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE Aston Project



The Project was set up in September 2011 in memory of PC Lynn Aston who sadly lost her battle with cancer earlier that year. The Project was created to build upon Lynn's ability to identify young people engaging in anti-social behaviour and to link them with an activity within the local community.

The Project, having identified young people who may benefit from the programme, allows them to engage with their communities and accrue 'credits' that can be re-invested in those communities as determined by the young people.

A strong sense of community ownership has been developed through their volunteering scheme, which currently has over 60 volunteers registered. The project has many success stories and continues to receive referrals on a weekly basis.

The 2022 Awards will be held on Tuesday, 15 March at the Royal National Hotel, London.

### Key dates for the 2021 awards:

Submissions open: **18 October 2021**  
Closing date for entries: **23 Jan 2022**  
Judging: **31 Jan 2022**  
Awards ceremony: **15 March 2022**

# The Last Assize

♦ Richard Taylor  
*Under Sheriff of Hertfordshire*

**W**ITH THE ending of Assizes in 1971, the well-honed arrangements and traditions associated with them came to an end. Eddie Williams MBE, who was articled with the Hertford firm of Longmores in 1926 and later became Under Sheriff of Hertfordshire, wrote of his experiences in an article published in *The Solicitors' Journal* on 4 August 1972. Extracts from the article are reproduced with their kind permission. The full article can be found on the Association's website.

## The Last Assize

Assizes came three times a year and every prospective High Sheriff, before his year of office began, used to call at the office and was interviewed by one of the senior partners. His duties, although nominal, were elaborate. The High Sheriff was expected to open each assize with a parade of policemen, led by trumpeters. Meeting the judge on the outskirts of the town, he was escorted to All Saints' Church where the mayor and corporation and a few members of the public joined in a half-hour service. The church was conveniently connected to the

Shire Hall, where the assizes were held, by a short street down which the procession passed on foot after the service was over. Organisation of a para-military kind preceded this simple ceremony.

## Grand jury

In the early days, the first ceremony in the court was the swearing in of the grand jury. This was, in colloquial terms, a Snob's Congress. Membership of the grand jury marked one out as a member of what was still then regarded as 'county'. For several years they reviewed each charge, and then appeared on a balcony above the judge's rostrum and handed him what was called 'a true bill', on the end of a long bamboo pole with a kind of metal clothes peg on the



Lieutenant Colonel J C Thomson MBE TD DL, High Sheriff at the last assize in Hertford 1971

end. Once the first true bill had been returned, the judge could proceed to the sequence of trials.

The great occasion used to be the grand jury luncheon. This was, incidentally, one of the major expenses of the High Sheriff in the course of his year of office.

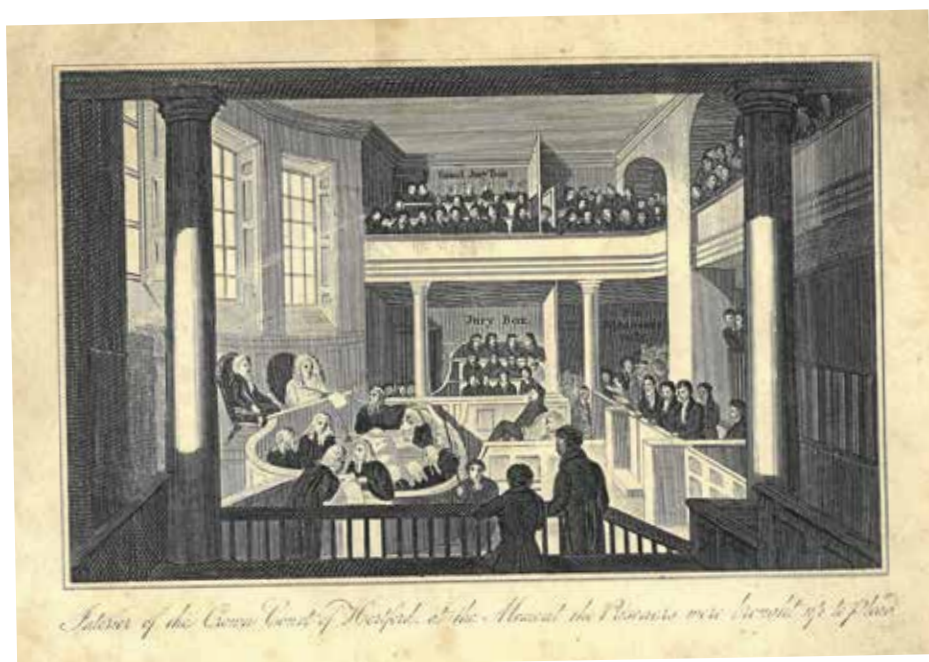
## Praying a tales

On one occasion, when I was sitting, half-doing beside the judge, some problem arose over the jury, and the judge turned to me and said, 'Mr under-sheriff, pray a tales'. By good fortune, I knew what to do. I rose to my feet and bellowed 'Close all doors'.

Photo credit: J B Thomson



Photo credit: Hertford Museum, provided courtesy of Longmores Solicitors LLP



Interior of Shire Hall shown on engraving from the celebrated Thurtell murder case 1824

I then climbed up the 50 stairs into the public gallery. I had to impress four jurymen to make good a shortage that had accidentally occurred. I reached the public gallery, and hissed under my breath for four volunteers to come forward quickly. Thankfully half a dozen leapt to their feet, and I sent four of them down to the jury.

## Finding a hangman

There was a far worse occasion when an accused man was convicted of murder. I stood while the chaplain passed the black cap to the judge, who put it on top of his wig, and pronounced the sentence of death. The prisoner stood impassively. Next day I had to start arranging his hanging.

How do you find a hangman? You write to the Home Office and they send you a list.

I went through the whole grim preparation under the impression that I was going to have to witness the hanging. I did inspect and check the machinery but at the last minute, a retired partner in the firm volunteered to take my place.

As the years went by, the Hertfordshire assizes lengthened from a day or two to a week, then to a fortnight, then to three weeks, and I believe the last of all lasted for 11 weeks. Throughout this time, the entire work of the firm was disrupted. The judge and his clerk required daily attention. The clerk of assize made daily demands. Jurors had to be released and more jurors summoned. There was never a day without the chief superintendent of police being in the office worrying over the number of men he had to allocate to the service of the court.

When the last assize closed in Hertford just before Christmas 1971 after more than 800 consecutive years, the ceremony had been cut to the minimum, but there was still that four-time daily fanfare of trumpeters, ringing through the old town.

Judge arriving at assizes, Shire Hall, 1967;  
Major R C L Pilkington, High Sheriff 1967-68



Photo credit: Hertford Museum, provided courtesy of Longmores Solicitors LLP



## Bridging the digital divide

**DIGITAL POVERTY** was not a phrase I knew before my shrieval year. Although it certainly existed before COVID-19, the pandemic has amplified its effects. Digital poverty will define my term as High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

In April last year I was approached by a local charity for help with an issue that was unfolding: children unable to engage in learning from home as they had no access to a digital device. The government began issuing devices to certain students, but it rapidly became apparent that need vastly outstripped supply. The primary aim for my year was determined: to bridge Bedfordshire's digital divide.

Children's Services across the county assisted by identifying students who had no access to a device. I raised money from local trusts, individuals, businesses and rotary clubs. I even held a virtual garden party which was extremely well attended. In return for three cake recipes and two teabags, people generously donated to the cause and to date I have been able to distribute over 1,800 devices across the county – an astounding number only made possible by the generosity of so many different communities across Bedfordshire.



Susan Lousada presents Bedfordshire Hero badges to staff and volunteers at a Bedford vaccination centre



Mark Lewis, Squareshot Photography



**Above:** Susan Lousada with Captain Sir Tom Moore at the unveiling of his portrait  
**Left:** Susan Lousada delivers laptops to a Luton school

I have seen headteachers in tears as they received the devices. In a television interview, the head of a Luton school explained that to deprive a child of a digital device in this world was no different to depriving them of a pen and books. My theme was always going to be keeping children in education, but little did I know just how important it would be this year.

Another highlight included celebrating my 60th birthday with Captain Sir Tom Moore at the unveiling of his portrait. He asked me to explain my digital initiative. As I finished, he flashed one of those rather cheeky smiles and launched into a five-minute speech, probably one of the most powerful I have heard on the importance of equality in education. He ended by telling me how, even today, out of the four army colleges, only one admits girls and how wrong he felt that

was. His death leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of many people across the world; in Bedfordshire we lost our local hero.

In March I received my first dose of the vaccine, which was carried out with such kindness and military precision. Reflecting on this, it occurred to me that many of the people delivering this incredible vaccine roll-out are volunteers and I wanted to thank them. I had 'Bedfordshire Hero' badges made for these wonderful volunteers which included the High Sheriff's badge of Office. Handing out 2,750 badges was a logistical challenge but worth it. Staff and volunteers were so grateful to be recognised and appreciated.

A year without pomp or ceremony was more than made up for by the cheerful volunteers at the vaccination centres receiving their badges and the infectious smiles on children's faces as they received their laptops. Those smiles that crossed the digital divide will stay with me forever.

◆ Susan Lousada DL  
*High Sheriff of Bedfordshire 2020-2021*





# A hyperconnected city

**FROM THE day of my Declaration in our dining room, it was pretty obvious that I should start making other plans.**

As my diary emptied, it began to fill with virtual events and meetings. By end of the year there were over 800 entries. How did that happen?

A High Sheriff can do three things: thank and support, connect, and convene. All work very well in the virtual world. Sitting remotely with judges and virtual police awards ceremonies were natural alternatives. Some things required more thought. We did manage one judge's dinner, but after that I took visiting judges on walking tours of Clifton instead – described by Betjeman as the 'handsomest suburb of Europe', as well as the home of the Bristol lodgings.

High Sheriffs come to the role with a broad knowledge of the organisations and communities in their counties. During the year many hundreds of new relationships are formed. This gives a High Sheriff the unique ability to make connections – a lasting and powerful legacy. The number of possible connections and the value of the role of High Sheriff increases non-

linearly with the number of organisations/individuals known.

City of Bristol is the smallest county, just forty square miles. We have a population of 460,000 in a diverse and edgy city. A 'virtual' High Sheriff has the opportunity to explore that rich diversity in greater depth – faith groups, the country-based groups (we have several Consuls and over 95 languages spoken in schools), the 90 'villages' of the city and all the charities and voluntary/community groups. The pressing question was: how can the High Sheriff create lasting and significant value at a time of great stress?

I recalled a remark by the Chief Constable of Leicestershire at Burghley in 2019: 'take part of your life into the lives of those you meet'. Initially I discussed cybercrime and big data analytics with the police and military intelligence. But then through some chance events in the voluntary sector I saw an opportunity to apply 40 years of experience in large-/massive-scale systems research to the world of asking and giving. From that came AskingBristol.

AskingBristol's ambitions are to lubricate and democratise asking and

giving in Bristol. There may be as many as 10,000 charities and voluntary/community groups in (Greater) Bristol. All have asks (things given, things lent, spaces lent, volunteering, expertise and advice, cash). Democratising means treating the smallest with one part-time volunteer equally to the largest with an income of £40 million.

AskingBristol is completely bottom-up. It gives each group a 'buddy' to own their asks and uses the super-connectivity of Bristol to route asks to individuals/organisations/businesses able to match them. We are just starting a second scaled-up experiment with 110 diverse charities. We expect to have about 400 asks to work with, many of which are transformational for their charities.

Every successful match creates an engaging story – they will appear on [www.askingbristol.org](http://www.askingbristol.org) together with AskingBristol's High Sheriff's legacy.

Three early stories to appear are:

- The donation of 800 new cardboard boxes from Accolade Wines in Avonmouth (Europe's largest wine-bottling plant) to the North West Bristol Foodbank for making up family packages.
- Storage space for 30 pallets for six months at the DHL warehouse in Severn Beach for Children's Scrapstore to allow the delivery of new high-value surplus materials from regional businesses.
- Pro bono legal advice by the University of Bristol Law Clinic on the publisher's contract for a book of recipes and back stories from some of Bristol's 91+ language communities for 91 Ways to Build a Global City. All profits will be gifted to 91 Ways.

The big ambition is to make Bristol the world's first hyperconnected city with consequent implications for social cohesion and equality. And then to franchise the ideas... AskingMilan, AskingBrisbane. Without a year as 'virtual' High Sheriff this would not have happened.

◆ **Dr John Manley**

*High Sheriff of the City of Bristol 2020-21*



Visit to a summer holiday activity funded by the High Sheriff of Bristol's Fund, which makes grants to charities and community groups that provide physical and creative activity classes for 8- to 12-year-olds in areas of Bristol of greatest need during nine weeks of school holidays. This year we supported 20 groups with some additional funding for another 18 groups identified by Avon and Somerset Neighbourhood Policing. The children come from Stockwood, Whitchurch and Brislington Credit: Anne-Marie Rogers, Quartet Community Foundation



# Cometh the hour, cometh the man

**SOME PEOPLE have commiserated on what a terrible year to be High Sheriff... But as the old saying goes: 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man'.**

I have loved almost every minute of it. And YES, this year has been different, but I have been energised by the absolutely amazing efforts of remarkable people from all walks of life. From high-profile celebrities to low-profile hospital workers; from council workers to members of the police; from fire fighters to church wardens and charity workers – people from all walks of life have really stepped up and I am so proud to tell everyone I come from this great county.

The pandemic has been devastating for many people. We have lost thousands of loved ones, a huge number of businesses have gone bust, people have lost their jobs and the country is in huge debt... but there are still many positive things to be thankful for.

I think most people will have had time to reflect on their lives, their dreams and aspirations, their core values and their objectives. I believe we will emerge as a kinder community, a fairer country and a significantly more tolerant one.

I have learnt much during my year:

I have learnt that the impact of Covid on our lives and on the country has been greater than we could have ever imagined. We find ourselves in a situation where the economic gap in society – the difference between the haves and the have-nots – has widened. Wealthy people appear to



Helping to deliver 2,200 slow cookers to be distributed to vulnerable families in Cheshire

have fared much better than poorer both medically and economically.

Having spent 10 days with our Cheshire Crown Court judges I have learnt what a lonely job that can be – and that the judges like home-made cake! Lesley and I have started a new tradition for future High Sheriffs to provide judges with home-made cake on their court visits.

I have learnt that listening to the incredibly thoughtful speeches H M The Queen has made this year and playing them back to people has been very powerful.

*'The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.'*

*'I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge.'*

*'And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any.'*

I have learnt that engaging with and encouraging others can achieve much more than I can on my own. The office of High Sheriff can open doors, but if you want to bring about change then you need to motivate and inspire the right people... and get them working towards a common goal.

I have learnt that the Cheshire Community Foundation is a brilliant way to get money to worthwhile causes; they have been thoroughly vetted and have to report back on their outputs from the donations.

I have learnt that Cheshire is a great county full of wonderful people, so thank

you to all who have helped me. In particular very special thanks to my wife for her great understanding about all the wonderful promised events that sadly I had to cancel... including The Queen's garden party.

This pandemic could be seen as creating a much bigger divide in our towns and communities, but actually I believe that many people here in Cheshire have come up with ideas and actions to help reduce its impact and significantly assist in the most vulnerable areas.

For many people overt displays of wealth have lost much of their shine and some have become vulgar. The real modern-day heroes are people who have mobilised themselves to help those in need and the disadvantaged rather than those who drive the flashiest and most expensive cars.

Raising money and awareness for school dinners, the homeless, mental health, the NHS and a whole range of other charities and good causes is seen much more as a civic and moral duty than ever before and is starting to be celebrated – it has become cool.

The one commodity that has become more valuable than ever before is kindness: 'No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.' (Aesop)

It's not just about talking about doing great things, it's about acting, it's putting the graft in and it's about getting others involved too.

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



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Warrington Youth Club for delivering essential childcare for children with special needs during lockdown





# Taking the Shrievalty virtual

**OF COURSE it has been a challenging year to be High Sheriff and not without significant disappointment in events missed. But it also represented a blank page and a once in a generation opportunity to reshape the traditional shrieval year and role. Little did I know at the beginning of the year that research, script writing and broadcast skills would be required.**

I had always planned to focus my year of office on supporting those individuals and organisations who underpin the work of the police in the community, working with vulnerable people in the areas of domestic abuse, sexual violence, mental health issues, alcohol addiction and drug abuse. COVID has made the work of these groups even more crucial and challenging.

I was intending to host a series of High Sheriff briefings where I would throw a spotlight on a few of the impressive and indeed humbling organisations I have met this year, aiming to give profile to those causes which don't always receive the recognition they deserve. Unfortunately infection levels got the better of us – and it was all put on hold first in September and then finally at the end of January.

'Virtual' was obviously the way forward and to give it legs, endorsement and importantly traction for the

organisations involved, I approached a brilliant Cornish community hub, which had set up its own broadcast studio early in the pandemic. The CHAOS (Community Helping All of Society) Group agreed to run The High Sheriff of Cornwall Briefings as a partnership with CHAOS TV. The briefings would run as part of the CHAOS programming and sit permanently on a dedicated CHAOS Vimeo page.

The High Sheriff Briefings were streamed as ten separate programmes, where I interviewed individuals representing a range of organisations supporting various struggling groups within our communities.

The programmes were promoted via both the CHAOS and High Sheriff of Cornwall social media feeds as well as a newsletter to the broader High Sheriffs' network.

Like many fellow High Sheriffs across the country I also faced the challenge of making the traditional Legal Service work online. In fact this proved the opportunity to thread and bring together themes and initiatives from across my year. I could not have done this without the support and 'can do' attitude of the Truro Cathedral team who wholeheartedly threw themselves behind the challenge of making this very different Legal Service memorable and impactful, while still containing the traditional celebration of the judiciary in Cornwall.

Under the umbrella theme of 'A Brighter Future', some of Cornwall's brightest young musical, dance and even motor racing talent were invited through my chosen charity Young & Talented Cornwall to contribute to Cornwall's Legal Service. The service was put together from filming both in the cathedral and from outside, with the Dean, my Chaplain, Truro's Honorary Recorder and the Chief Constable all speaking on the subject of A Brighter Future.

Throughout my year of office I had recognised and supported those



The High Sheriff Briefings: Kate Holborow, interviewing Elisabeth and David Carney-Haworth from Operation Encompass (linking schools and police forces to support children living with domestic abuse) for CHAOS TV



Cornwall's first virtual Legal Service: Kate Holborow in Truro Cathedral, with a performance by 17-year-old ballet dancer Aston Purnell

'unsung heroes' who with dedication and selflessness play such a crucial role in our communities. Two recipients of The High Sheriff of Cornwall Unsung Hero Awards also featured in the service.

Our successors will undoubtedly have more opportunity for face-to-face engagement and events in their shrieval year. Nevertheless this pandemic year has succeeded in illustrating the modern-day virtual role for the High Sheriff, with new opportunities to build on.

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



Photo credit Paul Williams

Monique Collins of DISC Newquay receiving the High Sheriff of Cornwall Unsung Hero Award from Kate Holborow, with Jane Hartley DL, Chair of the Cornwall Community Foundation



# Adding value virtually during lockdowns

**I HAVE enjoyed a thoroughly engaging year in office, but it has been very different to the one I had imagined. There were still times when I could make visits in person, though these occasions were usually based outdoors, and I probably wore my waterproofs far more than my court dress. Much of the year, however, has been punctuated by lengthy lockdowns, so how could I visibly lend support at such times in an unprecedented year?**

Armed with a laptop, jabot and ostrich feather hat, during the first lockdown I 'zoomed' around Cumbria, buoyed by how quickly I could cover 'virtual miles' to meet with far more groups and organisations than would be possible when faced with the usual challenges of driving around a large county. I was also delighted to launch Special Recognition Awards for volunteers and voluntary organisations, and was able to acknowledge, thank and engage with many amazing individuals and communities.

During the second lockdown and with my charity ball cancelled, I set up a High Sheriff's online charity auction and prize draw. Normally such auctions only involve those who attend a black-tie event. I used the unusual situation of a pandemic to appeal to a wider audience, with auction lots in many price brackets and raffle tickets costing only £5. Literally hundreds of people participated, many of whom had never previously engaged with the Shrievalty. This is a strange paradox of lockdown. I believe I have reached more people precisely because lockdowns have forced me to adapt my approach.

Then came a third lockdown. How should I visibly lend support this time? Reflecting back, my focus was twofold. First, I looked at ways to support those involved in law and order and the judiciary, the 'forgotten frontline workers'. I set up a series of online meetings with Cumbria Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary, the fire and rescue service,



Julie Barton in her shrieval facemask at the launch of Relove by St Mary's Hospice in Barrow-in-Furness

probation service, and magistrates, as well as focussing on different roles within HMP Haverigg, including its multifaith chaplaincy, a custodial manager, and a prison governor. I wrote up each meeting for social media, gaining approval from attendees before publication. I was delighted that these positive stories were regularly reported in the local press.

My other focus was business. In January, I launched the 'High Sheriff of Cumbria COVID-19 Business Innovation and Community Awards' to recognise the incredible ways businesses have confronted the challenges of the pandemic. The communities of Cumbria rely on local businesses for jobs, innovation, community support and prosperity. The awards were a great opportunity to appreciate the role of businesses and encourage everyone to support local. I was thrilled to be inundated with nominations full of inspiring stories for amazing businesses of all sizes. It was a privilege to present Special Performance Certificates and three outstanding awards to business teams, who were delighted to receive recognition from the High Sheriff. They celebrated news of their awards on social media which was shared widely. That is the 'magic dust' the Office of High Sheriff can bring, even during a lockdown.



Julie Barton presenting Emma Porter of Story Contracting in Carlisle with an Outstanding Community Spirited Enterprise Award

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





# Inspiring hope

**THE MOST common thing said to me this year has been: 'What a pity you have had such an awful year.' How wrong is that! It has been different with no civic receptions, dinners or grand occasions but it has been a year when High Sheriffs have really been able to make an impact and a difference to their communities and bailiwicks. This was my challenge.**

I transferred my legal service into a film *Without Fear or Favour*. Bournemouth University introduced me to Josh, a recent graduate film maker, and with his help I produced a 20-minute clip. There were presentations from Mrs Justice May, the senior western circuit judge, highlighting the importance of volunteers to the criminal justice system;



**Above:** George Streatfeild filming *Without Fear or Favour*. **Below:** Lord Neuberger filming *Without Fear or Favour*

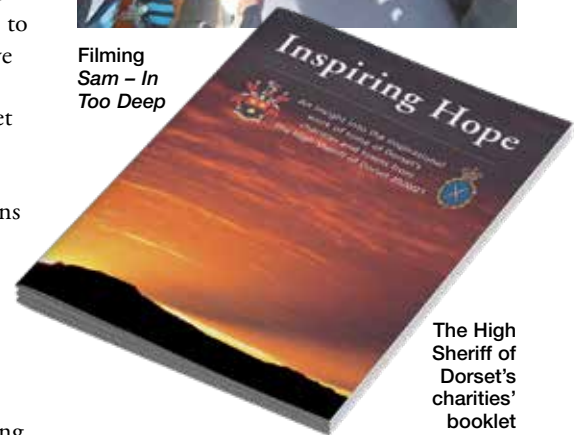
my chaplain the Revd Canon Janet Smith, raising mental welfare; Chief Constable James Vaughan discussing 'policing by consent' and Lord Neuberger, past President of the Supreme Court, explaining society's freedoms within the framework of the law. I then emailed it to a much wider audience than would have been able to attend the service.

The summer event became a booklet to raise the profile of selected Dorset charities. In my Declaration speech I wanted to 'inspire hope' in those sections of society where there is none: that became the title for my booklet. If I could not get 200 people together to hear directly from the charities, I could at least get into their homes and offices with a production which highlighted a wider selection of organisations including the fantastic work done by groups during the pandemic lockdown. I circulated 1,000 copies, achieving a far greater profile than the event might have done.

Traditionally Dorset has a legal lecture in Bournemouth University, led by undergraduates on a topic promoted by the High Sheriff. Returning to Josh and fellow student Ollie for help I used the true story of a young boy groomed by a county lines gang into becoming a drug mule and who eventually was killed by them. *Sam – In Too Deep* is a



Filming  
*Sam – In Too Deep*



The High Sheriff of Dorset's charities' booklet

hard-hitting eight-minute YouTube clip which is being circulated throughout the county both to schools and young people as well as the wider community, many of whom are not aware of the depth of the problem. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4MXJTWNMfQ>)

In my view, the High Sheriff has three main things to achieve: to engage with, hear from and thank those doing amazing things; to publicise their work and achievements; and to bring groups together for mutual benefit. My solutions may not have been orthodox but they seem to have worked; after only two weeks the county lines film has been viewed over 3,700 times.

I do not believe any of it would have happened without the mutual support from the other eight High Sheriffs in my region: we routinely emailed, Zoomed and WhatsApped. It enabled us to compare our ideas and plans. Those sessions often became daunting; to hear the amazing things others were doing was inspiring and fired me up to achieve more, as well as giving us all the confidence to do things differently.

**George Streatfeild**  
High Sheriff of Dorset 2020-21





# What has happened not what's wrong

**THIS HAS certainly been a very odd year to have been High Sheriff!**

I was recently asked what I had learnt about the individuals who end up in the criminal justice system. My answer is that one should ask oneself not what's wrong with them but what has happened to them.

My focus has been on ACEs (adverse childhood experiences). Scientific evidence shows that the impact of trauma causes toxic stress, which may lead to cognitive emotional and social impairment, which impacts on health and life outcomes. These can increase the chances of victims of ACEs having drug and alcohol addiction, interactions with the police and ultimately

having a criminal record, and in some cases leading to imprisonment.

But, what a year! My greatest privilege has been to witness the astounding work that is going on, day after day, with young people and adults in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. In spite of the shortages, in spite of the fiercely increased demand during the pandemic, this work is changing the outcomes of these lives.

I would like to tell you a story of transformation in the face of real adversity through building a trusted adult relationship, which science shows is key to changing life outcomes of ACEs victims.

Jimmy was living in a foster home,

his eighth in the previous four years. Excluded from school, he was well known by the police and targeted by a county lines drug gang. His father was in prison and Jimmy's primary aim in life seemed to be to hurt his dad as much as his dad had hurt him. Volunteers with a caring local charity provide him with fitness training and his trust in his ex-army fitness instructor, Dave, slowly begins to grow. One day, Dave asks him why he always shows up for their sessions when he doesn't turn up for meetings with his school or social worker. Jimmy's answer is simple: you are the first person to spend time with me without being paid for it. Jimmy is now in the army.

I have learnt about the work of Gloucestershire Constabulary, which is trauma informed, the statutory sector and a plethora of local charities that are committed to changing people's lives through care, compassion and through building unconditional trusted relationships. They are committed to supporting individuals and families going through rough times or provide a space for a youngster where there is no aggression, no danger. If Jimmy had not been given the opportunity to build his fitness, he would not have met Dave. His life would have taken a spiral downwards.

I urge you to become ACEs-aware and trauma informed, to increase your understanding so that your question is not what is wrong with somebody in the criminal justice system but what has happened to them.

**◆ Helen Lovatt**

*High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 2020-21*



Photo credit: Paul Nicholls



Photo credit: Gloucestershire County Council

**Left:** Helen Lovatt at Gloucester Cathedral for Declaration and annual Legal Service  
**Above:** The T-shirts and grins say it all





## Adapt to achieve



With the Bishop of London who preached the sermon at my virtual Legal Church Service

**IN MY winter 2020 article I gave a little of the history and scope of the role of the High Sheriff of Greater London (HSGL).**

At that time of writing I had just started to use, it turned out, the gap between lockdowns to visit almost all the nine Crown Courts in Greater London together with the Royal Courts of Justice where my wife and I had the honour of sitting with the Lord Chief Justice on a case. I also managed to visit one of the eight prisons; the rest were deemed to be (off and on) COVID 'outbreak zones' and there was a mutual reluctance towards my visiting them. I did, however, manage a fascinating half-day with the Metropolitan Police. This commenced with a short trip on one of their marine launches and included stories about how they caught modern-day smugglers of both people and drugs. The second part was a 'ride-along' in a police response car which was utterly hair-raising! The moment I sat in the car we received a call-out and crossed the whole of central London in under 10 minutes, a journey which, had I been driving and obeying the Highway Code, would have taken a minimum of an hour!

One socially distanced achievement was the creation of the first-ever virtual HSGL's Legal Church Service. Participants included the Bishop of London (who gave the sermon), the

President of the Supreme Court (who gave the address), together with three Bible readings by the Senior Presiding Judge of England and Wales, the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Prayers were said by the Recorder of London and one of the City Sheriffs who is a fellow City Alderman of mine. My aim was to bring together the senior legal/judicial figures in London, albeit in a virtual event and, in this case, with a remote congregation. This reached more than a thousand people, far more than if we'd held it physically.

The bulk of my time during the pandemic (as with so many others) has, however, been spent on video conference calls from home. These have included discussions with numerous judicial-related charity CEOs; prison governors; the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue; the Chief Magistrate; and – less obviously – the Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth. All of these I would have hoped to have visited and entertained in my year of office.

As my final act, and my legacy, I am now in the process of setting up the first-ever HSGL's Justice Fund. This will have as its early theme the rehabilitation of prisoners and their social inclusion. Over



With my wife at the Royal Courts of Justice to meet (and sit on a case in his courtroom) with the Lord Chief Justice

the years to come I'm sure these themes will be developed by my successors.

Overall, my year proved much more challenging and less traditional than I originally expected but, through adaptation, achieved more than might have been hoped for in the circumstances. It was both interesting and enjoyable, notwithstanding the absence of around 300 events which I would have attended!

♦ **Alderman John Garbutt**  
*High Sheriff of Greater London 2020-21*



On the Met Police launch for my trip on the Thames



# Young Citizens of the Year

**I AM absolutely sure that every High Sheriff remembers in great detail their year in office. I am equally sure that the year we have just experienced will mean our memories will be distinct, if not unique, in the history of the Shrievalty.**

Sadly, I did not have the opportunity to fully ensure the welfare of visiting High Court judges. However, I did manage to visit a number of judges, including the Hon Mr Justice Dove and the Honorary Recorder of Manchester, His Honour Judge Nicholas Dean QC. I was also delighted to be invited to sit at Bolton Crown Court with the Honorary Recorder of Bolton, His Honour Judge Walsh. An enlightening experience.

While we all hope we leave a legacy, only history will judge whether we have acquitted ourselves well enough during an unprecedented pandemic. I consolidated my earlier Special Recognition Awards by introducing the High Sheriff Greater Manchester Young Citizen of the Year Awards. We received hundreds of nominations, highlighting young people between 11 and 18 years old who, with great social conscience, were enhancing the lives of those people in their communities who needed help.

The awards were supported by the High Sheriff's Police Trust and very generously sponsored by Beaverbrooks, a business that is led by Chairman Mark Adlestone OBE DL, High Sheriff of

Greater Manchester 2019-20. There were ten Young Citizen winners, one in each Greater Manchester borough, and a number who were Highly Commended.

I am pleased to say we received extensive media coverage, including the *Manchester Evening News* and BBC Radio Manchester, with each winner being interviewed in the BBC's 'Make a Difference' strand.

With the former High Sheriff's backing and the current High Sheriff's initiative, we have ensured a continuity of approach, recognising young people, which we hope will endure for many years.

The imposed reduction in the ceremonial aspect of the High Sheriff role has allowed me more time to engage directly with communities, good causes, charities, and individuals.

There are too many to mention here but I would once again like to praise the Greater Manchester Police Special Constabulary, led by Chief Officer Mike Walmsley MBE DL. The interest I have taken in these volunteers, throughout my year as High Sheriff, has been very much appreciated by the 300 or so men and women who give up their own time to help keep us safe.

One of my final official engagements was to spend a day with the Specials on a traffic operation in Manchester. We were



**Eamonn O'Neal, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, on traffic duty with CO Mike Walmsley MBE DL, Chief Officer of GMP Special Constabulary**

joined by the Chief Officer and Chief Supt Chris Allsop, Area Commander of GMP's regular force. It was an excellent experience and it was great to witness the support that works both ways between regular and special officers – thanks to mutual respect, a belief in the value of service and authentic leadership.

I have been blessed to have experienced a year as a High Sheriff during a pandemic but I do hope that our successors can enjoy more freedom to thrive in the 'outside world'.

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



**High Sheriff Eamonn O'Neal presents Greater Manchester Young Citizen of the Year 2020 Awards to: Freya Gavin (Trafford) with her guide dog Lennon; Kea Bell (Manchester); and Keira Arnold (Oldham)**







# Dymuniadau gorau a phob lwc!

**IT IS** axiomatic that the 2020-21 shrieval year has been unprecedented in living memory for most of us. With restrictions on our freedom of movement not experienced before in peacetime it has been difficult to maintain the profile of the Shrievalty in the normal way and nowhere has this been seen in starker terms than in rural counties such as Gwynedd.

It is nearly 100 miles from Caerdybi (Holyhead) to Aberdyfi which raises logistical problems even without having to contend with the added strictures of the Welsh government's COVID-19 regulations. In common with many other colleagues I have found it both disappointing and frustrating not to have been able to go out and about in support of those groups and organisations within the county who normally look to the High Sheriff for recognition, encouragement and practical assistance.

Back in March, the start of my year in office should have been marked with a Declaration ceremony at the world-famous Portmeirion village. This had been long in the planning and I was looking forward to making my Declaration in the presence of around 75 friends and dignitaries in the Neaudd Ercwlff (Hercules Hall) followed by luncheon at the Hotel Portmeirion. With just about a week to go it was devastating to have to cancel everything when the first lockdown was announced. In the event I made my Declaration before a local JP literally standing on my doorstep! But with, as it turned out, misplaced optimism I decided to postpone the ceremonial at Portmeirion until the end of September. Sadly that also had to be cancelled. However, so as not to disappoint a number of friends who had committed to travelling to Gwynedd for the event we went ahead with a small socially distanced celebratory ceremony in my garden for which we were blessed with a glorious sunny day.

For the remainder of the year I have been extremely limited in what I have been able to do. I have participated in meetings and limited events via Zoom



including Crimebeat and PACT meetings. The occasions on which I met anyone in person or wore court dress outside a virtual meeting were limited to just four: sitting with the judge at Caernarfon Crown Court, presenting badges to my two North Wales police cadets on the steps of Caernarfon Castle, laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday and doing a piece to camera to launch the North Wales Police internet safety poster competition for primary schools. Placing my wreath on the war memorial in Harlech where I was brought up was particularly poignant because my great-uncle Richard Williams, who was killed on the Somme, is commemorated on the monument. I was also delighted and honoured to participate in the 2020 National Crimebeat awards ceremony not least because the winning entry – 'Sharing Stories' – was a joint Gwynedd and Clwyd project which was fully deserving of the accolade.

The highlights of my year have been participating in the Crimebeat police cadets' challenge – not least because the winning entry came from my own cadet Joshua Taylor – and awarding certificates in a virtual ceremony to Royal College of Nursing in Wales volunteer representatives from Gwynedd. It was



**Above left:** Edmund Bailey, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Gwynedd, D Eryl Francis Williams, Sarah Foskett JP, and Revd Shelagh Naylor at the socially distanced gathering  
**Above:** Remembrance Sunday in Harlech  
**Below:** The High Sheriff with North Wales police cadets Joshua Taylor and Olivia Ward for the presentation of badges at Caernarfon Castle



Photo credit: PACT North Wales

humbling and inspiring to learn of the selfless dedication of NHS staff during this terrible pandemic.

And so this strange year comes to a close. It remains to thank all those individuals who have so readily given me their help and advice and to wish my successor, Gwyn Peredur Owen, a safe and successful year in office. *Dymuniadau gorau a phob lwc!*

**◆ D Eryl Francis Williams**  
*High Sheriff of Gwynedd 2020-21*



## On with the feathers

**ALL THE** best laid plans of mice, men and High Sheriffs were torn asunder last March with the introduction of the first lockdown. Declaration plans were thrown out of the window; I had planned to have mine at the RNLI Inshore Lifeboat Centre in East Cowes. This is where every inshore lifeboat in the RNLI fleet is built and maintained. As for so many of us it was back to the dining room table and Zoom. The beautiful file I had prepared was beginning to fill up – then nothing.

However, there was urgent work to be done. My predecessor Geoff Underwood had put together an Isle of Wight Crisis Committee in conjunction with the Isle of Wight Council, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, the High Sheriff's Trust and a couple of other local trusts. We swung into action almost immediately and had identified some core organisations that urgently



Let's Buy Local: with HM Lord-Lieutenant Susie Sheldon

needed help. Since we had the funds ready to distribute this was a life-saver, for instance, to many smaller groups which were doing vital work with food banks.

The Isle of Wight is very fortunate to have one county council and one Member of Parliament; it does make the job of High Sheriff much simpler. Our MP Bob Seely had immediately set up Zoom meetings with all the heads of organisations, of which I was lucky enough to be one. To start with these were held twice weekly and were incredibly helpful to find out where the 'bare' pockets were, and who needed help quickly. We were very proud to have been chosen for the pilot scheme for 'Test and Trace' though of course this didn't quite turn out as well as hoped since a lot of residents had older phones. There was also the drone scheme, taking medical supplies between a small airstrip on the Island and Southampton Airport.

My Lord-Lieutenant and I did commiserate about the thumb-twiddling we were doing but all along there were phone calls and Zooms, mainly to boost morale. As soon as lockdown was lifted it was on with the feathers and out and about giving Community Awards to those who had worked so hard to keep the small shops going as well as giving their customers first-class service. These were hugely appreciated.

Although visits to schools and most organisations were a no-no, I did manage one court appearance and also a visit to HMP Isle of Wight – which is in fact two prisons, Parkhurst and Albany.

The last three weeks of my year were spent presenting High Sheriff's Awards to young people who have achieved something, kept to the right side of the tracks, coped with family bereavements and so on. Last year these were Zoomed and a ceremony in the Minster in Newport had been planned. However, it soon became apparent that the restrictions would not allow this, so I did them individually. This has had the huge advantage of being able to talk to each recipient and their teachers or parents and hearing what their aspirations might be.

I am indebted to the support of the monthly Zoom calls and WhatsApps with the southwest High Sheriffs and the band of merry High Sheriffs I met on the speakers' course. We have laughed, commiserated and given each other a huge amount of moral support. Thank you all and I am looking forward to a meeting in person very soon.

**◆ Caroline Peel DL**  
*High Sheriff of the isle of Wight 2020-21*



Above: The Farm Shop: Jane and Kate Garnham with awards

Below: The Posse: the Island Riding Centre with the apprentices from HTP College and the instructors







# Ten days in prison

**AS MY year as High Sheriff of Kent draws to a close, I have spent some time reflecting on the very unusual year that I have enjoyed. The fact that plans had to be abandoned and events cancelled is not a surprise to anyone but I think our cohort of 'Corona High Sheriffs' have managed to rise above the disappointments and made the very best of a difficult situation. The friendships that I have made with fellow High Sheriffs via Zoom and social media are very special and I hope will be long lived.**

Before the year began, I was a little apprehensive about visiting prisons. However, I have been so enlightened by the connection that I have made with the governors of the seven Kent prisons and young offender institutions. Initially, the correspondence was via email and telephone. I had visits planned then postponed but never cancelled and am pleased to report that during my year I have spent ten days in prison (not something I thought I would be saying at the end of my shrieval year).

I was delighted to present High Sheriff's Awards to those residents who were put forward by their governors for being great examples to their fellow prisoners. Judging was difficult but we selected a wonderful group of recipients from each prison. I met all of them in person and was thrilled to see how much these awards meant to them. I hope it will spur them on in their quest for a better life and will help to support their applications for work on release.

The prisons in Kent range from the YOI in Rochester housing just 100 'children', who have a strict daily routine, to the two Category B prisons on the Isle of Sheppey, where there are over a thousand residents in each and where for the best part of this year, they have been locked in their cells 23 hours of the day. There is also a women's open prison at East Sutton Park which houses around 100 residents. This prison has extensive grounds and a farm where many of them work, often becoming inspired to care for the environment. One of the awards that I presented was to a lady in recognition of her work clearing overgrown areas by hand, thus enhancing wildlife and providing a tranquil haven for staff and residents to enjoy away from the daily stresses of prison life.

There is no doubt that rehabilitation and hope for a new start is what the prison staff want for all those who are receptive and willing to try to change. Reoffending carries high social and economic costs, thus reducing its risk is also a high priority for government. Resettlement is the key linchpin for reducing reoffending. Though everyone involved is trying their hardest to make this process as smooth as possible, I have seen how hard this can be and how much we still need to do as a county to help get previous offenders work and give them the best chance of starting a new life without crime.

One of the most pleasurable aspects of the year has been visiting charities and voluntary groups which have been so struck by the pandemic and yet have shown



With Natasha Wilson, governor at HMP/YOI East Sutton Park



Presentation to Rubicon Cares, a charity offering counselling to victims of crime: Jackie Threlfall, Sandie Turner, founder, Kerry Turner, Sinead Sheridan

resourcefulness and enterprise to overcome the difficulties. I was delighted to have the support from the Kent Community Foundation to present awards and cheques to those charities that I felt had really gone the extra mile. We were unable to hold a formal ceremony to give the awards; instead I went to visit the charities for a second time with my daughter Alex and we presented the certificates and took photographs at each place. This was a very intimate and special thing to do – I think the recipients were thrilled.

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



Rising Sun domestic abuse charity, with recipient and CEO, Frances Ellis



Challenger Troop – recipient and founder of charity is Major Simon Dean



Dogs Trust Freedom Project – Kent project leader Martha Huntley



# Worth copying in future?

**DURING THE last twelve months all High Sheriffs have learnt new ways of doing things, occasionally with success. The question is: will they be worth copying in future?**

The Young Citizen Award has been an annual event in Lancashire since it was established by Rodney Swarbrick when he was High Sheriff over 20 years ago. The award ceremony is usually held at police headquarters at Hutton, as it is run by the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC) with support from Lancashire Constabulary. Sadly, an awards ceremony at police HQ was never on the cards this year but it would not have been right to cancel it in this of all years, when all young people have faced such enormous challenges.

Fortunately, the award is sponsored by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) and it occurred to me that some UCLAN students might like to get involved and put on a virtual event. I am grateful that the university was pleased to be involved. It became a project for one particular student assisted by a tutor and the university's EntrEvent management team. They did a splendid job, even

**Below:** Winner of the Young Citizen Award James Curl with community police in Chorley  
**Below right:** Virtual award ceremony for the High Sheriff's Young Citizen Awards (clockwise from top left): MC Andy Mitchell; Catherine Penny; DCC Terry Woods; Russell Millhouse (UCLAN)



Catherine Penny on Ribble Way walk in aid of NWAA with Andrew Penny, Chaplain Revd Canon Brian McConkey and PA Judith Turner Photo credit: Fiona Finch

managing to provide well-timed clapping sound effects throughout the evening.

More than 50 young people were nominated for the award, with their ages ranging from 21 to just four years old. As well as a winner, runner-up and third place, nominees could be placed in the Highly Commended or Commended categories. Usually, those who are Commended are not able to attend the award ceremony because of a lack of space. The advantage of the virtual ceremony was that all nominees were able to be recognised, with family and those who had nominated them also able to tune in. In future years, the challenge will

be to continue to welcome all nominees to the ceremony, perhaps by holding a combined live and virtual event.

The master of ceremonies, Andy Mitchell, was brilliant at engaging with all the young people and at making the evening flow. DCC Terry Woods, Russell Millhouse of UCLAN and I were the other members of the award platform. The feedback after the event was terrific. Several people mentioned how important it was to recognise the achievements of our youngest generation at a time when they have sacrificed so many aspects of an ordinary upbringing for the benefit of the rest of society.

Another high point of my year was undertaking a sponsored walk in support of the North West Air Ambulance (NWAA). The NWAA had initiated a fundraising campaign to celebrate its 21st year and all five of the northwest High Sheriffs joined together in support. For my part, I walked the 42 miles of the Ribble Way in Lancashire. Along the way, I met people who had been helped by the air ambulance, raising awareness of both the charitable status of the organisation, as well as the role of the High Sheriff. Between the five High Sheriffs, we raised nearly £15,000 in support of a superb charity which is also a key emergency service.



Photo credit: Anna Baybutt, (Lancashire Partnership against Crime)

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





## Overstocked but underfed

**I FELT I couldn't do better than repeat what I said to prospective High Sheriffs at our recent regional meeting. My collage is just a reminder, particularly for future High Sheriffs, not to over order stationery before taking office.**

If it's an order of service for your Turnover Ceremony or visiting cards you are after I am your man – I am sure we could come to an accommodation on price.

Printing is extraordinarily cheap these days and the quality is first-class, lead times are short and there is nothing like a stiffer coming through the post.

Useful equipment might include a self-inking stamp – I have not had to top up the ink yet – remarkable quality compared to rubber stamps of yore, and an embossing machine both nearly new and available to hire. A potential downside is that both items of equipment include my name and the Scott clan badge with its questionable motto AMO – that's Latin and not an abbreviation for a bullet.

Of dubious legal standing a laminated message: 'High Sheriff of Lincolnshire on Duty', to be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle. It's unlikely traffic wardens will have covered its status during training; useful if you are running late for a cathedral appointment.

Like everyone else my first couple of months last year was spent writing letters to all and sundry. Being old school I like using a pen on Conqueror paper. I have a feeling in this day and age recipients will



Not required as much as anticipated...

not notice and will have no idea what you are talking about – will that be William the Conqueror, who incidentally was a great supporter of High Sheriffs?

I received very few responses to my letters and I have to conclude that email is the only form of communication that has any chance of succeeding. No pen, no Conqueror but getting the correct email addresses is a difficult task when snail mail is easy, but pointless if it does not work.

The relationship between High Sheriffs and local authorities has always been a strong one but we now have chairmen, generally referred to as chairs, mayors and others who are essentially ceremonial and who have

small entertaining allowances, and we have leaders and cabinet executive committees who have to declare every £25 bribe that they receive. I was warned about local authority buffets and have spent 12 months dreaming of my first buffet invitation; this band of well-meaning elected representatives are a vital part of how our counties operate and serious consideration should be given as to how best to engage and manage the relationship.

I was not over aware of the activities of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation before I took office but they look after our High Sheriff's Fund; I could see they would be an excellent conduit for the High Sheriff's interaction with voluntary organisations in the county. I tasked them to recommend suitable candidates for the High Sheriff's Awards and I also approached a myriad of organisations myself asking for nominations. I recognise that this is an informal format for the awards, always the case in Lincolnshire. They are totally within the gift of the High Sheriff and in this year will not necessarily reach out to all worthy recipients, but I have been humbled by the response for people who have gone the extra mile in this most extraordinary of years.

Rather than the usual award ceremony in the county court I have personally presented 42 awards since we were partially released from lockdown on 29 March.

I am sanguine about my virtual year. I have missed the opportunity to interact with volunteers and their organisations, with the judiciary, with our two prisons and with the military – particularly the RAF. The cathedral has always been an important part of the High Sheriff's year and has not really happened but I am comforted in the knowledge that there are far greater problems out there than the inability of an old man to slip into his tights without finishing up on some sort of register.

**Michael Scott**  
*High Sheriff of Lincolnshire 2020-21*

**Below:** At the presentation of a High Sheriff's Award to the clinicians and pilots Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance, and to the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance County Appeal Committee, represented by Mr and Mrs Jamey Burt, who organised an online auction that raised £86,000





# Difficult, challenging and very enjoyable

**THE SHRIEVAL year 2020-21 was different, sometimes difficult, challenging and very enjoyable.**

Over the months and by way of example my role involved putting forward nominations for the National Crimebeat Awards, undertaking a long walk to raise funds for the North West Air Ambulance in conjunction with other High Sheriffs in the northwest, visiting schools that provide specialist services for children with visual impairment and deafness problems, helping to deliver 1,000 hot cross buns to foreign sailors in the port of Liverpool, and telephoning and visiting many organisations operating in the third and voluntary sectors which daily provide so much support and help for the socially and economically disadvantaged.

One important duty of a High Sheriff is to support Her Majesty's High Court judges when on circuit and to support the local judiciary and law enforcement agencies. As a retired circuit judge I was particularly interested in this and wondered what it would be like in practice. I soon had the answer. Fascinating!

It started with a Zoom meeting with the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, telephone conversations with the Chairman of the Merseyside Bench, the Chairman of the Merseyside Youth Panel and a prison governor, and my Zoom attendance at the swearing-in ceremony presided over by the Recorder of Liverpool of the 25 new Merseyside Justices of the Peace.

A new challenge was producing virtually the annual Judges' Service in



**Dressing for the occasion: for a trial at Liverpool Crown Court and for a fundraising walk for the North West Air Ambulance which my wife and I finished on Christmas Day**

Liverpool Cathedral marking the start of the legal year. The pre-recorded introduction, reading of lessons and prayers, singing of hymns, sermon by the Bishop of Burnley and incorporation of images from previous live services were all expertly joined together by the cathedral's communications department.

I had a long meeting with a police superintendent who explained to me about County Lines, how those involved pedal their drugs by recruiting and managing children and how the police combat this. My support continued with my attendance at the annual Police Memorial Day Vigil at Liverpool Parish Church at which police officers who have died in the line of duty are remembered.

It concluded with several attendances at court, notably at two murder trials. If ever any new High Sheriff needed encouragement to realise what can be achieved by adopting new innovative approaches to well-established procedures

and by resorting to modern technology in these difficult times these two trials provided it. In both trials, each of which lasted many weeks, the golden rule was that unless speaking everybody had to wear a mask. In both cases there was a specially adapted jury box with individually screened desks for the jurors.

The second trial involved practical problems given the need to keep all involved socially distanced. The answer was the use of two court rooms linked electronically with the presiding High Court judge, the QCs, the jury, the witness box and four of the eight defendants in one court and the other four defendants along with the other barristers and the solicitors in the second court.

I wish the 2021-22 High Sheriffs a very enjoyable year.

**His Honour John Roberts DL**  
*High Sheriff of Merseyside 2020-21*





# NORTH YORKSHIRE

## *News from and about members*

# Childhood ambition thwarted... for now

**AS MY year in office closes, reflecting on my achievements leaves a rather melancholy feeling. Despite the challenges, I have striven onwards fulfilling as many of my great intentions as possible, although the volume of video calls has at times been overwhelming.**

My overriding message has been one of support, and I put together a gift box with commemorative mug, Yorkshire (naturally!) Tea, and KitKats – all wonderful North Yorkshire products. Plus, the addition of a personal note to boost morale and motivate those whose efforts have proved legendary during the pandemic.

One of my most humbling events has been my visit to Clean Slate Solutions in Eaglescliffe, an organisation which helps ex-inmates rehabilitate by finding employment. My help in providing contacts with county-wide employers to extend their network has been very rewarding, with some extremely positive results. I am now honoured to be patron of the charity.

With the aid of our internet platforms, I have presented numerous High Sheriff's Awards across the county, and while

not being able to shake hands with the recipients, it has been gratifying to see the many smiling faces on screen and to see the flurry of well-wishes across our social media. A recent Court Award was made to a vigilant CCTV operator whose work helped apprehend several perpetrators who were convicted of murder.

The main event of the year, the Letters Patent Ceremony, was held at York Assizes. Fortunately, this fell between lockdowns and so, although shortened and with numbers restricted, I was able to attend in person!

In between lockdowns, I have made the most of the time available. A very engaging walk-around was had in Richmond accompanying the mayor, visiting shops and businesses to discuss the effects of the pandemic and finding out about their enterprising ways of continuing to trade, and how they were planning to recover. Despite their difficulties, their positivity was very encouraging.

**Below, left to right:** High Sheriff of North Yorkshire flag lowering; High Sheriff of North Yorkshire gift box; South Kilvington competition entry

As times have been limited, I have been proud to don my High Sheriff's uniform on a handful of occasions around Christmas, and was most enthusiastically received at a wonderful primary school assembly at South Kilvington School. They wanted to recognise the efforts made by everyone involved, including the children, in keeping education going. I set them a competition – one of the marvellous results can be seen here.

There were numerous awards to present 'virtually', including the winners of the Richmond Business Excellence Awards 2020, the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and North Yorkshire Police. Readings made at our beautiful Ripon Cathedral's various services were always a splendourous privilege.

Despite the highlights, there were some disappointments – my two cadets, one from British Transport Police and the other from Fire & Rescue Services, have been unable to accompany me to events as had been intended – two very promising youngsters whose futures are bright. I hope the addition of their award will enhance their CVs nonetheless. Another disappointment was being unable to fulfil a childhood ambition of a high-speed ride in a police car – I am hoping that my NYP contacts will stand fast on their offer once restrictions are relaxed again!

**David A Kerfoot MBE DL**  
*High Sheriff for North Yorkshire 2020-21*





# You don't agree to be High Sheriff if you are frightened of a challenge

**T**HE YEAR of 'Lockdown High Sheriffs' has ended; the feathers and swords are in the dressing-up cupboard and we join that very merry band of ex-High Sheriffs. So what to say about our year?

It was an extraordinary twelve months. A statement from the prime minister on 23 March changed everything. Long-thought-out plans were shredded and diaries whitewashed; we made our Declarations and were then launched into a void. Kind friends rang to commiserate, but you don't agree to become a High Sheriff if you are frightened of a challenge. The pandemic gave us a focus and extra purpose that no High Sheriff has had for many many years.

There have been many accounts of what the 20/21 High Sheriffs have achieved as we exchanged formal events for impromptu engagements at the grassroots. Countless fresh and exciting ideas emerged and will be handed down to our successors and I would simply like to focus on one element – the High Sheriff's Awards. How good it is that there are no set rules about how these are given. Each year, in every county a different process is used – our Lord-Lieutenants do not have this privilege. They can put people forward for national honours or garden parties, but that is a lengthy process over which they have no ultimate control, and in a crisis year like this last one, a simple and very personal system that can thank people who have made an enormous contribution to their communities is vital and very much appreciated. High Sheriff's Awards are exactly that.

In Oxfordshire, I decided to concentrate on groups of volunteers who had made a real difference during the pandemic. I could have recognised only their leaders but in this difficult year, it's teamwork that has shone through, and those posses

of dedicated quietly spoken volunteers needed thanking as well. DLs, mayors, the clergy and many others helped me draw up my list. I was determined I would hand over every award in person – after all a High Sheriff is simply a rather showy volunteer – so in my last month I set off to every corner of the county to find my 50 groups. My awards' ceremonies were informal and often unannounced. I met people in market squares, food larders, an abbey garden, a brewery, under umbrellas outside a village pub, village shops, school kitchens and many more. It was different, but every award provoked a joyous celebration. For me it was truly humbling to hear at first hand the awesome efforts of every group, and I am left with a bursting pride at what the people of Oxfordshire have achieved. So whatever your year brings, make the most of this very special privilege – our High Sheriff's Awards.

Finally – life as an ex? With our new encyclopaedic knowledge of our counties we can continue to make a difference by bringing together people who have inspired us during our year. So much good can come out of new connections. My first gathering is already planned as I fulfil a promise made to the governors of Oxfordshire's two prisons. I will be introducing them to a new inspirational education centre for food and farming, and, to add a touch of spice, I have invited the owner of a local creamery, a vegetable grower, a young dairyman and an octogenarian celebrity food star called Prue to join the party. It will be fun. I wonder: who will gain the most? Who knows, we may just get to see cows being milked in the prisons and freshly grown veg on their daily menus.

**◆ Amanda Ponsonby MBE**  
*High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2020-21*





## News from and about members



Top left: Visiting Wantage Primary School

Clockwise from top right: Amanda Ponsonby presents High Sheriff's Awards to:

Barton Community Larder

Faringdon Viral Kindness and Flowers for Molly

A Helping Hand (Grove and Wantage)

The Porch (one of Oxford's charities for the homeless)

Oxford Together on a windy Port Meadow







# Doing it differently

THE BBC described Friday 13 March 2020 as 'The weekend the world changed'; for me it was the day I gave up work to focus on the year ahead. I had been advised that it is not about 'being High Sheriff' but 'doing High Sheriff'; 2020-21 was about doing it differently.

We quickly rearranged my Declaration from Oakham Castle to its car park with just the handful of essential people attending and witnessed by a confused dog walker. The following week the *Rutland Times* headline stated 'I will be a virtual High Sheriff'. I had no idea what that meant but soon went to places I had never been before – Twitter and Instagram.

As lockdown took hold, letter-writing, emails and Zoom replaced planned visits as I realised that flexibility is everything. The East Midlands High Sheriff team met regularly over Skype which was invaluable for sharing ideas and maintaining morale! As High Sheriff during the COVID-19 crisis it was vital to be a 'glass half full person' and make the most of what you could do.

A key part of the role is to work closely with the Lord-Lieutenant; Dr Sarah Furness and I wrote to every town and parish council seeking nominees to receive letters of thanks for the help they had given others to cope with the challenges of COVID. We knew that we had only scratched the surface so produced a YouTube video to thank many more.

As holidays were cancelled a friend and I reinvented our Spanish walking plans to walk the county boundary instead. As



Stockton Prison Hidden Heroes Day with Lord-Lieutenant, Prison Governor Neil Thomas and High Sheriff's Cadet Bradie Smith



Presenting a 'How the Police keep me safe' poster competition winner's certificate to Alfie with PC Joe Lloyd



Completing the Rutland Round walk with Nick Clarke on market day in Uppingham greeted by Deputy Mayor Liz Clarke

probably the only High Sheriff whose county is small enough to walk round in five days it was a unique opportunity to raise funds for the Community Foundation. Rutland Radio featured us every day on their breakfast show; my thanks to them for providing such a great way to raise the profile of the Office.

Rutland is proud of its prison at Stockton and it was a privilege to visit with the Lord-Lieutenant and my police cadet, Bradie Smith, on their Hidden Heroes Day to meet and thank members of staff for their work to keep residents safe. I am grateful to Leicester Crown and Magistrates' Courts for the opportunity to visit and see just how hard everyone was working to deliver justice for all involved.

School visits may not have been possible but I organised a 'How the police

keep me safe' poster competition for the county's primary schools and we received great entries with some really positive messages. The winners' posters will be displayed at Warning Zone, a charity in Leicester, which educates Year 6 students in understanding risk and good life choices.

It has been a privilege to serve as Rutland's High Sheriff this year and I believe using social media and online videos have enabled me to reach out to many more people across the county than I might otherwise have done, and in a more informal and accessible way. Rarely can the county motto have been more appropriate, 'Multum in Parvo' or 'much in little'.

**R A Cole TD**  
*High Sheriff of Rutland 2020-21*



Opening Uppingham Community fridge project, providing surplus supermarket food to local families, with Root & Branch Out Director Claire Crowley and volunteer Sue Ball





# Into the history books

**WE ARE all very aware of the 1,100-year heritage associated with the role of High Sheriff, but I can't say I expected my shrieval year to be written into the history books.**

Like many of us, I spent four years planning for the role and then saw the first national lockdown begin just days before my Declaration service.

At first, I must confess I was one of those people who thought the pandemic might all be over as quickly as it had begun – but it soon became apparent I was going to have to adapt my plans so I could still make the most of my year.

I'm so glad I took the approach of becoming a 'Virtual High Sheriff' and blending online and face-to-face meetings during times when the restrictions have been lifted, as that meant I have still been able to meet, support and work alongside a huge number of individuals and organisations across Shropshire.

I chose domestic abuse, addiction, and childhood poverty and deprivation as my three key causes – all issues which have sadly worsened during the pandemic. Projects have included domestic abuse training for businesses and teachers, setting up a welfare fund for primary schools, linking the business and voluntary/charity sectors together, and partnering with Oswestry-based fire detection firm Aico on corporate social responsibility, to support numerous causes.

While I respect the history and traditions associated with the role of High Sheriff, I also wanted to ensure the role maintains its relevance in today's society and the wider world. Being unable to conduct most of the ceremonial elements of the role has brought into focus what it's really all about: making a positive contribution to the county, and supporting and encouraging the judiciary, emergency services, crime prevention initiatives, voluntary sector, faith groups, and our two local authorities.

Past High Sheriffs of Shropshire have been through the Norman Conquest, Great Plague, and two world wars – now my name is among them as the Shropshire incumbent in the year of coronavirus! On a personal note, it has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as Shropshire's High Sheriff – I now understand so much more about the third sector, how local government works, who is who in the county, and what Shropshire truly has to offer.



With Jane Pritchard, Aico Community Liaison

Far from being a terrible year to be High Sheriff, I feel fortunate to have had a platform to help make a positive difference. I have been warmly welcomed everywhere, my opinion valued, my input appreciated, and my contacts and connections gratefully received.

I've been able to share important information with thousands on social media each week and personally thanked our incredible essential workers (as well as so many volunteers). I hope I've encouraged a few more to get involved with these impactful and vital activities happening in Shropshire, to help those who are vulnerable, and to improve our wonderful county.

◆ Dean Harris JP

*High Sheriff of Shropshire 2020-21*



Above: At RAF Shawbury with station commander Gp Capt Chris Mullen.  
Below left: Supporting Shrewsbury food hub. Below right: At Blists Hill, Ironbridge tour with Councillor Amrik Jhawar, Mayor of Telford and Wrekin





## The Imaginary Ball – the greatest event you'll never go to!

DOUBTLESS LIKE all High Sheriffs during the pandemic, I had planned to do many things during my tenure and had to cancel them. Every time there appeared to be a slight possibility of initiating something an announcement meant the doors were closed. The reality was that an event or gathering of more than 15 people would not be possible.

The question became: How can I fundraise to be able to contribute to the many charities and organisations meeting the very real needs of people impacted by the pandemic but that need funds to enable their work to continue?

I initially planned to hold a Harvest Ball to celebrate all that was made in Suffolk and I gathered a team together. We thought creatively about what we were able to do and of the event we would love to hold; the seed was sown to create the greatest ball we would never go to – the Imaginary Ball.

If we could dine with anyone from anywhere in the world, dead or alive, who would they be? At this Imaginary Ball we were able to do just that because it was all make-believe. We created a magnificent 12-course tasting menu, with a wine flight and Cristal champagne. We had music from Pavarotti, magic by Paul Daniels and Debbie McGee, and we invited people to dance the night away with a team from Strictly Come Dancing and the sounds of Benny Goodman and his band. Royalty attended and even Barack Obama joined from America.

We created the most stunning invitations which were sent to judges, barristers, politicians, business leaders, former High Sheriffs, colleagues, friends and family. Afterwards we received letters saying: 'I put this on my mantelpiece. It was the only exciting event I had in my diary for November.'

We asked people who received the invitation to donate via a JustGiving



Guests enjoying the Imaginary Ball:  
Bridget McIntyre top centre



page and we encouraged people to host a small party for the virtual event on 28 November 2020.

At the stage when the invitations were sent we weren't in lockdown and hoped groups of six would be able

meet in homes and enjoy a wonderful celebration. Sadly, in November, we went into a further lockdown and all the events planned became virtual. I was fortunate enough to have two virtual celebrations, one with friends locally and another with my family, many of whom live in America.

The result of all this was something to make people smile and, importantly, we raised enough money to be able to award 17 High Sheriff's grants to some amazing charities and organisations in Suffolk, supporting, for example, the Rickshaw Project, EPIC Dads, neighbour support schemes, Suffolk Rape Crisis, food banks and projects supporting young people.

An Imaginary Ball that never happened. Not something I would have expected to write about, but it illustrates how generous people are and how our role as High Sheriff can be done quite differently when needed.

**Bridget McIntyre MBE**  
*High Sheriff of Suffolk 2020-21*





## Blues Brother chaplain

**AS I reflect on an extraordinary year I confess to mixed emotions. Some families have been touched by tragedy; others have suffered anxiety over jobs, income, and food insecurity. Children and students had their daily lives disrupted. Separation from loved ones has been a shared and painful experience.**

At the same time I have seen many examples of public servants going beyond the call of duty. Volunteer groups forming rapidly to help the vulnerable have been heartening to witness and are confirmation that community spirit is a real and tremendous asset. The response of the statutory services has been inspirational with staff knowingly exposed to risk and often enduring personal sacrifice.

I recognised some of the most outstanding examples of public service and community spirit with High Sheriff's

*“The response of the statutory services has been inspirational with staff knowingly exposed to risk and often enduring personal sacrifice.”*



High Sheriff of Warwickshire's Legal Service in St Mary's, Warwick: Revd Dr Vaughan Roberts, Anne and Joe Greenwell, Rt Revd John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick



**Above:** Isobel Corrie, student nurse and recipient of High Sheriff's Award  
**Below:** Virtual presentation to Pat Edgington who has raised £500,000 for the Royal British Legion



Awards. To mention a few: NHS teams, particularly critical care units and vaccination programme leaders; the staff of the Courts and Tribunal Service who ensure the courts continue to function in a much changed working environment; the ambulance, fire and rescue services and not forgetting the Warwickshire Scrubbers who provided thousands of PPE items for the NHS and care homes.

Two individual winners caught my eye: Anita Hellyer, a school catering manager, who started a holiday lunch club providing a free hot meal and treat, and then established cookery classes for teenagers and men which are already at capacity; and Isobel Corrie, a student nurse, who saved the life of a fellow aircraft passengers who had gone into cardiac arrest. She did CPR

for 45 minutes and had only worked on dummies in training before. Quite a start to her nursing career!

Employability was my theme in office. The pandemic accentuated the already significant challenges faced by the 16-24 age group in terms of education, training and employment. I was involved in two initiatives. The first was the launch of the Inclusive Apprenticeship Programme established by Warwickshire County Council and DFN Project Search, working with businesses on training and employment opportunities for those with special educational needs or disabilities. The launch attracted over 40 businesses. The second was a Prince's Trust programme which involves groups of youngsters who face various challenges in their lives working on projects to help prepare them for the world of work.

I was sceptical about Zoom and Teams platforms as a substitute for real meetings. I've changed my mind. These technologies have proved invaluable and allow you to expand your reach and they enabled High Sheriffs to function in 20/21, particularly during lockdowns. I am sure they will be a regular feature of the High Sheriff's life in future. Always keep your eye on the mute button, however!

The civic calendar has been completely disrupted of course and the traditional Legal Service was postponed. In place of the grand affair with a congregation of 500 plus there were six of us in St Mary's, including the Bishop of Warwick, as we recorded a virtual Legal Service which aired on YouTube. I have to mention my multi-talented chaplain, the Revd Dr Vaughan Roberts, who hit national media when he appeared to be transformed into a Blues Brother during a service owing to a technical hitch. It is not every High Sheriff who can lay claim to a celebrity chaplain.

I warmly congratulate my successor, Lady Willoughby de Broke. I hope that as something approaching normality returns there will be opportunities for her to make her presence felt both virtually and actually.

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



## Generosity after devastation

IN JANUARY, many parts of the UK felt the effects of Storm Christoph and none more so than the residents of the small village of Skewen in West Glamorgan.

Around one hundred families were evacuated from their homes when the old mine shafts, buried deep below the houses, failed to cope with the volume of water coming off the mountain sending torrents of copper-tainted water through homes. An investigation into the actual cause continues but it is expected to take months before some residents can return to their homes, if at all.

I paid a visit to the local Salvation Army which coordinates the emergency supplies to families. Food, clothes, furniture, buckets, mops, bleach, rubber gloves... the list goes on. All these were donated by the local community and arrived without delay at their centre ready for distribution to the families.

It is also about the things you don't consider. Major Mary Wolfe of the Salvation Army told me about the residents of the care home who had to be evacuated, many distressed at leaving their familiar surroundings. Families had to leave their homes quickly and without vital medication. Emergency workers – wet, dirty, cold and working twelve hour shifts – in desperate need of a blanket, hot food and drinks. The Salvation Army were able to set up a mobile food unit to supply them. Families staying in hotel rooms needed meals that could be heated



Debra Evans-Williams enjoying a cup of tea with the Salvation Army mobile food unit outside an evacuated care home

by a kettle or in a microwave as hotel restaurants were closed due to COVID-19.

Police officers who responded to the 999 calls painted a picture of standing waist-high in water, being handed children and family pets through windows. They told me of one family with young children sitting watching TV when their locked back door was blown off its hinges and their home became knee-deep in water within seconds. One of them described having to persuade

an elderly lady to leave her home when she had lived there for sixty years; all this as water levels were rising and while respecting her dignity.

A number of the families do not have home insurance. A number of houses have subsidence and will never be lived in again. This village is where my father was born, where I went to primary school and where my great-grandparents had a corner shop.

As High Sheriff I was pleased to be given the opportunity to visit and acknowledge the emergency services, local authority staff and volunteers, all working hard to repair the physical and psychological damage. The generosity of the local – and indeed wider – community was humbling.

**Debra Evans-Williams**  
*High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2020-21*

**Below left:** Debra Evans-Williams with volunteers at the Salvation Army depot in Skewen sorting through many kind donations of clothes and food

**Below right:** Debra Evans-Williams with police officers who responded to the 999 call for assistance and continue to stand watch over the evacuated houses from this mobile police incident unit







## A tale of two years

IN READING the articles of past High Sheriffs published in this journal, I have been so humbled by their achievements that I can only reflect upon my experiences in the two years I have served in the West Midlands, pre-COVID-19 and peri-COVID-19. One's experiences in office are informed not only by one's profession but by events during the term of office.

Cardinal Newman's canonisation in 2019 was celebrated in ecumenical services around the city where he lived. At the Mass at the Oratory celebrating Saint John Newman's life, I met two brothers who worshipped and had recently been confirmed there. I had been privileged to cross their paths at the Children's Hospital. I celebrated the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji with patients and colleagues from the Sikh community. 2020 also saw the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale and reading the story of Naaman and Elisha from 2 Kings V made the virtual evensong at Birmingham Cathedral a memorable experience for me.

In my engagements, I was constantly amazed by the achievements of the voluntary sector and the selfless contributions made. The achievements of the recipients of the High Sheriff's Inspiring Others Award proposed by the mayors in the West Midlands certainly reflected its name. Presenting the national volunteers awards at the West Midlands Fire Service Safeside experiential learning hub showed me how they continually improve safety for children and young adults in all domains in novel auditory, visual and kinaesthetic ways. The contributions of St John Ambulance have never been needed more than during the pandemic. The establishment of the High Sheriff's St John Ambulance cadetship with High Sheriff in nomination Wade Lynn, Diana Crabtree (County President, West Midlands) and -19 (County Priory Group Chairman, West Midlands) has seen the appointment of the first cadet



who would have worked with Wade but unfortunately COVID put an unexpected postponement to his shrieval service.

Wade made an excellent recovery and hopefully will serve his year in due course. My second year, effectively as *locum tenens* for Wade, could not have been more different. The role of the High Sheriff does not really lend itself easily to Zoom. With one year in office in conventional mode and one year in lockdown, the stark contrast has been evident to me and I can only applaud my fellow Sheriffs for the



Left: At the 550th anniversary of birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji with Wade Lynn (R)  
Above: With Dr Ann Jaron, Mayor of Sandwell, and recipients James Bartlett and Nabilla Nasyilla at the Inspiring Others Awards

way they have managed to innovate so nimbly to serve their county with the social-distancing requirements.

It was an unexpected honour to have been appointed the High Sheriff and a privilege to have served in that position. I wish Louise Bennett the very best for her shrieval year in Coventry's year as City of Culture and with the inaugural SJA cadet, Freya Pinnick at her side.

### Michael Kuo

*High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2019-21*

Two views of the operating theatre





## A year of kindness in the face of adversity

**AT THE end of December I joined the team at my local GP surgery to administer the first doses of the remarkable new vaccines that have become the backbone of our efforts to escape from the grip of the pandemic. The first cohort of patients were the most elderly and many told me that coming to the surgery for their immunisation was only the second or third time that they had left their homes in nine months.**

But the sense of hope and relief generated by these vaccines was almost palpable. This was reflected in the conversations that I continued to have with leaders in local government and the emergency services during the early weeks of this year.

And, as the vaccines and lockdown are enabling us to return gradually to a more normal life, there is now a real spring in the steps of charities I have been visiting that have been able to restart their work to befriend and connect in person, rather than on Zoom.

However, the months of isolation have undoubtedly left their mark on many vulnerable people and I have been particularly concerned by the impact the pandemic has had on the residents in my local prisons. Being incarcerated for 23.5 hours a day has been necessary to protect the prison population from the COVID infection, but it is clear that this has had a significant impact on their mental welfare.

During the latter months of my year, I have therefore concentrated on connecting with those charities which provide emotional and practical support to those in prison, such as Spurgeons Family Services at HMP Lewes, and other organisations which have been supporting the men after release.

Of course, the pandemic's impact on the mental health of the wider population is also well described, and it has therefore been satisfying that my projects in the

autumn – a celebration of the work of volunteers through a specific recognition award and a county-wide Zoom conference to highlight the issue of loneliness – have gone on to produce dividends in the spring. Locality-based networks, arising out of these initiatives, are now developing joined-up schemes to support those who have become isolated to manage their anxieties and reconnect safely.

Perseverance and innovation have become key characteristics of many of the organisations involved, and it has been good to celebrate the efforts of sixteen of them through my High Sheriff's Awards. And although a single ceremony has not been possible, visiting each to make the presentation in person has proved meaningful and often moving.

One group that has particularly impressed me has been the West Sussex County Council Youth Cabinet who were worthy runners-up in the Youth Led section of the National Crimebeat Awards.



Their entry was the first from West Sussex for many years – if ever – and I was very proud of them as they presented their excellent campaign to reduce knife crime at the finalists' ceremony.

As High Sheriff, I have been granted a unique and privileged perspective of the experiences of my county during this unforgettable year. However, as we now all mourn the sad passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, his exceptional example of service and commitment to the public good epitomises so much of what I have also observed among the many volunteers, charities, public servants and emergency services who have worked so hard for the good of those around them.

It certainly has been a year of kindness in the face of adversity.

### ◆ Dr Tim Fooks

*High Sheriff of West Sussex 2020-21*

**Below, clockwise from top left:** Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Mark Whaley, CEO of Making it Out, a charity that supports ex-offenders to learn new skills and trades; Outside the main gate of HMP Lewes with Hannah Lane, Governor (left) and members of Spurgeons Family Services; Presenting Special Recognition Volunteer Award to Khristina McCormack for providing daily meals to 80 homeless people in Worthing and clothing and essentials to vulnerable families; COVID vaccine clinic in Pulborough (High Sheriff, right)







# One community

**THE THEME for my year – chosen before COVID – was One Community. This took account of my association with Wiltshire Community Foundation; the ‘rebasin’ of army troops and families from Germany to Salisbury Plain; the growing contribution made by ethnic minority groups in our larger towns; and Wiltshire’s community policing policy which has produced one of the lowest crime rates in the UK despite having one of the smallest county police forces.**

As subsequent events proved, One Community was a fortuitous choice. In my dual role as High Sheriff of Wiltshire and chair of its Community Foundation, I was ideally placed to ride the tidal wave of community spirit that the COVID pandemic engendered; to encourage community support groups; provide them with advice and financial grants (over £2 million raised and distributed in the year); and recognise the work of unsung heroes with High Sheriff’s Awards.

While recognising the misery that COVID has brought, I saw how crisis also breeds innovation. Despite successive

lockdowns, the reach and impact of community support services have been extended by imaginative use of information technology – and the pandemic has served as a catalyst to accelerate positive changes to working practices. These trends are here to stay, and future High Sheriffs will need to adapt accordingly. An interactive website and active social media presence are now a *sine qua non* for High Sheriffs seeking to reach out to their county and demonstrate the continuing relevance of the Shrievalty.

That said, the biggest decision High Sheriffs faced in this COVID year was whether leadership was best demonstrated by setting a ‘Stay at Home’ example – or by getting out on the front line. As an ex-soldier, a figurehead volunteer in the county, and leader of the Community Foundation, I felt strongly that the High Sheriff’s place had to be alongside the communities under threat and the emergency services supporting them – seeing and being seen. This was perfectly achievable within COVID guidelines by registering as a key worker and volunteering with community support groups (e.g. by

joining crisis management panels; visiting and advising community groups; delivering food, medicines and laptops; operating with the emergency services; and volunteering at vaccination centres, etc.). In the intervals between lockdowns normal service was resumed of course – allowing two royal visits, a string of ‘Rule of Six’ lunches, court sittings, prison visits and so on.

Not one of the public events that I had planned for my shrieval year – including several exciting joint projects with the military and ethnic minority communities – came off. But looking back, I realise I have perforce reached out to, and helped, more people than would have been possible in a ‘normal’ shrieval year – and in more practical ways. To illustrate this, and so capture the positive legacy of COVID, I worked with the Lord Chancellor, Lord-Lieutenant, Chief Constable, my Chaplain and the Community Foundation to put together an online Rule of Law Celebration to mark an extraordinary shrieval year and the Declaration of my successor. It can be viewed at [youtu.be/DUzezKWPWPIY](https://youtu.be/DUzezKWPWPIY).

♦ Major General Ashley Truluck CB CBE  
*High Sheriff of Wiltshire 2020-21*



### A YEAR IN PICTURES

**Clockwise from top left:** Post Declaration; Salisbury Fire Station; presenting High Sheriff’s Award to Hindu Samaj – one of many Indian groups who rendered extraordinary support to all communities in Swindon; opening a new community facility near Salisbury; Remembrance Day at Salisbury Guildhall; volunteering at the COVID mass vaccination centre at the Museum of Steam, Swindon



## Ceremonial or strategic?

**A**dapt, improvise and overcome,' said Clint Eastwood in *Heartbreak Ridge*, to which I would add: 'Enjoy'. That was definitely the case for this Corona-Sheriff in 2020. With more than five months' worth of lockdown the 'virtual Sheriff' was born, in addition to the usual way of getting out and about (when allowed) witnessing what is happening, questioning and learning, and thanking. Yet it was marvellous and absolutely inspiring to see the reaction of our local communities to the pandemic. In every visit to local businesses, charities and community groups, many of which have sprung up from nothing, it was remarkable to see how resilient we all are.

Original ideas and themes were swept aside by the need to concentrate on the here and now. Our West Mercia Local Resilience Forum was experienced at dealing with serious flooding, but COVID-19 was a different dimension. Suddenly

the police and local councils met the NHS, a huge organisation with layers of bureaucracy and 'their way of doing things'. Yet it was the agility and rapid flexibility of communities and volunteers whose bottom-up approach to helping one's neighbour showed the public sector how valuable and effective localism could be when free of rules and procedures. Local charities saw demand for their services increase exponentially while their fundraising plummeted. Many older volunteers had to shield themselves but many new volunteers also came forward. The sterling work of the Worcestershire Community Foundation, acting as a very rapid conduit for funds from the National Emergencies Trust plus local and national government grants, has been a critical factor in sustaining this.

The emergency services and front-line NHS staff have been fantastic, yet we must recognise the worrying impact upon the courts, with their backlog of trials, prisons and probation service.

Below: A visit to CAB, Kidderminster







## News from and about members



**Above:** At West Mercia Police headquarters in Worcester



**Above right:** With West Midlands Ambulance Service in Worcester

I am very mindful of the words of wisdom from Sir Jeremy Stuart-Smith on the High Sheriffs' Association webinar in January: 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. While it may not grab the public's imagination in the same way as the NHS does, it is very important that our government invests properly in the justice system to rectify the cumulative impact of recent years of austerity and now the pandemic. This is an example of the way that the role of the High Sheriff may have been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic from its more traditional ceremonial one to become more strategic, and possibly more relevant. This year has given me an even greater insight into the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and how the lives and immediate expectations of our young people have been affected. A survey of charities in Worcestershire, and a Zoom conference I chaired for very many CEOs of local charities, revealed a financial cliff edge, redundancies and expected closure of more than ten per cent of charities while the increased demand for services is expected to continue. The result was a letter, on behalf of the county's VCS, to all Worcestershire MPs asking them to ensure that support for the VCS was included in the government's recovery planning. Similarly, a one-page briefing paper regarding

future plans for 16- to 24-years-olds, following a doubling of youth unemployment in the county within a few months, resulted in another Zoom conference with our Lord-Lieutenant, local enterprise partnership and county council leadership. In both instances I was very careful to be non-political, yet felt empowered to make these approaches due to the role of High Sheriff and the fact that we are only in office for one year.

We are incredibly privileged to fill such an eminent position, acting as an informed set of eyes and ears – which can help those living in our counties by signposting important issues to those who run and represent those counties. In this capacity the ability to work together and to achieve continuity across shrieval years is important. I have been very lucky to have been supported by my fellow West Midlands High Sheriffs. We established our WhatsApp group at Burghley in 2019; little did we know how incredibly useful it would be in 2020. Similarly, the advent of SINGs, suggested by Oxfordshire in the winter 2020 magazine, is a hugely beneficial step that we have copied.

'Onwards, and upwards!'

**Lt Colonel Mark Jackson OBE**  
*High Sheriff of Worcestershire 2020-21*

**Below, left to right:**  
Evesham Foodbank

With some of the volunteers at Worcester Street Kitchen

Wreath-laying at the Simon de Montfort memorial, Evesham



# THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND and WALES FOR 2021-22

### ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE	E Masih Esq
BERKSHIRE	R D H Russell Esq MVO 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
NORFOLK	M A J Gurney Esq
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 Amphlett 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 A S Ashton	Hampshire	2023
Mrs D M A Bakes	Northumberland	2023
R A Beard Esq	Bedfordshire	2023
P Bhardwaj Esq	Wiltshire	2023
E R Bickersteth Esq	East Sussex	2023
C R M Bishop Esq	Essex	2023
A G Bliss Esq QPM	West Sussex	2023
Mrs A P Brewster	Hertfordshire	2023
C J B Bromfield Esq	Wiltshire	Under Sheriff
T H Cartmell Esq	Cumbria	Under Sheriff
R Cawthorne Esq	Powys	2023
Mrs H J Chubb JP	Leicestershire	2023
Mrs I De	Greater London	2023
R N F Drewett Esq D	Somerset	2023
Mrs J M Duke	Somerset	2022
D Dunn Esq MBE JP DL	Cheshire	2023
Mrs G M E Feehally	Rutland	2023
Mrs C D Granger	North Yorkshire	2023
Mrs D K Haig-Thomas	Isle of Wight	2023
Mrs S M Harper-Wilkes	Durham	2022
Mrs K L Hill-Trevor	Clwyd	2023
D R H James Esq	South Glamorgan	2023
Professor P Keane OBE	Durham	2023
D R Kelham Esq	Warwickshire	2022
Miss A Kharbanda	Berkshire	2022
Dr B N Khetani	Cambridgeshire	2023
Colonel G A Kilburn MBE DL	South Yorkshire	Under Sheriff
Dr A G Limb CBE DL	Buckinghamshire	2023
Major A J M Lowther-Pinkerton LVO MBE DL	Suffolk	2022
Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL	Tyne and Wear	2023
The Rt Revd N H P McKinnel	Devon	2023
Lieutenant Colonel R A McPherson MBE	South Yorkshire	2023
D R Moorcroft Esq OBE	West Midlands	2022
S H Muir Esq	Berkshire	2023
M J Payne Esq	Oxfordshire	Under Sheriff
Miss T M Peltier	Derbyshire	2023
J M Pendlington Esq DL	Suffolk	2023
Mrs V M Pickering DL	Nottinghamshire	2023
Ms A O A Raikes MBE DL	City of Bristol	2022
M D Raymond Esq CBE DL	Dyfed	2023
M Rice Esq	East Riding of Yorkshire	2023
C B Robinson Esq MBE BEM DL	Staffordshire	2023
H C W Robinson Esq DL	Gloucestershire	2023
R C C Robinson Esq	Herefordshire	2023
J H Royall Esq	Norfolk	Under Sheriff
R D H Russell Esq MVO DL	Berkshire	2021
Mrs S Scott	Cumbria	2023
Mrs S P Scott	Oxfordshire	2023
Professor K K Sethia	Norfolk	2023
B J B Slade Esq	Somerset	Under Sheriff
P D Southby Esq	Nottinghamshire	2022
D M Thomas Esq	Cornwall	2021
Mrs A J Thorn MBE DL	Shropshire	2023
T A de B Wates Esq DL	Surrey	2023
C W G Weston Esq MBE JP	Dorset	2023
Professor J White CBE	Mid Glamorgan	2023
P G Wolfgang Esq	Devon	Under Sheriff



# THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

## NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

### COUNTY

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

### 2022/2023

Lady Clifford  
Miss A Kharbanda  
Miss D Brock DL  
Mrs J Crompton  
Mrs J G France-Hayhurst  
Ms A O A Raikes MBE DL  
A McViety Esq  
M G Copestake Esq  
R D Youngman Esq  
Ms S Fine King DL  
Mrs S M Harper-Wilkes  
Mrs J Bowes  
Mrs M J King  
N K Alston Esq CBE DL  
Air Marshal Sir Graham Miller KBE  
Mrs H J Phillips  
The Lady Edwina Snow  
Mrs S L de Rohan JP  
Mrs S D Burton DL  
Mrs K A Marriott  
R J Race Esq JP DL  
Ms M Duke MBE DL  
T M Strawson Esq  
D J McLeavy Hill Esq DL  
C D J Holborow Esq DL  
J C Royds Esq TD  
J S Lambert Esq OBE  
P D Southby Esq  
M G Beard Esq  
P G Thompson Esq  
Hon Mrs Graham  
Mrs J M Duke  
Prof Dame Hilary Chapman DBE DL  
Mrs J Mitchell  
Major A J M Lowther-Pinkerton LVO MBE DL  
His Honour C A Critchlow DL  
D W Bavaird Esq  
D R Kelham Esq  
D R Moorcroft Esq OBE  
J N Whitmore Esq  
Mrs S K Baker MBE JP DL  
The Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne  
A R Manning-Cox Esq

### 2023/2024

R A Beard Esq  
S H Muir Esq  
Dr A G Limb CBE DL  
Dr B N Khetani  
D Dunn Esq MBE JP DL  
Miss S R Foster  
Mrs S Scott  
Miss T M Peltier  
The Rt Revd N H P McKinnel  
C W G Weston Esq MBE JP  
Professor P Keane OBE  
M Rice Esq  
E R Bickersteth Esq  
C R M Bishop Esq  
H C W Robinson Esq DL  
Mrs I De  
Mrs A S Ashton  
R C C Robinson Esq  
Mrs A P Brewster  
Mrs D K Haig-Thomas  
Mrs N Ahmed OBE DL  
Mrs H J Chubb JP  
R J Lake Esq OBE  
Professor K K Sethia  
M N Shah Esq  
Mrs D M A Bakes  
Mrs C D Granger  
Mrs V M Pickering DL  
Mrs S P Scott  
Mrs G M E Feehally  
Mrs A J Thorn MBE DL  
R N F Drewett Esq DL  
Lieutenant Colonel R A McPherson MBE  
C B Robinson Esq MBE BEM DL  
J M Pendlington Esq DL  
T A de B Wates Esq DL  
Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL  
TBA  
Dr M Hashmi  
A G Bliss Esq QPM  
Z A Karim Esq DL  
P Bhardwaj Esq  
Mrs L C Hewett

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

## NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

### COUNTY

CLWYD  
DYFED  
GWENT  
GWYNEDD  
MID GLAMORGAN  
POWYS  
SOUTH GLAMORGAN  
WEST GLAMORGAN

### 2022/2023

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

### 2023/2024

Mrs K L Hill-Trevor  
M D Raymond Esq CBE DL  
Prof S J Gibson CBE DL  
Mrs J Phillips  
Professor J White CBE  
R Cawthorne Esq  
D R H James Esq  
Mrs H B Davies

## DEATHS

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

**R J Baker White Esq**  
Date of death: 28-Dec-20  
Age: 88  
County: Kent  
Year of office: 1995

**Mrs M J Boissier JP**  
Date of death 5-Jan-21  
Age: 88  
County: Derbyshire  
Year of office: 2000

**Lt Cdr M S Boissier DL**  
Date of death 16-Apr-20  
Age: 93  
County: Derbyshire  
Year of office: 1978

**R R Clough Esq DL**  
Date of death 2-Apr-21  
Age: 77  
County: West Yorkshire  
Year of office: 2010

**Mrs V J Fishburn DL**  
Date of death 22-Mar-21  
Age: 64  
County: Berkshire  
Year of office: 2016

**Capt C P Hazlehurst DL**  
Date of death 14-Apr-21  
Age: 97  
County: Hereford & Worcester  
Year of office: 1985

**P G Lee Esq DL**  
County: Essex  
Year of office: 1990

**The Hon Lady Morrison DL**  
Date of death 16-Oct-20  
Age: 74  
County: Worcestershire  
Year of office: 2011

**Dr A I Mukhtar DL**  
Date of death 7-Jan-21  
Age: 75  
County: Northamptonshire  
Year of office: 2015

**H M Neal Esq CBE**  
Date of death 8-Jun-21  
Age: 89  
County: Hertfordshire  
Year of office: 1999

**G D Saul Esq**  
Date of death 14-Jan-21  
Age: 89  
County: Cleveland  
Year of office: 1994

**M J Scott Esq**  
Date of death 4-Feb-21  
Age: 83  
County: Tyne and Wear  
Year of office: 1991

**B R Tanner DL Esq**  
Date of death 17-Dec-20  
Age: 89  
County: West Midlands  
Year of office: 1990

**J D A Thomas Esq DL**  
Date of death 27-Dec-20  
Age: 85  
County: Dyfed  
Year of office: 2005

**The Lady Vallance of Tummel JP**  
Date of death 9-Jul-20  
Age: 75  
County: Greater London  
Year of office: 2008

**H R Walduck Esq OBE JP DL**  
Date of death 6-Jan-21  
Age: 79  
County: Hertfordshire  
Year of office: 1997

**W A D Windham Esq**  
Date of death 5-Jan-21  
Age: 94  
County: Powys  
Year of office: 1996

# ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS



## The High Sheriff's Badge

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



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



## Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

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



## Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

Gilt for serving and retired High Sheriffs, silver for High Sheriffs' spouses/escorts  
**£14.50 each** 15mm x 25mm



## Enamel and gilt cufflinks

available with a chain or T-Bar fitting. Each pair comes in its own presentation box  
**£40.50**



## Ladies' Pure Silk Scarf

Navy blue, maroon or green. 14oz dye printed – pure silk twill with multiple copies of the Association's badge overprinted in gold. Size 140cm x 30cm (56" x 11 3/4")  
**£35.00**



## The Lady High Sheriff's Badge

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



## High Sheriff's Car Pennant

**£30.00**

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



## High Sheriff's March

A CD of the March (playing time approximately 8 1/2 minutes) **£7.00**

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

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.  
Cheques etc. payable to 'The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales'

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

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



# ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS

## HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD CERTIFICATE

The High Sheriff's Award Certificate was introduced by the Association in 1992 to meet the request of High Sheriffs who wished for some means of recognising and rewarding the many 'unsung heroes' they encountered in their county during their year of office. The 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.

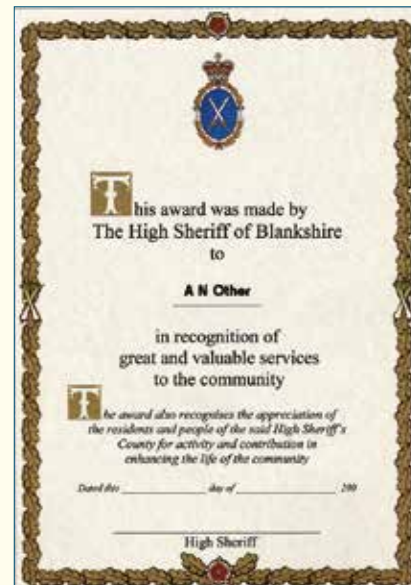
**HSA 2** is a blank certificate. This enables the High Sheriff to overprint the recommended text which can be found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

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.

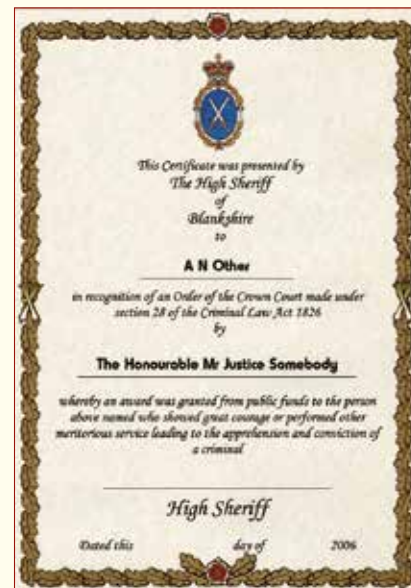
**CCA 2** is a blank certificate. This can be overprinted using the recognised text, again found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

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

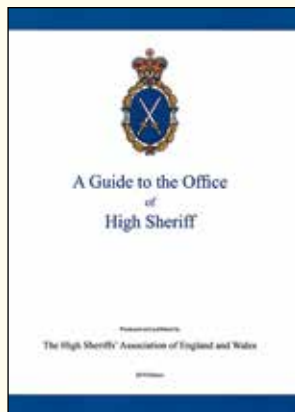
**CCA 1: 50 for £25**

**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**

# ADVERTISER INDEX

Antonia Pugh-Thomas	IBC
GD Golding	OBC
Henry Poole & Co	IFC
HL Brown	IBC
James Barclay	IFC
Royal British Legion	IBC

## The High Sheriff

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

The next edition of *The High Sheriff* will be published in **December 2021**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 24 September 2021**.

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

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[www.hall-mccartney.co.uk](http://www.hall-mccartney.co.uk)

## HELPFUL TOPICS FOR MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

\*Citizenship Ceremonies

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

\*Court dress and badges

\*Courts System Structure

\*Death or resignation of High Sheriffs in office – procedure

\*Declarations by High Sheriffs and Under Sheriffs (English and Welsh)

\*Eligibility for nomination as High Sheriff

\*Forms of Address covering the judiciary, and civic, military and other office holders (and even High Sheriffs)

\*Heraldic insignia of the Association and High Sheriffs and how this may be used

\*National Anthem – deportment when this is played (and when taking parades; [not] saluting)

\*Politics – High Sheriffs' returning officer duties (Representation of the People Act 1983, s 24(1); non-involvement in politics including parish and town council membership; not entertaining politicians during a pre-election period)

\*Proclamation of the Accession of a New Sovereign by High Sheriffs



A gift to remember



Shrievally Association diamond set badge-brooch  
in hallmarked yellow and white gold and enamel.  
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