



SUMMER 2022

The High Sheriff

Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales



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The High Sheriff

The High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

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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.

The next edition of *The High Sheriff* will be published in **December 2022**. Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 30 September 2022**.

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(Gloucestershire) and Jo
Hilditch (Herefordshire) –
see page 12

www.highsheriffs.com for answers to your questions

From the Editor



MANY HIGH Sheriffs write that they are keen to raise the profile of the Shrievalty. Increasingly they achieve this by endurance swimming, running marathons, abseiling, skydiving and in this issue – wingwalking and with such stupendous results! (page 12) Is even the sky the limit for High Sheriffs? We might wonder about the purpose of such challenges reading Devon Live's report of a 'procession or demonstration' of an 'unclear' nature? Fortunately *Private Eye* picked this up (page 6) and confirmed the mystery demonstrators were leading figures from the church, education, law, the armed forces and four High Sheriffs attending the Devon Legal Service at Exeter Cathedral.

I have edited this magazine since 2012, so after 20 issues I feel it is time to hand over the reins. In 2006 I had the good fortune to join Council where I have made many friends. Soon afterwards several functions of the retiring Secretary were shared among Council members. I enjoyed overseeing merchandise and regalia with Jennifer Tolhurst, adding to and improving our badged products, organising the earliest south-east regional meetings and arranging the nomination ceremony on 12 November. As the Chairman says, Council's workload has become quite demanding – we hope we're not overloading High Sheriffs present and future!

One editorial pleasure has been getting to know many of the contributing High Sheriffs whom I should like to thank for their literary output. What is so striking, apart

from their demographics, geography and whether they are rural or urban, is that each county has its own attributes and way of doing things from a shrieval viewpoint. All High Sheriffs find an individual county ethos to which they can bring their own personalities.

Over 16 years I have seen many changes within the Shrievalty. In particular I'd mention increasing involvement with prisons and with disadvantaged young people; the expansion of police cadets; the developing influence and recognition of National Crimebeat at a high level; a widening pool of candidates for appointment; more fundraising of a general nature, quite understandable during the pandemic, though High Sheriffs are now able to concentrate more on justice, law and order, and helping their casualties, enforcers and volunteers; and, surprisingly given growing sartorial informality, a more visible Shrievalty, increasingly wearing court dress or uniform outside court sittings and formal occasions.

“One editorial pleasure has been getting to know many of the contributing High Sheriffs whom I should like to thank for their literary output”

My successor Jayne Lewis, currently production editor, has worked in tandem with me for eight years, sharing copy editing, reading proofs and putting together the magazine with the designer. She is a professional freelance book and magazine editor with the advantage of a modern languages degree from Oxford. I have really enjoyed working with her and the team at Hall-McCartney who keep our administration on an even keel. Jayne's task will be easier than mine since she won't have to chase me as well as High Sheriffs – she may be a harder taskmaster than me!

In Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year, which I hope serving High Sheriffs especially have enjoyed celebrating, I end by adapting our motto

Pro Regina et Lege

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

Andrew Wells, Hon Editor, Kent 2005-06



Andrew Wells' successor, Jayne Lewis

Diary of Forthcoming Events

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

Friday 1 July

The 2022 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3JY. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will have been sent in mid-May 2022 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2023 and 2024.

OCTOBER 2022 **The Red Mass**

Monday 3 October

The annual Roman Catholic Mass will be held at 9.30 am at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1P 1QW to celebrate the start of the legal year. Those current and past High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination who wish to process are invited to coffee beforehand from 8.30 am. There will be a ticket-only reception after the Mass; to obtain tickets, contact Stephen Hart by email at: secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk. A modest charge will be requested to cover the costs to the Thomas More Society, who organise the Mass.



The Ladies' Lunch *Early October*

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

National Crimebeat *Monday 17 October*

This is the opening date for submissions for the 2023 awards. See page 10 for more details.

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

For the Association's 51st anniversary we have reserved our AGM and luncheon at Fishmongers' Hall, London EC4R 9EL. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2022.

The Nomination of future **High Sheriffs** *Saturday 12 November 2022* *probably at 10.00 am*

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 2023, 2024 and 2025 will be read out in court. Please note the early timing as the date clashes with the Lord Mayor's Show later in the day. It is fairly certain that we will have our own enclosed section in



Fleet Street by the Law Courts for those who would like to watch the Show.

The Secretary will write in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2023 and for 2024 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 2025 nominees to attend as well but space in court may be limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2025 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary, should they wish to attend.

From the Chairman

THIS WILL be my last missive as Chairman before I retire after the AGM in November. Although I have told my successor that the job is really not too taxing, as indeed I was told, the truth is that in the last few years the Association has become much more involved with past, present and future High Sheriffs and the workload, spread across the members of Council, is quite demanding.

Although I will be relieved of many of those duties, it will be very sad no longer to be directly involved with such a brilliant group of people. High Sheriffs are remarkable: they get things done; they care about the well-being of the people in their county and the work, often voluntary, that they do without expecting thanks or recognition. They value the work done by judges, prison officers, the probation service, the police and the emergency services. They use the privilege of their appointment for

good and they work very hard, beyond the call of duty, in their year. It is a real mark of respect for the Office that the word 'humility' comes up time after time from High Sheriffs at the end of their year.

Members of Council, too, give time and energy to try to make sure that High Sheriffs in nomination understand what the Office entails and how best to ensure that they have a rewarding year; I shall miss their enlivening company. The website is very informative and the guidance notes helpful; the Zoom meetings now give a good opportunity for all to have their say, whether it be questioning what should be prepared before they start or reporting back at the end of their year.

After eight years on Council there is one thing that stands out – it is the enthusiasm and determination that is brought freshly every year by the newly appointed High Sheriffs. In the face of this, I do feel a sense of humility. Thank you.



Hugh Tollemache

Hugh Tollemache,
Chairman; Gloucestershire 2013-14

Devon's Legal Service in Private Eye!



Little did the four High Sheriffs who processed from Exeter Castle to the Cathedral on 12 October 2021 know that what they were doing could possibly be construed as a 'demonstration'. Thank you to Lady Studholme, High Sheriff of Devon, who was there with fellow High Sheriffs from Somerset, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire, for sending this.

Credit: Private Eye
Magazine
Photo: Exeter
City Council

PLYMOUTH HO HO HO

EVERY year, pandemics permitting, Exeter Cathedral hosts the "Legal Service for Devon", giving thanks to those involved in the justice system across the county.

It is preceded by a procession through the city by judges, barristers, solicitors, the lord mayor and lord lieutenant plus a number of other local dignitaries, all dressed in formal regalia. Afterwards they troop back, still in their finery, to a reception, this year hosted at Exeter Castle.

Quite a spectacle for the local press to feature, you might think? And you would be correct. As *Devon Live*, the cross-county news website run by newspaper giant Reach plc, observed on 12 October: "A photo sent to DevonLive shows a number of people walking down the street wearing, what appears to be, legal attire [sic]. Some individuals have been spotted in what look like judges' wigs and robes."

The report, by a young journalist who lists her specialities as "LGBT+ history, food and drink, leisure, history and politics and bargains at The Range" and is based 45 miles away in Plymouth, concluded that "the nature of the procession or demonstration taking place is, at this time, unclear", and appealed to readers who "know what the demonstration is or have photos of your own" to get in touch ASAP.

It was only at 9pm that evening that the "live blog" the site had excitedly launched for the mysterious event sheepishly admitted that among those its hacks had failed to recognise were "the leader of Exeter city council, chairman of Devon county council, lord mayor of Plymouth, mayor of Torbay, deputy chief constable, chief fire officer, chief executive of the probation service, chief executive of the police & crime commissioner office, vice chancellor of Plymouth University and commanding officer of 6 RIFLES... the bishop of Exeter, dean of Exeter, bishop of Plymouth and high sheriffs of Devon, Somerset, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire and the under sheriff Dorset and Cornwall".

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Photo courtesy of Harald Altmeyer

Sheriffs at the Old Bailey

This year's High Sheriffs of England and Wales, the Association's officers and Council members and their guests were warmly entertained on 4 May by the Sheriffs of the City of London, Alderman Alison Gowman and Alderman Nicholas Lyons at the Central Criminal Court. Alderman Gowman showed guests Court No 1, outlining its fascinating history as the court where historically the most infamous cases have been heard.

The City Sheriffs are responsible for overseeing the well-being and comfort of judges, a feature shared with High Sheriffs, though they differ from High Sheriffs in being elected by City liverymen, a right granted by King Henry I c.1131. The Association values the strong links High Sheriffs have with the City Sheriffs, both holding the oldest secular Office after the Crown since Saxon times.



Alderman Gowman and Alderman Lyons contemplated by the royal financier Sir Thomas Gresham (sculpted by John Bushnell for the Royal Exchange c.1680)



Debbie Brock (Buckinghamshire), Sally Burton (Hertfordshire) and Lady Clifford (Bedfordshire) overlooked by King Charles II (by Bushnell)

Images: Sally Burton

National Crimebeat Awards 2022



◆ **Andrew Rayment**
Treasurer and Secretary, National Crimebeat; Bedfordshire 2003-04

AFTER THE cancellation of the awards ceremony in 2020 and holding them via Zoom in 2021 it was good to get back to a physical meeting in 2022, despite feeling that we had never done the awards this way before. In addition to the 100 people in the conference room, another 60 watched the event live via a YouTube stream with over 200 people watching the recording at a later date. We will definitely do this again.

The applications received this year were of a very high standard and many of them were centred on mental health and community well-being which gave the judges a great challenge in coming to their decisions.

Our principal guest this year was Dame Cressida Dick who spoke to the audience and congratulated the winning teams on their projects and the efforts that they had put into devising them. Our judging panel also welcomed Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean who replaced His Honour Shaun Lyons who had undertaken the role for several years. For the first time this year we presented an award in memory of our former president and patron, Richard Walduck. His son Alex had another engagement so his friend and former trustee, David Jones, presented the award on behalf of the Walduck family.

Once again we are indebted to our supporters, sponsors and donors for their generosity, particularly Imperial Hotels for the use of their premises and hospitality, Big Bus Tours Ltd, Merlin Entertainments Ltd, the Fishmongers' Company, Oldfield Partners and the many individuals and

charities who have given financial support to us. I should like to thank my fellow National Crimebeat trustees for doing an incredible job organising and supporting the awards.

YOUTH LED

Winners: West Midlands: Fridays Coventry

In 2019, Tyler Campbell was grief-stricken. People he knew were dying or going to prison due to knife crime. Street violence and anti-social behaviour were on the rise in his home town of Coventry, and there was a distinct lack of safe spaces for young people after all the youth clubs had been closed.

Tyler decided to start his own youth club, a place with a unique mixture of entertainment and education. Fridays was born. Upstairs there is entertainment including open-mic nights, DJ sets,



Greater London's Ubuntu Round Table (URT) Project with High Sheriff Lynn Cooper and Dame Cressida Dick



Lancashire's Travis Frain of the Resilience in Unity Project, with Dame Cressida Dick and High Sheriff Edwin Booth



High Sheriff Louise Bennett with Tyler Campbell, founder of Fridays Coventry, along with representatives from West Midlands Police

ping-pong, VR, even a barber giving free haircuts. Downstairs, local organisations offer careers advice, lessons on CV writing, job interview techniques, and presentation skills. The formula has proved so popular that numbers regularly reach 200. All activities are free and Fridays offers a safe environment, with volunteer security personnel in attendance and strict safeguarding training.

Fridays was started with a grant from the Coventry Police Active Citizens Fund, which was used to buy DJ and PA equipment. Andy Maxwell, Young Persons Officer Coventry Police says: 'Fridays' impact on the local area is profound because it engages and inspires a demographic the police struggles to connect with. Our aim is to support young people to choose a path away from gangs and violence – and Fridays is out there in the community doing just that.'

Runners Up: Lancashire: The Resilience in Unity Project

A significant amount of commentary throughout the pandemic detailed a potential threat of increased radicalisation as a result of social isolation, extremist activity online, and conspiracy theories. There was not a lot of discussion on possible solutions to these problems.

The Resilience in Unity Project was formed as a direct result of the convergence of these issues – allowing

survivors to continue to deliver messages to classrooms and communities up and down the country, enabling educators to address their students on such difficult topics by sharing the real stories of those who have experienced it.

The site has been viewed by over 9,000 people from 121 different countries, with 3,000 entering the referral process – at the launch in November 2021 a social media company provided the project with engagement statistics: 355,000 people reached over non-social media (BBC, newspapers, etc.) and 175,000 reached over social media.

Third Place: Greater London: Ubuntu Round Table (URT) Project

Based on his own experience, Mark Murray came up with an idea to break down barriers between the police and young people.

A programme of URTs were planned to be held in 2020 with West London Police but lockdown intervened. In summer 2021 URTs were delivered by four young women, involving young people, members of the police in West London boroughs, and evaluated by an external evaluator.

The police were asked how effective the 2021 URTs had been from their perspective. The feedback was very positive. All lauded URT's success in building understanding and more positive relations which they had not expected. External feedback highlighted that 50 per cent of the police had had a negative view before participation, but changed their views having taken part, and that many young people welcomed further engagement with the police.



Buckinghamshire's Hospital Navigators

ADULT LED

Winners: Buckinghamshire: Hospital Navigator Scheme

In April 2021 YMCA MK recruited a Navigator Coordinator to support the development of a new hospital-based violence intervention scheme at Milton Keynes University Hospital. Young volunteers act as navigators to young people who have been affected by serious violence, serving as advocates and helping them to access local services and agencies to obtain the support they need.

Nationally, there has been an increase in the number of young people presenting at emergency departments or walk-in centres due to assault and serious violence. Thames Valley Police statistics are mirroring the national trend, with the main increases in violence taking place within the under 25s as a result of gang crime or domestic abuse. Figures show that Milton Keynes has the highest overall knife-related crime numbers in the whole of the force's area, with 281 incidents in the past year.

Runners Up: Herefordshire: No Wrong Door

No Wrong Door (NWD) is a partnership project of youth agencies, targeting and offering support to vulnerable young



Herefordshire's No Wrong Door



Merseyside's Together We Can with High Sheriff Nigel Lanceley

people. The young people design the services which include outreach projects, drop-ins and mechanisms to inform decision-makers of their issues and views. The success of this project has relied on peer-to-peer support, engagement and execution, giving mastery and autonomy to the young with adult leadership.

The Covid crisis has been traumatic. Young people in particular have seen their lives put on hold, and are suffering from increased mental health issues. The outreach work visited play areas and 'hot spots' around the city as identified by both young people and the Community Safety Partnership. NWD provided an excellent opportunity for young people to be involved in establishing, developing, leading, and delivering a program of outreach work which has responded to their needs.

Feedback from young people engaging in the project shows that they really enjoyed supporting others, proving the effectiveness of enabling young people to express their views, and of involving them in the implementation.

Third Place: Merseyside: Together we can

Over the last 18 months, the role that Alsop High School plays in the north Liverpool community has been re-imagined. During the Covid-19 pandemic the project has sought to engage creatively with students by producing bespoke films to bring their community and partner schools together and promote resilience and hope during difficult times.

As a school 'rooted in the community' the project realised that they were in a unique position to communicate a message



Nicky Weston (trustee) and President Elizabeth Hunter with the winners of the Hugh Burnett Award (Together We Can, Merseyside)



National Crimebeat trustees and sponsors

of hope to the lives of young people and other community members. The 'Alsop Together' strategy aimed to encourage young people, parents, partner primary schools and residents to look to the school and a community hub for life-long learning. In addition, there was an aim to inspire young people to achieve and promote a culture that challenges low aspirations, builds self-esteem and promotes the 'Yes, I can do it' mentality. This will lead students along a pathway to excellence. Hence, the project continually reinforces their core message 'Alsop Achieves Excellence'.

Their first film was posted on YouTube and was viewed 3,016 times.

THE RICHARD WALDUCK AWARD

Lincolnshire – Seven Knights Presented by David Jones and Dame Cressida Dick

St Andrew's School identified a lack of opportunity for young people to influence the decision-making in the area in which they live. The Seven Knights award scheme, represented by different badges, encourages the whole school to become involved. Some awards are for personal achievement, others for community work.

To earn a Green Knight, three children conducted a village survey highlighting areas of urban decay, litter and neglect. The children considered how the police together with media, councils, school and voluntary groups might help resolve the issue. They spoke at a full council meeting, not just to moan about problems, but to offer practical solutions.

The children came together to clear up an area of land surrounding the police



A big thank you to Big Bus Tours Ltd



Lincolnshire's Seven Knights with David Jones (trustee), and Dame Cressida Dick

station. This has now become a community hub with the children being provided with a noticeboard to promote their ideas. This project needs little effort to sustain as the children go through their school years being replaced by new children who want to achieve their badges. There are always fresh ideas to drive it forward.

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AWARD

This award was presented to Buckinghamshire (Hospital Navigator Scheme) by the Hon Hugh Tollemahe, Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association.

THE HUGH BURNETT AWARD

This award for best presentation went to Merseyside (Together we can) and was presented by Elizabeth Hunter, President of the High Sheriffs' Association.

Key dates for the 2023 awards:

Entries Open: 17 October 2022

Closing date: 23 January 2023

Awards Ceremony:

Tuesday 14 March 2023



Communicating after Covid

♣ Michael
Gurney DL
*Council member;
Norfolk 2021-22*

IN THE run-up to starting his year in office in April 2021, the redoubtable Lionel Wallace (Hertfordshire) contacted all the High Sheriffs in the Eastern Region and suggested having a Zoom meeting on the first Monday evening of each month to share ideas and best practice, as well as raising any concerns that we may have in our counties. He also started a calendar so that we could avoid clashes in Justice Services and receptions.

This was not only warmly welcomed but we soon had a WhatsApp group and were regularly messaging each other with ideas, suggestions or simply moral support in the difficult period as we all tried to come out of the pandemic. We also supported each other's social media. It formed the basis for an incredibly supportive group all of whom were going through the same challenges at the same time.

This group of Eric Masih (Bedfordshire), George Anson (Buckinghamshire), Caroline Bewes (Cambridgeshire), Simon Brice (Essex), Lionel Wallace (Hertfordshire), Michael Gurney (Norfolk) and Edward Creasy (Suffolk) were soon joined by Lynn Cooper (Greater London) and the eight of us have not only benefitted from the sharing of ideas but also made good friends.

While we each had our own priorities in very different counties we could learn from each other. What initiatives were working? What were the main challenges we faced and how were we managing to get into locked-down courts and prisons? Major issues included: the role of the Crown Prosecution Service; attracting younger more diverse magistrates; and the role of Lord-Lieutenants versus High Sheriffs – again, very different in each county. At the final online meeting Lionel invited the senior magistrate in England to talk about progress in diversity and recruitment.

In turn many of us supported each other's Justice Services, learning from each other's experiences and talking to a wider range of police, judges and civic leaders. Lionel held an excellent youth day at St Albans and even had us swaying in full court dress to gospel music as well as learning about different community foundations. Caroline Bewes gathered us together for a unique visit to the Parker Library, Cambridge University (see Cambridgeshire, page 14) and as I write six of us are off to a final dinner very kindly hosted by Edward Creasy at the Jockey Club in Newmarket to celebrate the end of our year of office.

Should each region do the same in future? We would strongly commend it as offering practical, timely advice and help from other High Sheriffs.

Above, L-R:
George Anson
(Buckinghamshire),
Lionel Wallace
(Hertfordshire),
Caroline Bewes
(Cambridgeshire),
Lynn Cooper (Greater
London), Edward
Creasy (Suffolk)
and Michael Gurney
(Norfolk)

Fearless fundraising



ON INTERNATIONAL Women's Day, 8 March 2022, Jo Hilditch, High Sheriff of Herefordshire (right) and Jane Tufnell, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire (left), went walking – wingwalking, that is – to raise much-needed funds to support mental health charities in their counties (through Herefordshire Community Foundation and Young Gloucestershire respectively).

Vic and Anne Norman from Go Wingwalking, based at Rendcomb Airfield, donated this outrageous experience for the two High Sheriffs to fly in formation on top of two of their 1940s Boeing Stearman Biplanes. They were well looked after by Vic and Anne and their team, Dave, Andy, Kirsty and Emma at AeroSuperBatics. Jo raised about £35k for Herefordshire and Jane a further £14K for Gloucestershire.



Pilots Dave (L) and Andy (R) with Jane Tufnell (Gloucestershire) and Jo Hilditch (Herefordshire)



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

High Sheriffs intending to lay wreaths during the Armistice period can order these with the High Sheriffs' badge in the centre from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Orders should be placed (quoting stock code H0018) by calling the Poppy Appeal on **01622 717172** and speaking to a Regional Organiser.

Please order in good time.





Forever changed and enriched

I WAS sworn in as the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire on Friday 26 March, 2021. We were in Step 1 of the 'roadmap out of lockdown', which, if you recall, was: no visitors indoors (households only); the 'rule of six' outdoors; only six people at weddings or wakes; stay at home; no holidays or travel; and no more than 30 people at a funeral. All of which sadly meant my Declaration Ceremony in 2021 could not be an in-person event.

So, for the second year running, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire's Declaration Ceremony was held virtually. Fortunately, we could see this coming, and the planning for my year as High Sheriff was full of contingencies if meetings could not take place face to face and/or we had further lockdowns. Freedom Day occurred on Monday 19 July, and from there on I had a packed diary of events. We had a six-week hiatus when Plan B was introduced just before Christmas and throughout January, but that meant that many of my shrieval appointments and events were postponed rather than cancelled.

In the 12 months since I was sworn in, I have... sat in Crown, family, and magistrates' courts; visited the probation



High Sheriff lighting the flame at Diwali celebrations



Healing Arc interfaith event with the High Sheriffs from Bedfordshire (Eric Masih) and Northamptonshire (Hon Mrs Lowther DL)



With competitors at Olney where the pancake race originated!

services; visited all of the police stations in Buckinghamshire as well as the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner at their headquarters in Kidlington; visited all of the prisons in the Thames Valley Region (including Broadmoor Secure Hospital); visited the fire and rescue services, several NHS hospitals, the coroners' courts in Beaconsfield and Milton Keynes; visited with local MPs, conducted citizenship ceremonies, and attended British Empire Medal investitures.

I have attended a great many charitable organisations and events far too numerous to mention, and have been involved with several tree plantings under The Queen's Green Canopy initiative. I have travelled the length and breadth of this great county several times over.

I mention all these events because, just over one year ago, I was an 'ordinary' private citizen, who in all likelihood would have had very little interaction or involvement with many of these essential public service providers and charitable organisations. As my year comes to its natural end, I can only express my admiration and respect for organisations



At the Police Awards in Aylesbury Crown Court with His Honour Judge Sheridan and award recipients



QGC tree planting in Weedon (my village) with Sir Francis Hapgood QPM DL

like the judiciary, the police and prison services, and many others which have had to operate in the most challenging of circumstances over the past 18 months. As I slip back under the warm duvet of private citizen obscurity, my life has been forever changed and enriched by the honour of being the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

Here are just a few of the highlights of my year:

- being the returning officer at the Chesham and Amersham by-election
- raising in excess of £60,000 for the Milton Keynes University Hospital Cancer Centre at my charity golf day at Woburn Golf Club
- creating a new website and social media presences on Twitter (>700 followers) and Instagram (>300 followers)
- winning the adult led category at the National Crimebeat Awards with Hospital Navigators (see page 9)

Thank you, everyone, it's been a great year, and I have loved every minute of it.

George Anson
High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2021-22



The weight of history

A SURE sign of reaching the end of one's year as High Sheriff is when the most common question is no longer 'What is a High Sheriff?' but 'What have been the highlights of your year?' Personally speaking, it's been far harder to answer the second question as there have been too many to list. But one highlight which will undoubtedly linger long in the memory was a visit to the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge one cold, dark evening in November alongside my wonderful fellow High Sheriffs from Buckinghamshire, Essex, Greater London, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Suffolk.

The Director of the Parker Library, Dr Philippa Hoskin, had kindly arranged a private viewing of various manuscripts and items of interest, and one which piqued everyone's interest was a manuscript referring to the 'scirman' (shireman, sheriff) dispensing justice in Anglo-Saxon law code associated with Ine, the seventh-century king of Wessex.



Director of the Parker Library, Philippa Hoskin, with the manuscript detailing the Anglo-Saxon law code associated with Ine, the seventh-century king of Wessex. This is the earliest surviving record of English royal legislation



(L to R): Simon Brice (Essex), Michael Gurney (Norfolk), David Wood (Rutland), Lynn Cooper (Greater London), Caroline Bewes (Cambridgeshire), Amanda Lowther (Northamptonshire), Lionel Wallace (Hertfordshire), George Anson (Buckinghamshire), Edward Creasy (Suffolk)

The text on display that evening, which was written in the early tenth century, is the earliest surviving record of English royal legislation, and, astonishingly, is widely believed to be a copy from an earlier original. Philippa translated the particular reference, which was taken from the Laws of Ine (dated 688-695), as: 'If anyone demands justice before any shireman (scirman), or any other judge, and cannot obtain it through default of a pledge (from the accused), he shall pay compensation and obtain proper justice within seven nights.' Since, Philippa explained, this reference was taken from the Laws of Ine, the Office of High Sheriff would therefore have originated in the seventh century – much earlier than any of us present that evening had previously believed to be the case.

After moving on to the University Arms Hotel in Cambridge for dinner with our spouses, the 'comitatus' of High Sheriffs present that evening (the lack of any collective noun for a group of High Sheriffs led us to agree on 'comitatus'!) reflected on the weight of history behind the Office, and we rapidly revised our historical dates for

our answer to the frequently asked question 'What is a High Sheriff?'. Stating that the role dates back to the seventh century certainly has eyebrows raised even higher, especially when attesting to having seen the reference in a manuscript!

Had I described my current role to a 'scirman' back in the day, the very idea of High Sheriff's Awards, visiting foodbanks, linking in with the emergency services, Zoom meetings, and doing a parachute jump for charity would have been far too futuristic to describe, let alone contemplate! Yet the abiding connection of the role with the justice system remains the main focus over a thousand years later, and I have absolutely loved encouraging, supporting, recognising and thanking those working in law and order within the county of Cambridgeshire. It has been both humbling and a real pleasure to have been given the opportunity to serve as High Sheriff in Cambridgeshire – over 1,300 years after the first 'scirman'!

◆ Caroline Bewes DL
High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire
2021-2022



The bedrock of all our lives

HIGH SHERIFFS – along with everyone else – have responded to repeated changes of regulations, and navigated the multiple and complex consequences that organisations have experienced through the pandemic. Now two years on from the first lockdown, the ways in which we all live and work have been reshaped in previously unimaginable ways. The pandemic's effects will reverberate and overshadow many of us for years to come.

Central government asks more and more from those who work in law and order and the emergency services, and there are now increased interventions in education, literacy and numeracy, skills, training, physical and mental health care, and addiction therapy – all woven into strategic planning and budgeting. Many of these services are provided by quietly dedicated and exceptional people, a large number of whom give their time and expertise voluntarily.

The warp-speed development of digital enabled the Crown, family, district, coroners', magistrates', and tribunal courts to continue their work. Essential commercial law and civil law continued to be a vital support underpinning business and society. Nevertheless, physical presence will always be desirable for both professionals and those engaged with the judiciary.

The emergency services worked even more closely together. The fire service has driven ambulances to free up paramedics. Devon Air Ambulance, search and rescue teams, the police force, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency,



A well-deserved High Sheriff's Award went to the Covid testing team at HMP Channings Wood, received by prison officer Debbie Winney

and the RNLI all respond to those in trouble on our coasts and cliffs, moors, roads and in our rural areas. Much has happened under cover of the pandemic; for example, rising levels of abuse within families, cyber-crime, child exploitation and fraud. At the same time, serious and organised crime continues, including the threat of modern slavery to desperate and vulnerable migrants and refugees.

Lockdowns, furlough and working from home led to isolation, and relationship and family friction. We lost the pleasure of a spontaneous smile and a warm hug of welcome. We were brought closer by shared experience while at the same time being pushed further apart in our individual experiences of lockdown. The anguish of separation from loved ones, particularly at times of heightened



Planting a tree with and for the future, marking Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Her Green Canopy initiative

life experiences – birth, illness, death, annual civic, county and social events, anniversaries and birthdays – resulted in intense stress and anxiety for many.

Much is changed, but not all is changed utterly. We have always been a nation of volunteers, and we have seen more come forward to support their communities in this time of need. There are many organisations and charities that support those who have made poor choices, whose lives have gone awry, and those who do not have the matrix of a stable family. Law and order, the administration of justice, response in times of emergency, and care for those in need are the bedrock of all our lives. There are many hundreds of Devonians working and volunteering in these often unglamorous and deeply challenging areas of life. They have worked under exceptionally difficult and compounding circumstances over the last two years.

Devon is blessed to have such committed professional and voluntary people working across the essential bedrock services of justice, law and order, and emergency response. It has been a heartfelt privilege to meet so many of them.

Lucy Studholme

Lady Studholme, High Sheriff of Devon 2021-22



At a Magistrates in the Community visit to Kingsacre School, Branton



Enlightening, educating and humbling

WHILE MY shrieval year was relatively quiet for the first five months, the remainder of the year has been anything but! The postponed Matins for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice was held in Durham Cathedral at the end of October and was attended by a great number of High Court, Crown Court and District Court Judges. It was followed by luncheon at our home as the usual venue in Durham Castle was unavailable due to students being in residence. The Dean of Durham, the Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, gave the sermon. At the luncheon Under Sheriff Helen Dexter was Master of Ceremonies, grace was said by the Revd Alison Hobbs (High Sheriff's Chaplain) and the Hon Mr Justice Lavender responded on behalf of guests.

We organised 'A Carol Service for the County' in Durham Cathedral just before Christmas which was attended by 400 people. It was rather restricted due to the latest Covid outbreak at the time. It was purposely aimed at those in the county who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to visit the cathedral so it was rewarding that a number of those attending had never been before. It was only the third time that such an event had been organised. Guests were greeted and escorted to their seats by members of the police cadets. The lessons were read by the Lord-Lieutenant, Chief Constable, a member of Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project and a pupil from Durham Johnston



Matins for Her Majesty's judiciary at Durham Cathedral with Lord-Lieutenant Sue Snowdon (front centre), Chief Constable Jo Farrell (directly behind High Sheriff), Hon Mr Justice Lavender and High Sheriff's Chaplain Alison Hobbs (both second row from left)

Comprehensive School. Prayers and the main address were given by my chaplain.

My visit to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service was very enlightening and I was delighted to be able to congratulate staff on winning the UK Fire and Rescue Service of the Year Award. I also found my visit to Durham Constabulary most informative and would like to thank Chief Constable Jo Farrell for her support during my shrieval year.

My wife and I started to visit youth groups all over the county at the end of

January in advance of the High Sheriff's Youth Awards. This was a particularly enlightening, educating and humbling experience. It was so good to meet people from all sectors of our society who do so much for no financial reward or public recognition. They are just decent human beings wanting to help others.

The High Sheriff's Youth Awards were held in the magnificent Ushaw historic house on 17 March. There were 11 groups which received financial awards with the highest award going to Stanley Area Youth Consortium from north-west Durham.

These awards were organised by the County Durham Community Foundation which has been of great assistance to me in supporting and promoting voluntary organisations within County Durham. Their help has been invaluable and they have opened doors to places and people that I would never have been able to access.

It has been a true privilege to be appointed as High Sheriff and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting such a variety of groups and individuals throughout the year. I will endeavour to continue to support some of these groups going forward.

J Robert Harle

High Sheriff of the County Palatine of Durham 2021-22

Below left: 'A Carol Service for the County' L-R: Kieran Knight (Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project), Lord-Lieutenant Sue Snowdon, Chief Constable Jo Farrell, Iesha Tharakan (Durham Johnston Comprehensive School) and Robert Harle

Below right: With High Sheriff's Youth Award Winners Stanley Area Youth Consortium



Photo: Tom Banks



EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

News from and about members

The joy of giving

MY TERM as High Sheriff finished on 1 April 2022 and since then I have had time to reflect on my year. It is a year that I will never forget as it has given me such a wonderful insight into the East Riding while being able to meet an incredible cross section of people.

The second half of my year got off to a flying start with a Dragons' Den style charity event run jointly with the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, Venetia Wrigley. With the tremendous support of Two Ridings Community Foundation and six very generous Dragons we raised and donated over £37,000 which was distributed to six charities (three from East Yorkshire and three from North Yorkshire).

Other highlights included many more charity visits, supporting National Older People's Day, a visit by HRH The Princess Royal to CatZero in Hull, Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday services, and an evening with the City of Hull Street Angels supporting the night-time economy in the middle of Hull, making sure people are safe.

My support for the police and the judiciary carried on in my year and I was honoured to be part of two Long Service and Commendation Awards ceremonies

for the police as well as presenting Court Awards. Issi and I supported Humberside Police with their Night Challenge – over 120 young people took part in a 12-mile orienteering exercise with several challenges along the way. Each team consisted of between five and eight young people accompanied by a responsible adult. It really gave young people the opportunity to step outside their comfort zone.

Early March was dominated by my Legal Service in Beverley and then in the last three weeks the joy of giving over 30 High Sheriff's Awards to an amazing group of people – from life savers to volunteers and unsung heroes.

My final few days were spent visiting the recipients of my fundraising which targeted my theme for the year – early intervention. I need not have worried that the money had been well spent – comments such as 'you have helped make a difference', 'you have changed people's lives' and 'we are so grateful' made the year so worthwhile.

In closing, it has been a tremendous honour and privilege to serve as High Sheriff of my much loved county. Being given the opportunity to make connections and engage with communities has been truly humbling.



Photo: Driffield & Wolds Weekly

At the High Sheriff's Awards with Issi Shepherdson and Darren Baker with his carer Aaron and Red



Photo: Dani Noguera, Community Engagement Co-ordinator

The High Sheriff and Issi Shepherdson at the Humberside Police Night Challenge



Photo: Ian Chapman and CatZero

Welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to CatZero (a Humberside-wide charity offering life-changing and confidence-giving programmes) with Cllr Lynn Petrini, Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber, Issi Shepherdson and Lord-Lieutenant Jim Dick (partially hidden)



Presenting the Kiplingcotes Derby Trophy to winning jockey Sally Hill at the oldest horse race in England, with Philip Guest, Trustee, and Issi Shepherdson Photo credit: Driffield & Wolds Weekly

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



A new skill learnt



Photo: de Vere Photography

Left: HRH The Prince of Wales granting City status to Southend-on-Sea; with HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and Mayor of Southend-on-Sea, Cllr Margaret Borton

WITH THE country still under lockdown, my Declaration took place in my garden last year on 12 April 2021 with only my Under Sheriff, Roger Brice, and Lorna Rolfe JP (Essex 2016-17) present. As it coincided with remembering the late HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, who had passed away three days earlier, we all wore black armbands and I offered my condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family after my Declaration.



With Andy Prophet, Deputy Chief Constable Essex Police, for the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Special Constabulary

Photo: Essex Police

My first official event was with our Lord-Lieutenant, Jennifer Tolhurst, at Chelmsford Cathedral, at an evensong in thanksgiving for the life and service of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, where, masked up, with no singing allowed and only thirty people present, my year began.

As we slowly emerged from the Covid pandemic lockdowns there was a great deal of uncertainty among the voluntary sector. Some people were happy to meet up, often outside, others only on Zoom, schools were shut, councils were working from home and the police cadets were not functioning.

Due to the pandemic, I felt it was important to visit as many voluntary groups and charities as possible to thank them for their outstanding work during lockdown. My wife Emma and I were able to visit and connect with over 100 groups in between the lockdowns. All were doing fantastic work helping those most in need. After every visit we tweeted to raise awareness of them, and also to promote the role of the High Sheriff in my travels around the county. This was a new skill learnt and it would be a lost opportunity not to use Twitter to highlight issues and increase awareness.

My Justice Service in October was held at Chelmsford Cathedral two

days after the tragic murder of Sir David Amess MP, and we were able to offer some quiet reflection for those affected by this terrible event as well as prayers for him and his family.

As High Sheriff, I was invited to Sir David's memorial service in Southend and his funeral service the next day in Westminster Cathedral. Following on from this we were invited to join our Lord-Lieutenant for the visit to Southend by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to award Southend-on-Sea city status on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen – a day of both poignancy and celebration.

We were also privileged to support our Lord-Lieutenant for the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) to the Essex Police Special Constables, some 530 sworn unpaid volunteers averaging more than 30 hours per officer per month in their spare time.

Because of Covid restrictions I was not able to visit our Crown Courts until July 2021 and our magistrates' courts until February 2022. It was disappointing not to have been able to engage more with the judiciary, but our judges and magistrates have done a tremendous job keeping courts open during the pandemic in buildings with holes in ceilings, heating systems not working and rusty radiators. I was successful in arranging for certificates to be presented to magistrates in recognition of 10 years' service. These were well received and have boosted morale.

It has been a great honour to serve the county of Essex as High Sheriff. The journey has been incredibly humbling and rewarding, and I wish my successor, Nicholas Alston, every success in his year ahead.

Simon Brice DL
High Sheriff of Essex 2021-22



Much to be celebrated!

HOW TO sum up such a year? Being High Sheriff of Greater London is a challenge. The sheer number of courts, police, prisons, lawyers, agencies and voluntary sector organisations, plus 32 mayors and the Mayor of London make it so – even without the impact of Covid.

Covid and the embattled criminal justice system shaped all I did or did not do! An under-resourced system, low in morale and exhausted, with restrictions ongoing for much of the year, made normal engagement difficult – sometimes as much owing to staff shortages as Covid anxiety. There is a lack of coroner's officers, magistrates, prison and probation staff, and many charities underpinning the system are still working remotely and short of funds.

The resilience shown to keep justice alive has been superhuman. The London Crown Courts are not unique in facing a serious backlog of cases, an exit of barristers, buildings without drinking water, leaks, lack of heating, etc. but the scale can be huge. Snaresbrook, the largest criminal court in Europe, had a backlog of 4,000 cases. Many judges and court staff are on their knees.

Celebrating unsung work during Covid was what my year was about, although not at all straightforward as it turned out – at times it was like wading through treacle. But, despite many delays and (exhausting)

rearrangements, celebrations happened (I held six ceremonies in my last week) and were heart-warming.

At my Prison Awards ceremonies the accounts of going above and beyond to keep prisoners safe, occupied and linked to families – during 23 hours spent in cells for the most part during successive waves of Covid, and likened by one governor to a war – were hugely moving. Many prisoners were lifelines for others through the Samaritans' Listener programme.

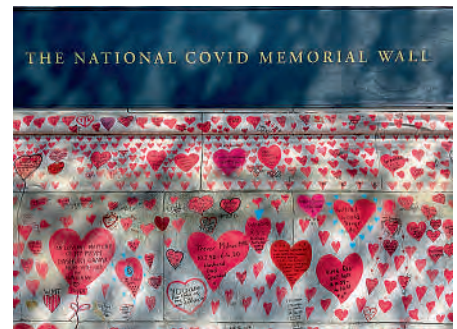
The accounts of witnesses and victims at my Justice Awards ceremonies were both humbling and a vital reminder of the role the public play in delivering justice. Always diverse, the number of young people receiving awards for acts of bravery in terrifying circumstances was marked. These ceremonies also became occasions to celebrate the work throughout the pandemic of court and witness support staff, whether establishing Nightingale courts or managing the extra anxiety of victims and witnesses.

The Metropolitan Police's Excellence Awards highlighted the exhausting work done by the pandemic response team and the coroners' courts and officers during the pandemic. It was a joy to celebrate this and other heroic work undertaken throughout at my Thanksgiving Service at Southwark Cathedral in November.

There were representatives from the justice system, emergency services,



Dame Cressida Dick, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, with Lambeth and Southwark Police Cadets at the High Sheriff's Thanksgiving Service at Southwark Cathedral



voluntary and civic sectors, churches, faith groups and the community; also included were the Lord-Lieutenant, the General Officer Commanding, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 11 High Sheriffs, 13 mayors, the CEO of St Thomas' Hospital, medics, nurses, police cadets and Hodge, the cathedral cat – quite the gathering. We had emerged from masks into the light. The reception buzzed.

The week before was a different story. The choirmaster, organist, most stewards and my PA were all struck down by Covid and the bishop was in hospital. But the rallying spirit was ever present. Police cadets became stewards, my husband my PA and trusty High Sheriff friends offered to preach or lead the singing.

This friendship and support in my roller coaster year have been invaluable. Much to be celebrated!



With members of the Metropolitan Police pandemic response team at the reception after the High Sheriff's Thanksgiving Service at Southwark Cathedral



Attending the High Sheriff's Justice Awards ceremony at the Supreme Court with the Rt Hon Lord Reed (back left), President of the Supreme Court

 **Lynn Cooper**
High Sheriff of Greater London 2021-22



Standing with Ukraine

SINCE MY low-key Declaration I have been delighted to find that the pace has picked up considerably and I have had the good fortune to visit people and places far and wide across the county. My intention has always been to meet and recognise those who quietly get on with things without seeking any acknowledgement.

It has been a real delight to continue my connections with the Ukrainian community, marking the 30th anniversary of independence in August when Bolton Town Hall was illuminated blue and yellow and an outdoor service held in Victoria Square. At Christmas (according to the Gregorian calendar), we were treated to a fabulous concert when Ukrainians of all ages danced and sang in glorious costume. The following week we enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal – all 12 courses. This was against the backcloth of growing concern in Ukraine and, more recently, we have joined a peace vigil and a superb concert in aid of Ukraine. It is heartbreaking to see what is happening and to know that people we have met are so intimately connected.

A highlight has been the Young Citizen of the Year Awards, recognising the efforts of young people in the county. Each one shortlisted has sought to improve lives and solve problems in their communities in their own unique way. We held a gala evening courtesy of the University of Bolton when the shortlisted nominees and their families came together for supper, met the judges and former High Sheriffs, and received a trophy, certificate and cheque.



BBC North West's Roger Norman, High Sheriff Diane Hawkins and Owain Wyn Evans



Proudly supporting Ukraine at the Christmas concert



Above: All the finalists at the High Sheriff's Young Citizen of the Year Awards with the High Sheriff and Under Sheriff David Cam

Above right: Diane Hawkins with winner Amber Shaw, former High Sheriff Mark Adlestone, chairman of Beaverbrooks and sponsor of the event, and Greg Cole, High Sheriff's Explorer Scout Cadet

My personal highlight was probably my appearance on BBC North West just before Christmas. This was to present Owain Wyn Evans with a Special Recognition Award for his amazing drumathon which raised nearly £4m for Children in Need. He was taken completely by surprise on air and was speechless (probably for the first time ever). The programme was quite possibly a first, too, in that Nigel Lanceley, High Sheriff of Merseyside, also appeared on the same broadcast: two televised High Sheriffs in one evening.



Special Recognition Awards have been a wonderful way to recognise the contribution to society made by so many people in Greater Manchester. From the five-year-old who has picked up litter every Saturday for nearly two years now, to the volunteers who prepare labour bags and filled Moses baskets for new mums and babies who otherwise have nothing at all, it has been humbling to meet so many people who continue to work quietly in the background showing that they care.

This year has been a real privilege and an honour to serve the people of Greater Manchester. It has been rich with experiences and events, and, above all, I have been able to thank people for what they do willingly without expectation of any acknowledgement.

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



Turning the clock back

I WALKED into the St Albans Museum and saw a picture of myself, now consigned to history as the first black High Sheriff of Hertfordshire – not an accolade I aspired to but one I will live with.

In fact, I was pleasantly surprised as I executed the role during my year how the progressing diversity of the Shrievalty is gaining respect from not only people who 'look like me', but those from other minority ethnic backgrounds. One of my most memorable experiences was meeting a little black girl on one of my school visits, who raised her hand and asked 'Can women be High Sheriffs also?' I was delighted with not only the question, but the ability to say that indeed it was a woman that would follow on from me and others both before and in nomination behind her. The little girl smiled and I saw the aspiration rise within her. I'll never forget it, my admitted – and verging on monomania – pursuit that 'young people are leaders of today, not just tomorrow' coming alive.

Creating opportunities for young people to excel is something most of us can do and I found it enormously rewarding to launch a number of initiatives in my shrieval year that have, and will, continue to do this: young entrepreneurs creating opportunities for ex-prisoners, young magistrates encouraging their peers to take up this volunteering role, and other

initiatives to support or accelerate great practical citizenship. The testimonials continue to come in.

I was delighted to commission my teenage son John-Ellis to compose a shrieval Te Deum for our Justice Service, performed beautifully by the renowned St Albans Cathedral Choir on Sunday 21 November 2021. A rather close-to-home but nonetheless memorable example of planting an opportunity seed that allows young people to mature in their leadership and gifts. I do indeed wonder if we cannot learn some lessons from the past.

I took the advantage of using my possible relative, Nathaniel Wells – High Sheriff of Monmouthshire (1818), the acclaimed first black High Sheriff in



Lionel Wallace with Piercefield House in the distance



With the young people of One YMCA Hatfield

England and Wales – as a model of what youth diversity was like some 200 years ago. Born in St Kitts in 1779, he was educated in England, appointed a Deputy Lieutenant at age 24, a Justice of the Peace at age 26, and Sheriff at age 33. An increasingly fascinating character, he was the owner of Piercefield House, near Chepstow, which I managed to visit in court dress (courtesy of the High Sheriff of Gwent, Phillip Alderman) at the end of March 2022. It was truly great to see that even if we turn the clock back to the early 19th century, youth and diversity featured, interestingly without much comment.

The role of High Sheriff is as relevant today as it has ever been. An enormous privilege and honour, attracting interest from our young people in a way not even I had expected, though it was admittedly hard to distil how much their attraction to court dress was more about the sword than the jabot!

Lionel Wallace DL
High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2021-22



At the High Sheriff's Justice Service in St Albans Cathedral



Lionel Wallace at the High Sheriff's Awards evening with son John-Ellis Wallace



An incredible and inspiring Island county

AS SUMMER gave way to autumn our 'holiday island' settled to a less frantic pace, but a High Sheriff's year is never a quiet one and there was still plenty to do.

With an October Legal Service, we welcomed the High Sheriffs of Hampshire and Wiltshire to a fantastic service in Newport Minster. A busy week for High Sheriffs in counties of the Western Circuit with three Rule of Law services on three consecutive days!

One thing leads to another. I attended a visit from Prince Michael of Kent to Sandown in August which led to an invitation to visit the Sandown & Shanklin Independent Lifeboat. Almost a community within a community, this

life-saving charity is enthusiastically supported by family members and friends of the crew, the town council and many more – a real network of people looking after each other and those at sea. Having spoken to their chaplain, fundraisers and volunteer crew it was a perfect illustration of how small charities have the widest of reaches well beyond their core purpose.

In December the Island holds a Gilten Market – an ancient event whose origins have been lost in the mists of time – where the winning beast from a fat stock show has its horns adorned with gold paint by the High Sheriff – a steady hand needed!

Mental health has been my theme for the year. Clinical admissions for mental health disorders are more than double the national average on the Isle of Wight. It's worse for young people – a survey of over 2,250 young people on the Island by the Isle of Wight Youth Trust has just reported that in the last 12 months nine per cent of 11- to 25-year-olds have made attempts on their life and 35 per cent have self-harmed; hospital admissions for self-harm are up by 33 per cent. This is the new pandemic.

I have visited and worked with a wide range of mental health charities and providers with the aim of bringing mental health into the open: the Isle

Above left: Richard Jackson holds the winning beast to be gilded by the High Sheriff Photo credit: Isle of Wight Observer

Above: Mary Birch receives a High Sheriff's Award for 25 years of fundraising for Sandown & Shanklin Independent Lifeboat

of Wight Youth Trust, Isorropia and the Wave Project to name a few. To raise awareness the Isle of Wight High Sheriff's Trust commissioned a series of high-quality films aimed at steering young people in need, in particular, to get help – these have been rolled out across our small county to 55 schools, 70 or more community and youth groups, numerous sports clubs and the NHS. They are great films – to see them check out the Isle of Wight High Sheriff's Twitter account.

To end on a positive note, I must highlight the Shademakers of Ryde – I had visited this internationally recognised carnival charity during my first six months in office and was thrilled to hear that they had been selected to bring their world-class spectacle (having performed in carnivals in many major European cities) to head The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant in London. Two hundred and fifty Islanders leading the way! If you miss it, don't worry – it's coming to Newport Carnival in July.

Thank you to the Isle of Wight for allowing me to be High Sheriff for this last year to serve what is an incredible and inspiring Island community.

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



With fellow High Sheriffs Sir Charles Hobhouse (Wiltshire) and Phillip Sykes (Hampshire), and the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Ven Peter Leonard, at the October Legal Service



The front line of policing

MY YEAR as High Sheriff did not start as one would have hoped, as in April 2021 we were still very much subject to restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. However, when a date and the number of people permitted to assemble was finally agreed that plan also changed at the last minute as sadly the date coincided with the funeral of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

I thought I knew this county pretty well, but how mistaken I was. I have been surprised and indeed humbled by the amazing resilience of the hundreds, if not thousands of people from all walks of life across Kent who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to help and support others – from charitable organisations to community groups or just individuals all doing their bit. That work is now of course ongoing... it really has been a heart-warming experience.

As my year progressed and restrictions were slowly eased, I have been privileged to spend time with and support various law enforcement agencies such as probation, young offenders' teams, Border Force, the courts and of course Kent Police. Together with all the other emergency services it has been fascinating to see first-hand the breadth of their work.



Kent Justices' Clerks Support Team (HMCTS) receiving a High Sheriff's Award with John Weir, the Lady Colgrain, Lord-Lieutenant, and His Honour Judge Julian Smith

I have also spent time in each of the seven prisons we have in Kent and again have been so impressed with the amount of work which takes place to offer rehabilitation to offenders... something which I am passionate about.

During the past 12 months I have spent time with various teams within Kent Police; for instance on Christmas morning I visited the force's control and incident room, which was, as always, a hive of activity.

Prior to being appointed High Sheriff I spent some 24 years as a magistrate in North Kent. In court we hear evidence, read statements, and listen to submissions from solicitors and counsel all in a very sterile environment. I have been able to see first-hand exactly what our police officers face on a daily basis and I have to say much of it is as far from sterile as one can imagine.

One of my lasting memories and perhaps the one which has impacted on me most, will be the time spent with the County Lines and Gangs Team, who in my view are on that front line of policing, combating gang activity and the ever-pervasive import of drugs into Kent, a practice that affects so many people, particularly the young and vulnerable who become involved often through fear or coercion. These officers are dealing with very dangerous individuals who would stop at nothing to achieve their ends.

However, right across Kent Police I have seen dedicated and committed officers and PCSOs who are determined to serve, protect and try to make a real difference in communities across our county.

To the Chief Constable, Alan Pughsley, his senior leadership team, his officers and support staff, may I say, on behalf of the people of Kent... Thank you!

As my year comes to an end, this Medway boy who went to a secondary school, who never once imagined that he would hold such high office, let alone be presented to four members of the Royal Family, feels immensely privileged and indeed humbled to have been appointed



Attending the Justice Service at Rochester Cathedral with the Rt Hon Lord Reed (centre), President of the Supreme Court



Officers from the County Lines and Gangs Team receiving a High Sheriff's Award with (centre) the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, John Weir, and the Chief Constable, Alan Pughsley QPM

to serve as High Sheriff. Even more so, I feel proud to have met and been able to support so many in our county.

May I also say thank you to Catherine Lloyd, Kent's Under Sheriff, for her advice and guidance before and during my year which has been invaluable.

His Honour Judge Griffith-Jones QC has presided at a number of Declaration ceremonies in Kent. As he now heads towards retirement, I thank him for his support and friendship on two counts: first, on behalf of the wider Kent shrieval family and second, my own personal thanks for that support. On both counts it has been very much appreciated indeed! We wish him and his wife Virginia a long and happy retirement, so well earned.

My year has been very much a partnership with my dear wife Beverly and I am indebted to her for all her support.

 **John Weir JP**
High Sheriff of Kent 2021-22



Good High Sheriff vibes

IT IS almost impossible to put my year as High Sheriff into 500 words, but I will try!

It was like a game of two halves with pandemic restrictions preventing physical meetings for the first few months. This did, however, give me the opportunity to create plans for my two key themes. First of all, I determined to work with our Community Foundation to engage businesses more closely with supporting community groups and charities throughout the county; this culminated in the launch of 'Lancashire Investors in Community' which now has a strong cohort of subscribers.

Before my Declaration (in the garden!), I had met online David Apparicio MBE JP who sits on the bench at Northampton and was enthused by his work to reduce reoffending. My initial meetings with prison governors both inside and outside the county were virtual, but I was able to make visits to all the Lancashire prisons in the autumn and experience first-hand how the prisoners felt about the prospect of release back into society. I then decided to explore ways to support prison leavers better and had the opportunity to meet James Timpson. He was embarking on the creation of Employment Advisory Boards



(EABs) and asked me if I would form one at HMP Lancaster Farms. There has been a huge amount to learn, and I am happy to say that my EAB is about to be launched albeit at the end of my tenure as High Sheriff.

I had many physical visits cancelled at the beginning and resorted to joining discussions online. The Children and Family Wellbeing Service introduced me to the Lancashire District Youth Councils, and I was able to spend time talking with young people about the issues that meant the most to them.



High Sheriff with The Four Tops – 'vibes' at the Christmas lights switch-on in Preston... all part of a varied year!



At the Shire Hall, Lancaster Castle for the shield hanging ceremony – a special day after all the restrictions



Above: Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Aishley and Samantha Bell-Docherty of 'Skool of Street', Blackpool

Left: The High Sheriff with his wife Anne planting trees for The Queen's Green Canopy on the Duchy of Lancaster estate, Dolphinholme

Photo: Steve Pendrill Photography

By the time a degree of normality resumed I was well briefed to engage with the judiciary and police through whom I experienced the sterling work they are undertaking to maintain their services and keep our communities safe. My presence with officers on a 'night-time economy' patrol caused much mirth with revellers who asked if the High Sheriff had a horse and did I live in Texas!

There were few visiting High Court Judges sitting in Preston later in the year, but I had the pleasure of entertaining Mr Justice Goose and Mr Justice Spencer before Christmas. I sat in the High Court on a few occasions but spent the majority of my time visiting voluntary groups where I met some outstanding people, some of whom received a High Sheriff's Award at my presentation evening.

A great many people, including friends, have little understanding of just what a High Sheriff does in 2022. I was fortunate in securing a page each month in *Lancashire Life* magazine where I was able to explain some of the history and what both the Lieutenancy and Shrievalty are all about.

It has been an immense privilege to perform the role and I wish my successor Martin Ainscough every success.

Edwin Booth CBE DL
High Sheriff of Lancashire 2021-22



Concentrate on the positives

AT THE time of writing, I can see the finishing line of my year fast approaching. I suspect that many High Sheriffs say 'Where has the year gone?' It seems that six months ago we had all the time to do what we wanted with no pressure. My thought now is 'Have I done enough?' The answer is in the lap of the gods and different for every High Sheriff. We will never know.

It has been a strange year, certainly not as restricted as the previous one, but it has had its interruptions, cancellations and postponements. Before Christmas we seemed to take a backward step with more lockdowns but since then things have looked up. I prefer to concentrate on the positives and to my mind it has been an excellent year.

When asked what the highlights have been, I can reel off this Judges' Service, that visit to a charity, or this dinner but to my mind what I have really enjoyed is meeting people. I have been privileged to meet and work with the two other High Sheriffs from the Duchy of Lancaster, Diane Hawkins from Greater Manchester and Edwin Booth from Lancashire; also with the High Sheriffs from Cheshire and from Cumbria, Robert Mee and David Beeby. They all have been great company and I believe we have worked well together.



The High Sheriff, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, Mark Blundell, and the immediate past High Sheriff of Merseyside, His Honour John Roberts DL, cutting a cake to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Birkenhead Park (the first public park established at public expense in the UK) – what swordsmanship!



The other people whom I have come across are too numerous to mention but there have been some inspiring and impressive individuals who make this county great. The five borough mayors in Merseyside have been a delight to meet and work with and also have been great fun. Libby and I have been to a number of Freedom of the City of Liverpool ceremonies and there is quite a backlog in the mayoral calendars. Sadly one or two people have died after being awarded the honour but before they could attend the ceremony.

I have been impressed with the children I have met and the young people involved in the Crimebeat Awards have all been hugely inspiring. The fascination with my sword has been a constant source of interest and fun. I was asked whether I had ever had a sword fight with the Lord-Lieutenant by one inquisitive boy – my answer was 'not yet'!

In my previous article I mentioned the maritime connections of Merseyside and we recently had a visit from HMS *Queen Elizabeth*; the aircraft carrier is the joint largest and most powerful vessel ever constructed for the Royal Navy. Seeing her tied up where the cruise liners berth was a privilege and a pleasure. The ship and crew welcomed us warmly and it was quite an experience.

I feel honoured to have served Her Majesty The Queen in my year and



At the High Sheriff's Awards held in Liverpool Town Hall with the Lord Mayor, Cllr Mary Rasmussen (centre), and Under Sheriff of the County Palatine of Lancaster, David Cam DL (back right)

seeing the Royal Family gathering for the memorial service for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh makes one feel proud. I was especially impressed with the younger royals and I believe the monarchy is in good hands for the future.

I now hope and believe that the road is open for my successor, Lesley Martin-Wright, to motor away.

◆ Nigel Lanceley DL
High Sheriff of Merseyside 2021-22



Who wants to visit America?

THE THEN Chief Constable of Norfolk gave me an excellent challenge for my year of office – ‘We know where 50 per cent of crime will be in Norfolk in 10 years’ time. If it is predictable, why isn’t it preventable?’

To try to answer this challenge I visited schools and colleges; youth organisations; police and prisons; magistrates’ and Crown courts; a youth court and the youth offending team... and everywhere I asked them that same question. How can we stop the cycle of offending?

TIP – I recommend all High Sheriffs watch a five-minute cartoon on ACEs. Put ‘Adverse Childhood Experiences Cartoon’ into Google (Public Health Cymru) – it explains more than most learned papers that I have read and will inform your year on the causes of crime.

Sadly, all too many children and young people are told they are failures throughout their school life and we should not then be surprised if they join county lines gangs. Almost every primary teacher can tell you which children will end up eventually being excluded or falling out of school.



The High Sheriff's reception was held on Cromer Pier



Remembrance Sunday in Great Yarmouth



Visiting Norwich Primary Academy and planting a tree for The Queen's Green Canopy

Every child has talents and these need to be celebrated and built on. We must also be better at vocational training.

What can we as High Sheriffs do about it? For a start we can highlight the issue in our counties, championing early family support in disadvantaged communities to reduce ACEs; extra safeguarding support in schools; encourage youth groups and clubs of every sort. The St Giles Trust (stgilestrust.org.uk) does an outstanding job in training teachers and parents about drugs and gangs. The police safer schools team are welcomed by most principals and can be a real force for good, not least breaking down stereotypical barriers.

TIP – When visiting schools or young people ask them how many want to go to America (or Australia) during their lifetime? Most will put up their hands. Then tell them that if they get a police record, however small, they will never get a visa. It is effective, relevant deterrence.

The High Sheriff can play a valuable role in linking schools with their communities – links that in many cases have broken down because of the pandemic. You can organise meetings of different local youth and volunteer groups with the local school when you visit a town or ward and also challenge local leaders about facilities for the young. Have they asked the young what they want?

Another area I found valuable was to challenge principals on both exclusion and home schooling. Far too many children have still not returned full-time to school yet school is the safest place for



Visiting the Swan Youth Project in Downham Market which supports young people aged between 8 and 18

them. I found alternative provision was highly variable ranging from the good to the very poor – ask prison governors when you visit how many of their prisoners were excluded from school.

TIP – Restorative Justice works. I have seen it in practice in a junior school and in youth work. We should be encouraging more of it.

Getting a good job helps prevent crime. The High Sheriff can encourage organisations to work together to get more work experience; more jobs fairs; encourage apprenticeships and build on the excellent Timpson initiative of Employer Advisory Boards in prisons.

You can make a difference just by asking the right questions, by celebrating and promoting those who are doing good and challenging accepted thinking.

Michael Gurney DL
High Sheriff of Norfolk 2021-22



NORTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members

No substitute for talking to one another

THE SECOND half of my year as High Sheriff started with the North Eastern Legal Service at York Minster – a vibrant ceremony marking the start of the legal year. A veritable flock of High Sheriffs gathered with the highest echelons of the legal profession in the Assembly Rooms in York and after a delicious brunch we all processed to the Minster accompanied by the York Guard in their red uniforms.

Throughout the autumn, I was lucky enough to be able to criss-cross North Yorkshire visiting special schools and small rural charities, attending the passing-out parade for the fire cadets, going on patrol in a police car, and meeting Malton's Mini Police Unit. Set up by PC Jane Jones, this initiative invites primary school children to come and learn more about what the police actually do. It was inspirational to see a rapport being built between the police and very young people.

On a visit to Henshaws Specialist College in Harrogate I met a very talented young lady, originally from Liverpool, called Marnie Jade Lane. Marnie is blind but has taught herself how to play piano, and she plays marvellously. By a stroke of luck, I was able to introduce her to the Aintree Racecourse team who invited her to accompany soprano and Aintree ambassador, Laura Wright, at the annual Grand National Weights Lunch. Marnie and Laura came



Above: With Laura Wright, Marnie Jade Lane, Rachael Blackmore and Mrs Lane at the Grand National Weights Lunch

together for a marvellous performance in front of Liverpool dignitaries as well as many racing luminaries, including last year's Grand National winning jockey – and national hero – Rachael Blackmore.

Towards the end of 2021, I began to recognise a common theme being raised by the organisations I was talking to. They had all been working so hard to keep their service users on track that they did not have the time to communicate with other organisations that could help them raise money and awareness. To this end I organised a Connectivity Lunch, inviting

Below left: Co-founder of Rubies, Liz Edwards, and project assistant, Dawn Palmer, were pleased to welcome Venetia Wrigley as part of her year raising the profile of small charities – especially as she came bearing chocolates!

Below: With the Scarborough Sea Cadets



Below: With the York Guard on the day of the North Eastern Legal Service at York Minster



every organisation that I had met to come together for the sole purpose of talking to each other. A strategic table plan was devised in order to maximise conversation between organisations and individuals with shared interests, and I think it worked – the noise in the room was phenomenal and the feedback very positive.

Omicron cancelled many events around Christmas but life regathered momentum in January and I spent the last few months going to the passing-out parade of the Scarborough Police Cadets, visiting the Scarborough Sea Cadets and seeing Scarborough's life boat being launched. I was thrilled to celebrate International Women's Day at York Mansion House, hosted by the Lord Mayor's Consort, Joy Cullwick, and York Sheriff's Lady, Danielle Mason. My final week was spent mostly in Middlesbrough and Redcar, meeting some incredible charities including the amazing women of Rubies. Their mission is to help pre-teen girls to respect themselves, build their confidence and teach them to be resilient in the face of social media.

Being High Sheriff has been a very humbling experience – I am so grateful to have been chosen. I have learnt so much and loved spending time with everyone I have been lucky enough to meet.

◆ Venetia Wrigley DL
High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2021-22



Inspired, entertained and in awe

WITH THE Covid lockdown ending there was huge opportunity to see what all our youth groups have been getting up to, and I had the very great honour to visit approximately 45 different projects, all of whom applied for the High Sheriff of Northumberland Awards through the Community Foundation.

The youth leaders are to be applauded for maintaining communication and links with their groups during the pandemic. My visits have always left me inspired, entertained and in awe of the passion and commitment so many have to achieve the very best for young people in their care. After my fundraising efforts, I was thrilled to be able to give awards of £1,000 to each group with five special recognition awards of a further £1,000 – held at an awards ceremony in Ashington. My guest speaker was Jeff Brown, our BBC Look North news and sports presenter. A great moment of excitement came when I announced the one lucky winner of Sam Fender concert tickets and personalised merchandise!

I have given High Sheriff's Awards to 30 individuals who have gone 'above and beyond' for their community, ranging from Covid heroes, Storm Arwen heroes, and others representing



Remembrance Day parade in Morpeth with Vice Lord-Lieutenant Dr Caroline Pryer, and Commander Thom Hobbs RN, HMS *Northumberland*; and police cadets Alastair and Lily

magnificent contributions to the RNLI, Northumberland Mountain Rescue Team, Tynedale Hospice at Home, Litter Pickers, Rural Crime Volunteers, among others!

My visits have taken me to HMP Low Newton and HMP Northumberland, where I have seen the wonderful work of Nepacs (North East Prison After Care Society), the charity which organises prison visits and releases in the North East, and does a range of wonderful work with children who are impacted by the imprisonment of a parent.

I enjoyed the wonderful Legal Services at Newcastle Cathedral and York Minster – where seven High Sheriffs paraded through York – hosted three judges' dinners which were great fun, and attended the swearing-in of new magistrates at the law courts. I chose to be in the county town of Morpeth for the Remembrance Day parade, aided by my wonderful police cadets, Alastair and Lily, where we joined the march through the town led by Scottish pipers before laying a wreath at the cenotaph. Huge numbers of people turned out for a very moving day.

I had a memorable day out at sea on HMS *Northumberland*, kindly hosted by her captain, Commander Thom Hobbs, and another wonderful



Northumberland Mountain Rescue Team: World Extreme Medicine Cheviots exercise

day hosted by Lt Colonel Jonathan Hooper of 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery at Albemarle Barracks. Being invited to inspect the guard was certainly a rare privilege!

It has been a wonderful shrieval year – a year of personal 'firsts'. I have navigated my way across hundreds of miles to places I had never been before, met so many inspiring people, made speeches I never dreamed I was capable of, shared my new-found knowledge of the Curtana with many young people, and I step down from the Office of High Sheriff of Northumberland with superb memories.

Joanna Riddell
High Sheriff of Northumberland 2021-22



Visiting 3 RHA



Be yourself

I'VE HAD a brilliant year as High Sheriff. My tweets have been seen over half a million times and my highest performing video has been viewed over 20,000 times. My daughters inform me I'm the first High Sheriff on TikTok too! It's been a huge honour to have represented one of the most creative, dynamic, and beautiful counties in our country – Oxfordshire.

My daughters have helped make my social media content sharper, more attractive and more engaging. They were my best helpers and critics. When recording my video messages, I would often make them three to five minutes in length – 'that's too long, Dad!' would be the refrain. The maximum length should be no more than 70 seconds: the shorter, the sharper, the better!

'Being myself' meant that I appointed seven High Sheriff's Chaplains, each representing one of seven of the major faiths – and therefore communities – in Oxfordshire. This rich diversity of faiths and cultures was beautifully captured in the launch video for my year, expertly put together by the comms team at Oxfordshire County Council. It also demonstrated my love, commitment, and passion for bringing communities together – these appointments, for the first time and in a concrete sense, brought into the shrieval orbit communities who might have had little engagement or awareness of the Office of High Sheriff in the past. Many of those present, especially the judiciary at the Legal Service for Oxfordshire which was held at the magnificent Christ Church Cathedral, were deeply moved by the blessings delivered by the chaplains in their vernacular and in English at the conclusion of the service.

I was torn on the question of hospitality: should I invite a small group from those attending the Legal Service to dinner or all? Numbers had been restricted due to Covid-19 but nonetheless remained sizable. 'Be yourself' came to my aid. I decided to



With members of the local judiciary at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in honour of the visit of Mr Justice Choudhury and Lady Choudhury to Oxfordshire



At a community barbecue in East Oxford organised by Oxford Community Action

invite all attending the Legal Service to dinner and, in addition, the heads of charities and different communities from the county. Following the main course, I invited individuals to speak for a couple minutes to share something about what they, their communities or charities/voluntary groups do in the county. This was fun and informative – it was especially appreciated by Mr Justice Bryan and Lady Bryan. One of the guests informed me that in 30 years, he'd never been to a dinner which included such a rich cultural mix of people.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, my Declaration ceremony was held virtually. In hindsight, although initially I was disappointed, this was providential.

I decided to invite as many charity and voluntary leaders from across the county as I could; Oxfordshire Community Foundation was most helpful in this respect. As a result, just under 350 people joined me for the ceremony and as one retired judge commented, 'That was the best ever shrieval appointment ceremony – and I have been to many over the years!'

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make my year so enjoyable and such a huge success.

♦ Imam Monawar Hussain
MBE DL
High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2021-22



Impressive commitment

AFTER A start that was delayed due to Covid lockdown restrictions, I attended the Special Commendation Awards at Leicestershire Police headquarters at Enderby. Our police spend a great deal of their time supporting and helping the community, not just fighting crime, and I was humbled to see how police officers undertake real acts of bravery and treat it as just part of their job. On asking the Chief Constable why he joined the police, he said simply, 'I wanted to help people.'

I made 12 visits to the Crown, family and magistrates' courts. I found their workings fascinating – particularly the time the judge or magistrate took to explain the sentencing to a defendant.

Not many people understand what goes on in court, but we should realise we have the finest justice system in the world which we need to value and support.

What was impressive was the commitment of the court staff who kept the courts going through lockdown. I was pleased to give High Sheriff's Awards to the staff in both the Crown Court and the magistrates' court.

The judges and magistrates gave me a great deal of their time and made me very welcome; at the end of my term, they kindly presented me with a fine limited-edition map of Rutland.

I persuaded the magistrates to organise mock trials for four schools in Oakham Castle – the oldest court in England – to give the students a taste of



Above: Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Peppers, an excellent local charity providing a safe place for those struggling with their mental health

Above right: Mock trial in Oakham Castle

the real atmosphere of a courtroom. These worked really well, with lots of debate and questions and there is interest from the schools to continue them in future years.

Another initiative was to visit all 52 villages in Rutland. I thought it particularly important as we came out of lockdown to see how communities had managed and to thank people for all their efforts to support others. I was impressed how people looked after one another. If there has been any benefit to be derived from Covid, it is that it has pulled communities together.

An added bonus was learning the history of each village: the origins, the old families, how life has changed, and listening to the longer-standing residents and their fascinating stories and experiences. We have some enthusiastic



historians in Rutland, and I now have a large library of material on the history of Rutland, written by residents.

Usually over tea and cakes in the village hall people would ask 'What does a High Sheriff do?' and then 'How do you get selected?' We still have work to do here!

In the towns, I spent valuable time with our police team, the fire service, visiting almshouses and charities, and stores, particularly the charity shops with their excellent staff – mostly volunteers.

As I went along I gave High Sheriff's Awards to individuals who contributed to their community, and to several charities and voluntary organisations. It was great to present an award to someone in front of their own peer group – usually taking them by surprise. I learnt just how powerful it is to take the time to say 'Thank you'. Any funds raised went to smaller local charities.

The high point of the year was the Justice Service – we had great support from Crown Court Judges and JPs, a reading from Magna Carta and the Human Rights Act 1998, and a really excellent sermon from the Bishop of Peterborough's chaplain reminding us of the three key points set out by the Prophet Micah in the Old Testament: Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly.

The Justice Service was followed the next week by a very special event, a brilliant concert by members of the Bach Choir in All Saints' Church, Oakham.

It has been an excellent year – a year spent meeting a great many people in our wonderful county of Rutland.



Declaration at home L-R: Revd Dr Pippa Madgwick, High Sheriff's chaplain; Mrs Kate Blank, Under Sheriff; Cllr Andrew Brown JP (High Sheriff 2015-16); Richard Cole, immediate past High Sheriff; Dr Sarah Furness, Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland; David Wood, High Sheriff

David Wood
High Sheriff of Rutland 2021-22



The ability to connect, nurture and thank

MY AMBITION was to champion Shropshire in every way I could. Over the past 12 months, I've attended over 250 meetings and events, some online, many in person, and engaged with thousands of people from all walks of life.

Some didn't realise the role of High Sheriff even existed. Now they do I hope they think it makes a worthwhile contribution to life in their county.

Getting the message across is vital. The local press has been very supportive and I've supplied several stories. I've used social media widely. I broke new ground on the High Sheriff of Shropshire website with a comprehensive monthly diary. Called 'My Month', its primary intention was to tell Salopians what their High Sheriff was up to. However, it now stands as a permanent record of my shrieval year – and maybe a worthwhile guide for new High Sheriffs about what the role entails.

Shropshire is England's largest landlocked county but has a population of only half a million and, unusually among counties, no city. This abundance of space combined with a wonderful landscape, attractive market towns and picturesque villages, suggests a rural idyll. However, Shropshire has its problems. Covid was difficult for all, but particularly those less advantaged. Social deprivation, mental health, drugs and alcohol addiction have



With Sgt Gary Lansdale and PCs Chloe Spiers and Caitlin Duncan of Shrewsbury Police before heading out on patrol

been recurring themes during my year.

I have championed the police, fire and ambulance services, the NHS, armed forces and judiciary, along with volunteers and charity workers. They are the cornerstone of a civilised society. Yet much of their day-to-day work often goes unnoticed. I've endeavoured to shine a light on these unsung heroes.

I have spoken publicly on tough issues – homelessness, climate change, domestic abuse, mental health and exploitation of the young by drug gangs.

When I took office, I had no idea that Shropshire had over 20 county lines drug gangs. They often target those of school age, who are sometimes struggling with education or simply the modern world. They are lured by the temptation of drugs, mainly cannabis, and the cash that can flow from low-level dealing. Some descend into hard drugs and crime; others, with help from charities and the police, see a better future. The courts play their part, often looking for solutions to turn young lives around.



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Scout leader Yvonne Brunger, recognising her community work during the pandemic

The promotion of Shropshire's tourism industry – a key part of our post-pandemic economic recovery – was a significant theme of my year. I worked closely with Shropshire Council on the commissioning of an exciting new tourism action plan.

My final major engagement was my Legal Service of Dedication at Shrewsbury School Chapel, attended by over 200 people. It gave me the chance to thank everyone who supported me, not least my wife Clare, who attended many events, and our daughter Lucy and sons Marcus and Tom. The year flew by.

I know that some of the charities I've promoted have received significant financial support as a result. The Office of High Sheriff may be 1,000 years old, but I believe it is as relevant as ever, with the ability to connect, nurture and thank all those who give so freely to help others.

Anthony Morris Eyton
High Sheriff of Shropshire 2021-22



At my Legal Service in March with West Mercia Chief Constable, Pippa Mills, and Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner



A platform for renewal and hope

I WELCOME the opportunity to share some reflections and also to express my thanks. I do so with a strong sense of the purpose of the Shrievalty and the role it plays as a catalyst for renewal and hope. It is also a reminder of the many positive and good things that are happening across South Yorkshire.

I have much respect and admiration for those who have served as High Sheriffs, with a strong sense of duty and service to our county, and thank my predecessors who have generously helped and guided me.

I have witnessed the truly outstanding work done by our judges, magistrates and all who administer justice in our county and want to pay them tribute. It is important that a wider section of society understand what our system of justice and the rule of law is all about in all its many and varied aspects.

I must thank South Yorkshire Police, Fire and Rescue, the ambulance service, the NHS, and the prison, probation and rehabilitation services for the work they do and for the way in which they welcomed and embraced the Office of the High Sheriff. These organisations and the people who work in them are sustained in wisdom, discernment and compassion.

The global pandemic highlighted the importance, dedication, hard work and commitment of those who work in voluntary, charity and community organisations. It has been humbling to witness the incredible sense of community

that we have across South Yorkshire. We are blessed to have so many wonderful organisations shaped and defined by people who work tirelessly to support the vulnerable, the homeless, those living in poverty and in deprivation, those suffering with poor mental health, those on the margins of our society. They work together for the dignity of all, answering human difficulty, tragedy and weakness with compassion and understanding.

Children and young people are a very important part of our communities – they are the future. They grow up having to develop a resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and become well-rounded healthy adults. For many this can be difficult and as a consequence they struggle with their mental health and well-being. Throughout my year I have worked with such young people and organisations that help them. We know that the pandemic has put a huge strain on many and I thank those who opened their doors to me. We must continue to help and support, inspire and motivate our young people, helping them with their challenges and celebrating their successes.

High Sheriffs can be a catalyst for working collaboratively and in partnership and can achieve great outcomes. This human ability to help and support is the foundation for renewal and hope and a reminder of the great kindness and generosity that we have across the county. It has been a pleasure to get to know and work with the Lord-Lieutenant, the Mayors of Barnsley, Doncaster,

Handover to my successor, Lt Col Robert McPherson MBE, on 11 April 2022 at Sheffield Combined Courts Centre. L-R: Jo Tear (Mistress Cutler), Professor Jaydip Ray (High Sheriff in nomination 2023-24), Mr James Tear (Master Cutler), Padre Albert Jackson (High Sheriff's Chaplain), Christine McPherson, Lt Col Robert McPherson (High Sheriff 2022-23), Prof Dame Hilary Chapman DBE (Lord-Lieutenant), His Honour Judge Jeremy Richardson QC (Recorder of Sheffield), Cllr Gail Smith (Lord Mayor of Sheffield), Martin McKervey (High Sheriff 2021-22), Juliet McKervey, Rachael Brown (Lord Mayor's consort), Col George Kilburn MBE DL (Under Sheriff)

Rotherham and Sheffield, and with the Master and Mistress Cutler, representing the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire. I thank them for their kindness, friendship, generosity and support. We should all be very grateful for the work they all do.

I am most grateful to my wife Juliet, our daughters Bronte and Freya, and my wider family both in Sheffield and in Ederney in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland for all for their love and support and for affording me the opportunity to be the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire.

I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Robert McPherson on his appointment and wish him every success and happiness as High Sheriff.

The Shrievalty does have a purpose. It is a platform for renewal and hope. I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to help define and shape some of that purpose.

♦ Martin McKervey
High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2021-2022



To convene and connect

ACROSS THE country the role of High Sheriff thrived, adapting to rise above challenges and continuing to be more relevant than ever. As the 800th High Sheriff of Surrey and the 10th woman to hold the role, I took office with some trepidation as the Covid-19 pandemic raged on, but on reflection it seems to have been a particularly impactful shrieval year for that very reason.

I prioritised visits to the most deprived wards and to those who had valiantly maintained Surrey's criminal justice system, as well as Surrey Police Force, Fire and Rescue Service, prisons and charities. I found wonderful people, determined to carry on but exhausted; the role of High Sheriff in giving support and appreciation was warmly welcomed and felt extremely pertinent.

The silver lining of the post-pandemic recovery was the emergence of a genuine desire to reconnect with people and a collective will to achieve ambitious goals. To 'convene and connect' was a delight, and produced many positive results, particularly surrounding my theme: 'Every Child Included'. My goal was to reduce the number of permanent school exclusions in Surrey, continuing the work of two outstanding previous High Sheriffs (2017-2019) on this difficult but important issue: 41 per cent of prisoners are permanently excluded from school (Justice Committee, 2019).

As an NHS doctor and Vice-Chair of the Community Foundation for Surrey,

I know that two things bring about real change: new data and a crisis. I was only expecting the former as, pre-Covid, I initiated an independent research project with Royal Holloway, University of London on school exclusion in Surrey.

My year was bookended by two summits centred on the research, which convened Surrey's educational and voluntary sectors with the local authority and police. In July 2021, 70 delegates happily came together for their first face-to-face gathering in 18 months. Having heard the new data, they developed a list of evidence-based recommendations for change. By the second summit in March 2022, after much hard work, material changes were in place and the number of permanent exclusions in Surrey had reduced by 40 per cent. A new Surrey Alternative Learning Programme and the Community Foundation's £2 million mental health fund for young people sparked national interest, and Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England (2021), was a guest speaker at the March summit.

There have been countless other wonderful experiences including joint visits with neighbouring High Sheriffs. Speaking on BBC Radio Surrey became very familiar; I gave out all kinds of awards, learnt tricks with a school dog, enjoyed 3 am patrols with the Woking Street Angels, appeared in *Hello* magazine making chocolate robins with the Countess of Wessex, appeared on Pakistani



Inspecting new Surrey Police officers with the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux



Christmas festivities at Disability Initiative, Camberley with HRH the Countess of Wessex, two previous High Sheriffs, Shahid Azeem DL and Bill Biddell DL, and Chief Executive Lucy Brown

television, featured in a list of Inspirational Surrey Women and, of course, supported numerous wonderful charities, many of which received grants from the Surrey High Sheriff's Youth Awards.

I launched a new website with a local IT consultant and was delighted to develop a considerable social media following. My event invitations were sent from the digital database 'Greenvelope', which is a great innovation for efficiency and continuity between shrieval years, and my team subsequently helped several other counties start their own databases.

After a final joint visit with my successor, I handed over the reins in front of a packed cathedral congregation, happy in the knowledge that the role of High Sheriff prevails, enhanced by collaboration among High Sheriffs and fortified by the experiences of the pandemic – and what a joy it was to sing the National Anthem in full voice!

◆ Dr Julie Llewelyn
High Sheriff of Surrey 2021-22

Below: With the acting American Ambassador to the UK, Ambassador Philip Reeker, at the Remembrance Day Service, Brookwood American Cemetery





Memorable highlights

IN MARCH 2021 I was honoured to be appointed as High Sheriff of the County of the West Midlands. And what an extra ordinary 12 months it has been. This honour coincided with Coventry's year as the UK's City of Culture. And we were still in lockdown...

I had set out to do three things:

- Celebrate unsung business and community leaders in the West Midlands
- Bring opportunities for vulnerable young adults into the spotlight
- Modernise the Office of the High Sheriff, promoting the importance of the role and drawing on its values and traditions for the benefit of today's society.

And during my year as High Sheriff of the West Midlands I would like to think I have met each of these objectives.

My shrieval year has been an incredible experience during which I have met some amazing and inspirational people. Although too many to mention, there have been some particularly memorable highlights I would like to share.

Unsung leaders

On a visit to HMYOI Brinsford near Wolverhampton I was impressed by the behind-the-scenes work of Governor Amanda Hughes and her team in helping improve prospects for the young men upon their release.

Although Brinsford had not been without challenges, under Amanda's leadership, and with buy-in from the prisoners, it was turning a corner with many young men successfully transforming their lives.

Also, Hitesh Mehta, to whom I had the pleasure of presenting an award at the High Sheriff's Summer Reception and Presentations Evening for his dedication to his role as a Special Constable with West Midlands Police for more than half his life, from the age of 18.

Opportunities for vulnerable young adults

I also met with some wonderful organisations who work tirelessly to help give our young people a solid start in life. These include Fridays, a Coventry youth club steering young people away from a life of violence, crime and antisocial behaviour. A particularly proud moment was Fridays winning the National Crimebeat Award following my personal nomination.

Learning more about Positive Youth Foundation, a charity committed to providing opportunities and brighter futures for local young people, and Warrens Hall Riding School, for vulnerable children and young adults, was also an uplifting experience.

The Office of High Sheriff

My team and I have also worked hard to promote the role of High Sheriff in the wider community. The Annual



High Sheriff presented certificates and medals at the Summer Reception (L-R) Ch Insp Helen Kirkman, West Midlands Police, Louise Bennett, Special Sgt Hitesh Mehta, Freya Pinnick, High Sheriff's Cadet



High Sheriff with police cadet leaders and cadets at West Midlands Police

Justice Service, the first held outside Birmingham, had a record attendance, with 375 guests and a further 100 people taking part in the procession. All of this was supported by an ongoing campaign of press and public relations, social media and a dedicated website.

It has been a fantastic journey, but one I could not have achieved on my own. The Very Revd John Witcombe, my chaplain, was always on hand to support and bring reverence and reflection to the role. My Cadet Freya Pinnick also provided incredible support and proved herself a great ambassador for young people. Finally, Chris Nagle, my wingman who has supported me in this role on top of his day job. To each I wish to say a huge thank you.

Finally, thank you, too, to the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, which generously allowed me to devote time to the role of High Sheriff while holding down my busy substantive role as Chief Executive of the Chamber.



The Rt Hon Lord Justice Haddon-Cave and the Rt Hon Lady Justice Thirlwall DBE, pictured with High Court Judges from the Midland Circuit, as they attend the West Midlands Annual Justice Service at Coventry Cathedral

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



Twitter... a remarkably useful tool

WHAT A wonderful year! It began with a virtual Declaration ceremony presided over by Mr Justice Lavender, who was sitting in Leeds Crown Court, with all other participants joining remotely. The virtual ceremony lost none of its dignity. There was a positive bonus in a virtual ceremony as it allowed for a large number of guests to join the event.

Mastering Twitter was my first challenge. I followed the guidance of the High Sheriffs' Association and set up a Twitter account @HSwestyorkshire that could be passed on to all future High Sheriffs of the county. This has proved a remarkably useful tool. Not only does it allow you to engage with followers, it also allows you to have your events retweeted by others, which spreads the message and demystifies the role of the High Sheriff. In addition, tweeting after every event allows you to have a running log of your year in office.

Zoom-type meetings then began in earnest with 18 from mid April to the end of May. They worked exceptionally well and allowed for some really important meetings to take place, giving the opportunity to say thank you to the various NHS trusts, charitable organisations, and those serving the county in so many different ways during the past incredibly challenging year. It was very moving to witness how appreciative the recipients of the Zoom calls were. I highly recommend that they continue as part of the High Sheriff's calendar, especially in the early months, where you can establish many relationships over Zoom that may lead to visits later in the shrieval year.

The Shrievalty in West Yorkshire is extremely fortunate to have a very generous, supportive and inclusive Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Ed Anderson (High Sheriff 2015-16), who invited me to accompany him on several occasions. These included his investiture of British Empire Medal recipients at Huddersfield University where I presented them with their medal certificates. It was also a great honour to accompany the Lord-Lieutenant when he presented the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to four recipient charities.



Left: David Fawcett of Happy Days Ministries, a homelessness charity, receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service from the Lord-Lieutenant, Ed Anderson



Above: With Virginia Lloyd DL and the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, John Robins QPM, at the Long Service and Good Conduct medal ceremony

Left: Virginia and Clive Lloyd with members of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

I visited four of the five prisons within the county. Visiting prisons is inevitably a very emotional experience with many encouraging aspects, in particular the professionalism of the prison officers and staff, and also speaking to prisoners who have generally had a very positive experience serving their sentence. I would recommend engaging with prisons in your county early in your shrieval year as this leads to invitations to future events. I was greatly honoured to be allowed to present certificates of commendation at Wealstun Prison. The day was made more enjoyable by my neighbouring High Sheriff of North Yorkshire, Venetia Wrigley, who joined me on the visit.

Our Shrievalty has a great tradition of involvement with West Yorkshire Police, one of the largest forces in the country. I have visited various divisional headquarters, attended daily briefings, and visited the training centre, the dog section, the skid pan and the mounted section. I was privileged to present to 25 serving police officers their Long Service and Good Conduct medals at a ceremony in Wakefield.

The Chief Fire Officer, John Roberts, and deputy, David Walton, and other headquarters' staff gave us a fascinating day at West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service headquarters. Included was a demonstration by trainee fire officers entering training areas with specialist equipment where fires were burning with temperatures of several hundred degrees, and a visit to the specialist Urban Search and Rescue unit (USAR) for a demonstration of how quickly they can secure a collapsed building. The unit is one of only a small number of USAR teams in the country and they can be dispatched anywhere in the UK following explosions or building/structural collapses. They have specially trained dogs that can search and identify where humans could be buried.

A very rewarding part of any High Sheriff's year has to be visiting a large number of charities and volunteer organisations. These volunteers do not seek recognition or reward; they give their time to help those in need within our county.

It has been a great honour and privilege to serve as High Sheriff of West Yorkshire. I wish my most able successor, Sue Baker, a most wonderful year in office.

Clive Lloyd
High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2021-22



Applauding the efforts of others

MY YEAR began with a virtual Declaration and then an operation on my knees, neither of which boded well for my plans of being an energetic action-style Sheriff. In the end none of this mattered because it was the people I met who made my year, and most of the time I was simply an onlooker applauding the efforts of others. Indeed, any idea that I might have had about looking the part was soon blown out of the water by a press photographer who asked me, after I had handed out a bag full of certificates to some young people who had completed an excellent Spectra fire brigade course, 'which town crier are you then mate?'

I chose mental health and well-being – focusing on young people – as a broad theme, thinking primarily of those with severe difficulties from birth and others who grew up in homes of alcoholism, drugs and County Lines. This quickly expanded to covering all ages and included military veterans and the homeless to mention but a few.

I did a variety of outings with the police as well as the traditional High Sheriff's visits to the courts of Salisbury and Swindon, the Coroner's Office, the Probation Service and several West Country prisons. Wherever I went there were mental health issues raised and the picture could only be described as bleak. The NHS has neither money nor

staff to really help, the youth clubs have all been closed, and the knowledge and skills to help those with genuine mental health problems are sadly lacking. On top of this a visit to a mental health hospital taught me that the problem is compounded by the fact that young people keep hearing about mental health; on the one hand there are those claiming problems which are exaggerated, while at the same time there are still more people out there with troubles that are seldom recognised. What a disturbing and complicated picture and what a doom and gloom piece I am writing.

But this is where I change tack, because all over Wiltshire and Swindon I have come across local charities providing a lifeline. They are run by a few dedicated individuals and usually backed by handfuls of volunteers who all devote their time to helping others. They don't necessarily have sophisticated qualifications but they bring their experience of life and back it up with action, as I had planned to do as High Sheriff – only I discovered that they were the ones really doing it not me.

As well as patiently working to help other people these small charities have to spend time trying to raise money and awareness of what they do just to keep themselves going. I saw the benefits of using animals to improve well-being, especially horses, but also dogs and farm animals – care farms, forest schools, nature, music and

Sir Charles Hobhouse at (from top): Tedworth Equestrian (armed forces equine charity assisting those with post-traumatic stress disorder), GUL (God Unlimited riding centre, providing an opportunity for equine-assisted therapy to anyone, regardless of age, ability or background) and Greatwood (the first charity to use former racehorses to educate disadvantaged children and young adults with special educational needs)



Wiltshire Legal Service at Salisbury Cathedral with West Country High Sheriffs L-R: James Attrill (Isle of Wight), Lady Studholme (Devon), His Honour Judge Barnett, Recorder of Salisbury, Hon Mrs Justice Cutts, Christopher Bromfield (Under Sheriff), Sir Charles Hobhouse Bt, Sarah Troughton (Lord-Lieutenant, Wiltshire), Mark Thomas (Cornwall), Jane Tufnell (Gloucestershire), Sue Davies (Bristol), Thomas Sheppard (Somerset) and Michael Dooley (Dorset)

art are all used to help people break away from their trapped world and find a better, happier way. I have been privileged to see it and, as most High Sheriffs find, I was made to feel very welcome while doing so. I both salute and thank them for all that they do.

One benefit of Covid was to increase communication between High Sheriffs. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting other West Country Legal Services and was delighted to get a good turnout at mine in March.

◆ Sir Charles Hobhouse Bt
High Sheriff of Wiltshire 2021-22



WORCESTERSHIRE

News from and about members

'If you think you know your county...'

HAVING BEEN brought up in Worcestershire, I have recently coined the phrase: 'If you think you know your county, then be High Sheriff and you will discover that you didn't.'

My first day in office was marked by the sad news of the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, and so my first official engagement was a service of thanksgiving and prayers in Worcester Cathedral.

Over the course of the year, I have visited or met with over 35 charities or volunteer groups, with a particular focus on mental health. Thank you to all for the welcome and time that you have given so freely.

I was delighted to be able to host a High Sheriff's reception last September and we were blessed with wonderful weather and it was, for many, the first unrestricted social gathering for 18 months.

I have presented 15 High Sheriff's Awards to nominated people and groups, which included the surprise celebration of the 99th birthday in Kidderminster of a Polish war veteran of the *Battle of Monte Cassino*. I have made financial awards from the High Sheriff's Fund to three of the county's deserving charities.

With regard to fundraising this year, my wife organised a High Sheriff's sky dive team, in aid of the Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven. In all, the team raised an incredible £33,000 from sponsorship. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

In October, we held a High Sheriff's



The Hon Mr Justice Pepperall and Richard Amphlett at the Declaration Ceremony at Shirehall, Worcester

golf day at Blackwell Golf Club. The weather during the round progressed from dull and overcast to heavy rain. Despite this, we had wonderful support from across the county and along with the auction we raised over £17,500 for the High Sheriff's Fund.

I have attended and presented awards at several ceremonies. These have included the West Mercia Police Young Citizen Awards and the Annual Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Awards. These awards are to such deserving people, who either risk their lives or enhance the lives of others through their actions. It is very easy to feel humble in their presence.

I presented an inaugural High Sheriff's Law School Prize and Award for the top law graduate, at a special ceremony organised in the Law Faculty at



Richard Amphlett presents the inaugural High Sheriff's Law School Prize and Award to Danielle Jones at the University of Worcester

the University of Worcester. It is hoped that this will become an annual award.

Over several weeks, I was an onlooker with the police in the preparation of their bid for Safer Streets funding and witnessed the positive co-operation that exists among the statutory bodies that run our towns and cities.

I have sat in on both 'live' cases and a mock trials competition in Worcester magistrates' court. Moving from the magistrates' court to county courts, I have attended both a murder trial and also a murder sentencing.

Away from the courts, I attended and gave an address for the National Srebrenica Memorial Day in July last year. Later in the year, I also attended the National Holocaust Memorial Event. Both were a powerful reminder of the evils of ethnic cleansing and hate crime inflicted by neighbour upon neighbour. Tragically, recent events have shown us again that history has a dreadful way of repeating itself.

Inevitably, there have been many things that I would have liked to have done but restrictions and time have not permitted. It has been a huge privilege and honour to serve as High Sheriff and humbling to be able to meet, get to know, connect with and thank many amazing people and organisations who provide and deliver vital services to our communities and, without whom, society would not function.

Richard Amphlett
High Sheriff of Worcestershire 2021-22



With Pippa Mills, Chief Constable of West Mercia Police, and 'Peeler' the mascot at the West Mercia Police RFC v Staffordshire Police RFC mental health charity match at Bromsgrove Rugby Club



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Lia Palios-Hayden and Catherine Kevis of YSS, a charity that provides a wide variety of mainly community focused support

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 2022-23

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE	Lady Clifford
BERKSHIRE	Miss A Kharbanda
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Ms D Brock DL
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Mrs J Crompton
CHESHIRE	Mrs J G France-Hayhurst
CITY OF BRISTOL	Ms A O A Raikes MBE DL
CORNWALL	A N V Williams Esq
CUMBRIA	A McVie Esq
DERBYSHIRE	M G Copestake Esq
DEVON	R D Youngman Esq
DORSET	Ms S Fine King DL
DURHAM	Mrs S M Harper-Wilkes
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	Mrs J Bowes
EAST SUSSEX	Mrs M J King
ESSEX	N K Alston Esq CBE DL
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Air Marshal Sir Graham Miller KBE
GREATER LONDON	Mrs H J Phillips
GREATER MANCHESTER	Mrs L C Worsley-Carter MBE DL
HAMPSHIRE	The Lady Edwina Grosvenor
HEREFORDSHIRE	Mrs S L de Rohan JP
HERTFORDSHIRE	Mrs S D Burton DL
ISLE OF WIGHT	Mrs K A Marriott
KENT	R J Race Esq JP DL
LANCASHIRE	M J Ainscough Esq DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	Ms M Duke MBE DL
LINCOLNSHIRE	T M Strawson Esq
MERSEYSIDE	Ms L C Martin-Wright JP DL
NORFOLK	D J McLeavy Hill Esq DL
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	C D J Holborow Esq DL
NORTHUMBERLAND	J C Royds Esq TD
NORTH YORKSHIRE	J S Lambert Esq OBE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	P D Southby Esq
OXFORDSHIRE	M G Beard Esq
RUTLAND	P G Thompson Esq
SHROPSHIRE	Hon Mrs Graham
SOMERSET	Mrs J M Duke
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Lt Colonel R A McPherson MBE
STAFFORDSHIRE	C B Robinson Esq MBE BEM DL
SUFFOLK	Major A J M Lowther-Pinkerton LVO MBE DL
SURREY	His Honour C A Critchlow DL
TYNE AND WEAR	D W Bavaird Esq JP
WARWICKSHIRE	D R Kelham Esq
WEST MIDLANDS	D R Moorcroft Esq OBE
WEST SUSSEX	J N Whitmore Esq
WEST YORKSHIRE	Mrs S K Baker MBE JP DL
WILTSHIRE	The Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne
WORCESTERSHIRE	A R Manning-Cox Esq

WALES

CLWYD	Ms Z J Henderson
DYFED	D R Rees-Evans Esq
GWENT	M Davies Esq OBE
GWYNEDD	Ms D Carey-Evans
MID GLAMORGAN	Mrs M K Thomas BEM JP
POWYS	T H Jones Esq OBE
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	Mrs R Moriarty-Simmonds OBE
WEST GLAMORGAN	S H Rogers Esq JP

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

NEW MEMBERS

Name	County	Year of Office
A Barfield Esq	Berkshire	2024
A Brayley Esq DL	West Glamorgan	2024
Mrs L M B Bridgeman	Northumberland	2024
Miss C Cerutti	East Riding of Yorkshire	2024
Dr S O Chapple	Wiltshire	2024
J H Chatfeild-Roberts Esq	Leicestershire	2024
Mrs A L Crawford JP	Northamptonshire	2024
Mrs H B Davies	West Glamorgan	2023
Mrs J Davies	South Glamorgan	2024
P H M Dymoke Esq	Lincolnshire	2024
Mrs A E Elliott	Durham	2023
Dr G Fargher	Kent	2024
Mrs K A Farrell-Thornley	Clwyd	2024
D J Flux Esq	Norfolk	2024
Ms S J Fokkett JP	Gwynedd	2024
Miss S R Foster	City of Bristol	2023
Prof S J Gibson CBE DL	Gwent	2023
Mrs Y Gilchrist-Mason OBE	Suffolk	2024
Mrs R K Gill JP	Warwickshire	2024
Mrs P M Gogarty	West Sussex	2024
Mrs V L Hawley	Staffordshire	2023
C E Hayward MBE DL	Cheshire	2024
D T Hurst Esq DL	Essex	2024
Z A Karim Esq DL	West Yorkshire	2023
R J Lake Esq OBE	Lincolnshire	2023
C O Lewis Esq OBE DL	Gloucestershire	2024
Dr R J P Lewis MBE	Mid Glamorgan	2024
J J Macnamara Esq	Oxfordshire	2024
Commodore J K Moores OBE DL RN	Devon	2024
R I Morgan Esq OBE	Derbyshire	2024
C W Moyle Esq JP	Worcestershire	2024
The Revd R N Pendlebury MBE	City of Bristol	2024
Professor J Ray	South Yorkshire	2023
N D Rubins Esq	Nottinghamshire	2024
B Shah Esq	Bedfordshire	2024
Lady Silk JP	Powys	2024
Dr R M Smith	North Yorkshire	2024
D J Way Esq	Cambridgeshire	2024
B Welti Esq JP	Shropshire	2024
J C Whitaker Esq JP	Hampshire	2024

We are pleased to announce that all Under Sheriffs have taken up the offer of free membership of the Association in recognition of the work that they do for High Sheriffs in their counties.

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

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
Mrs A E Elliott
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 M E Green
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 Barks
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
Professor J Ray
Mrs V L Hawley
J M Pendlington Esq DL
T A de B Wates Esq DL
Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL
Mrs S Hilleary
W C Lyn Esq CBE
A G Bliss Esq QPM
Z A Karim Esq DL
P Bhardwaj Esq
Mrs L C Hewett

2024/2025

B Shah Esq
A Barfield Esq
Ms K B Mirza
D J Way Esq
C E Hayward MBE DL
The Revd R N Pendlebury MBE
C N C Holmes Esq
R I Morgan Esq OBE
Commodore J K Moores OBE DL RN
A W Woodhouse Esq
A Pattison Esq MBE DL
Miss C Cerutti
Mrs A D Brown
D T Hurst Esq DL
C O Lewis Esq OBE DL
Ms M L Grant QC
J C Whitaker Esq JP
Mrs P B Churchward
Mrs A P Brewster JP
G R Biss Esq BEM DL
Dr G Fargher
J H Chatfeild-Roberts Esq
P H M Dymoke Esq
D J Flux Esq
Mrs A L Crawford JP
Mrs L M B Bridgeman
Dr R M Smith
N D Rubins Esq
J J Macnamara Esq
R A Cole Esq TD
B Welti Esq JP
R J Beckley Esq QPM
J Baddeley Esq
Mrs J Mitchell
Mrs Y Gilchrist-Mason OBE
S Azeem Esq DL
Dr L J Whiterod CBE OBE
Mrs R K Gill JP
D R Wright Esq
Mrs P M Gogarty
R A Cryan Esq
Dr S O Chapple
C W Moyle Esq JP

**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

2023/2024

Hon Mrs 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

2024/2025

Mrs K A Farrell-Thornley
Mrs H Jones
Her Honour Judge Mifflin DL
Ms S J Fokkett JP
Dr R J P Lewis MBE
Lady Silk JP
Mrs J Davies
A Brayley Esq DL

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

DEATHS

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

Dr P W Barker CBE DL

Date of death: 26-Feb-22
Age: 93
County: Humberside
Year of office: 1993

The Hon Mrs Blount

Date of death: 13-Dec-21
Age: 88
County: Hertfordshire
Year of office: 1989

R G L Brackenbury Esq

Date of death: 31-Jan-22
Age: 92
County: Nottinghamshire
Year of office: 1982

R H Davies Esq MBE JP DL

Date of death: 6-Jan-22
Age: 86
County: Gwynedd
Year of office: 1994

C L Dawes Esq

Date of death: 12-Dec-21
Age: 83
County: Kent
Year of office: 2002

Sir Nigel Forbes Adam Bt JP DL

Date of death: 8-Jan-22
Age: 86
County: North Yorkshire
Year of office: 1976

R J Gilbert Esq

Date of death: 22-Nov-21
Age: 87
County: Cornwall
Year of office: 1993

Colonel Sir Christopher R Hewetson TD DL

Date of death: 12-Dec-21
Age: 91
County: Merseyside
Year of office: 1998

B I Rees Esq OBE FRCS

Date of death: 29-Dec-21
Age: 79
County: South Glamorgan
Year of office: 2008

M Roper Esq DL

Date of death: 20-Sep-21
Age: 86
County: Dorset
Year of office: 1984

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

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



High Sheriff's March

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

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

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

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

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS

HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

HSA 1: 50 for £25

HSA 2: 50 for £20

Example HSA 1*



CROWN COURT AWARD CERTIFICATE

Not all counties have their own customised Crown Court Award Certificate for the High Sheriff to present or to send to the recipient of a Crown Court Award. With this in mind, the Association has designed such a certificate, printed in 4-colour with gold border on 145 gsm parchment, which can be provided in two formats:

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

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

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

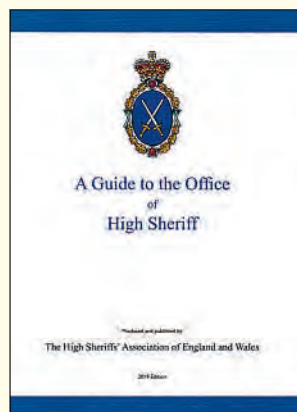
CCA 1: 50 for £25

CCA 2: 50 for £20

Example CCA 1*



PUBLICATIONS



Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

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



Back issues of the Association magazine *The High Sheriff*
£2.00



A History in Commemoration of The Sheriff's Millennium (1992)
£1.00



Notes on the Office of High Sheriff (per pack of 50 folded cards)*
£7.50

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Ede & Ravenscroft	IFC
Henry Poole & Co	IBC
HL Brown	page 7
James Barclay	IBC
Jacob Levy	OBC
Pip Howeson	IFC
Royal British Legion	page 12

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 2022**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 30 September 2022**.

Items for inclusion should be sent to:
The Editor, *The High Sheriff* magazine
c/o Hall-McCartney Ltd,
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BOOK REVIEW

The Lord Lieutenants and High Sheriffs of Oxfordshire, 4th edn, Hugo Brunner and Ingrid Lunt (eds) (Perpetua Press, Oxford 2021; £20.00)

Since its first publication in 1868 this reference book's contents have been greatly expanded from the original lists of names with some genealogical and historical amplification. It is evident that the new edition owes much to the recent publication of invaluable research – new volumes of the *Victoria History of the County of Oxford*, the comprehensively overhauled *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and other scholarly resources now available on the internet.

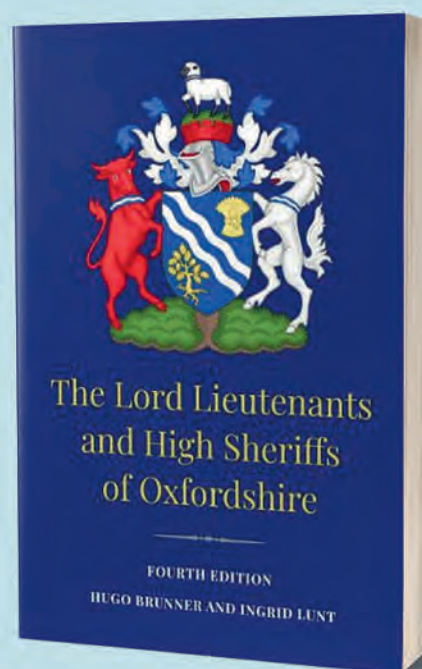
The book contains interesting introductory articles on the history and current activities of both Offices, and a helpful glossary. It covers the military history of Oxfordshire which relates to the Lord-Lieutenant's duties in this area. The role and expectations of 'the modern

High Sheriff' are explained, emphasising that every county is unique in the way the High Sheriff operates beyond the statutory and traditional elements of the appointment. Oxfordshire alone has a Shrieval Remembrancer as well as an Under Sheriff; a leading judge gives the High Sheriff's Law Lecture each October and Getting Court introduces young people to the criminal justice system (and how to avoid it).

The editors include biographies, some very comprehensive, of almost everyone listed although some are missing. For instance, were the sheriffs Sir Robert (1406, 1410) and Richard (1578) Corbet(t) the men who held land at Standlake and Clattercote respectively and feature in several reference works? It is not evident why the eye-catching front cover displays the coat of arms of Oxfordshire County Council. Lord-Lieutenants and High Sheriffs are emphatically not an element of current local government – perhaps the royally crowned official badges of both Offices would have been more appropriate. The proofs would have benefited from one extra final read given a number of small mistakes, but these are all minor observations which do not detract from the overall interest.

The book is informative, often diverging into fascinating anecdotes, and adds appreciably to Oxfordshire's social history. It can be recommended as an excellent template for other counties contemplating compiling their own lieutenancy and shrieval histories, which most have still to do.

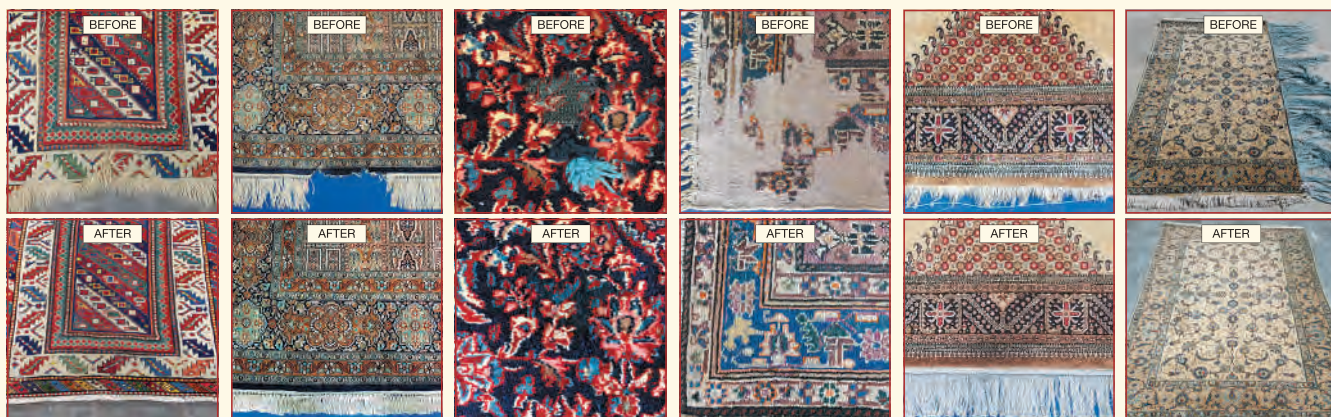
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