



The High Sheriff

Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales

WINTER 2022



*ALSO INSIDE:
Annual General
Meeting 2022*

PROCLAMATION OF THE ACCESSION OF
KING CHARLES III



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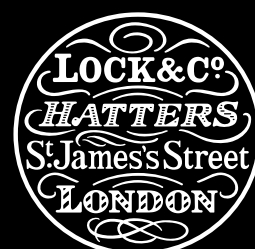
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The High Sheriff

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.

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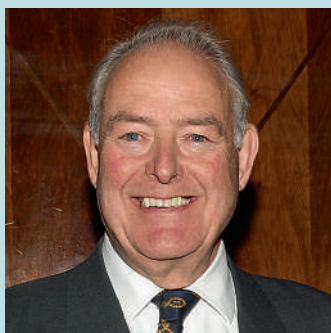
58 Helpful Topics

Front cover: Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III in Buckinghamshire

Photo: Buckinghamshire CC, Derek Pelling Photography. See page 6

www.highsheriffs.com for answers to your questions

From the Hon Editor



This issue is a milestone one in so many ways with a focus on the role of High Sheriffs in proclaiming His Majesty King Charles III across England and Wales following the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. While modern communications may allow for the transmission of news around the world in seconds, the numbers turning out demonstrate not only the strength of support for the monarchy but also the need to attend a formal Proclamation.

There is, however, much else in this issue and the range and breadth of ways in which the current High Sheriffs are supporting and helping their communities are remarkable. Each High Sheriff rightly chooses to undertake the role in their own way and the role of the Association is to prepare, inform and support. To that end I would ask all of you to let your Association know how we can improve and do better in future?

I must take this opportunity to thank Andrew Wells, the retiring Hon Editor, for his extraordinary service to the Association over so many years and also to thank Jayne Lewis who has taken on the difficult mantle as Editor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Gurney'.

Michael Gurney, Hon Editor, Norfolk 2021

From the Editor



Well, not quite the start to my editorship that I envisaged: a nice, gentle first 'solo flight'. Some of you will have noticed that the magazine arrived through your letterbox with a bit more of a 'thunk' this time round. This is in part due to the pages given over to the Proclamation (my apologies for not having the space to list everyone), but largely to the willingness of the 2022-23 cohort to make their own contribution to their Association's magazine (approximately a 50 per cent increase over

any other edition of *The High Sheriff* I have worked on in the last eight years). I do hope that you haven't run out of steam and that many of you will find time to write about the full 12 months or second half of your year in office.

Thank you to Michael who probably would also have wished for an 'easier' first edition and especially to Andrew – old habits die hard and he has been kind enough to respond to my questions when I haven't been able to find the answer in my already extensive 'What does AW say?' file.

I look forward to hearing from you in 2023.

Jayne Lewis, Editor



From the new Chairman

For the Shrievalty, 2022 has been a hugely significant and important year.

High Sheriffs played their full part in the tremendous celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's wonderful Platinum Jubilee in June. Then, but a few weeks later on 8 September, we mourned the passing of Her Majesty. High Sheriffs proclaimed the succession of our new Sovereign, His Majesty King Charles III, across England and Wales on Sunday 11 September. This historic edition of our magazine brings a focus to the shrieval Proclamations.

At the AGM in Fishmongers' Hall on Thursday 3 November, I took over the appointment as your Chairman from Hon Hugh Tollemache. Later at lunch, it was a great honour and privilege to propose the Association's first ever Loyal Toast to a King.

Hugh has been an outstanding Chairman. His innovation and leadership during the challenging years of the pandemic brought Council closer to the membership as the Association grew the support and service it provides to High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination. On your behalf I thank Hugh and send him and Rosie our very best wishes.

I was a soldier; I worked in Parliament; I was High Sheriff of Gwent in 2015 and I stood down recently as Vice Lord-Lieutenant. As a trustee of Community Foundation Wales, I also chair UK Community Foundations.

Following in Hugh's footsteps will be hard, but I and my colleagues on Council will carry on the work to enhance that support and service the Association provides for its members, past, present and future. Clare and I look forward to meeting many members and your partners, and wish everyone a very happy Christmas season and peaceful New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Tuggey'.

Andrew Tuggey, Chairman, Gwent 2015

Diary of Forthcoming Events

MARCH 2023 **High Sheriffs in nomination for 2023** *March*

The names of the High Sheriffs on the Roll for 2023 will be 'pricked' by His Majesty The King at a private meeting of the Privy Council to be held usually at Buckingham Palace.

National Crimebeat *Tuesday 14 March*

The awards ceremony will take place face to face in London. All projects to be entered must be endorsed by a High Sheriff and submitted by 22 January 2023. Finalists will be announced shortly after that.

APRIL 2023 **Meeting of co-ordinators of regional meetings** *April*

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

JULY 2023 **Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination for the years 2024 and 2025** *Friday 7 July*

The 2023 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will be sent in mid-May 2023 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2024 and 2025.

OCTOBER 2023 **The Red Mass** *Monday 2 October*

The annual Roman Catholic Mass will be held at 9.30 am at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the start of the legal year. Those current and past High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination who wish to join the judicial procession are invited to coffee beforehand from 8.30 am, prior to the procession lining up. There will be a ticket-only reception after the Mass; to obtain information about the tickets, please contact the Secretary of the Thomas More Society, at secretary@thomasmoresociety.org.uk. A modest charge will be requested to cover the costs to the TMS of organising the Mass.

The Ladies' Lunch *Early October*

The annual ladies' lunch will be held in London. When arranged, full details will be sent in May/June 2023 to those ladies who are in nomination.

52nd Annual General Meeting and Luncheon *Tuesday 31 October*

The Association's 52nd AGM and luncheon will be held at Drapers' Hall, London. The agenda and papers for the AGM and an application form for the luncheon will be sent to all members of the Association in mid-September 2023.

NOVEMBER 2023 **The Nomination of future High Sheriffs** *Monday 13 November 2023*

The ceremony will take place in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court) at



2.00 pm at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At the ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026 will be read out in court.

The Secretary will write in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2024 and 2025 inviting them to attend. It may be possible for a few 2026 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2026 nominees so it will be up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend. After the ceremony, there will be a tea party at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nominations to meet each other.

The Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III

✦ Catherine Lloyd

*Partner at Gullands, solicitors in Maidstone,
is Under Sheriff for Kent*

FOLLOWING THE recent death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Accession Council prepared the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III. The nation was notified of its new monarch with a reading of the Proclamation by Garter King of Arms on the balcony of St James's Palace.

In accordance with long-held traditions, there would then follow public readings of the Proclamation across the cities and towns of the United Kingdom to ensure local communities were informed.

Accordingly, this year's High Sheriff of Kent, Russell Race DL, found himself in the sad position that no High Sheriff wants to find themselves in. It now fell to him to read the Proclamation in the county town of Maidstone.

As the Under Sheriff of Kent, it is my role to support the High Sheriff in this, unquestionably the most difficult role of their office, and – should the High Sheriff be unavailable to read the Proclamation – to discharge that sombre duty myself on their behalf. Despite living in the age of social media, the old traditions are



Kent: Russell Race outside Maidstone Town Hall

Photo: Maidstone Borough Council

1.00 pm on Sunday 11 September, the High Sheriff, led by the Lord-Lieutenant, the Lady Colgrain, took to the podium outside Maidstone Town Hall in front of the waiting crowds. He was followed by civic dignitaries, the Bishop of Rochester, the Chief Constable of Kent Police, Helen Grant MP and a very relieved Under Sheriff.

Under a bright sky and before a hushed

crowd, he read the Proclamation with a sombre dignity that reflected the mood of those gathered. As the words of the Proclamation rang out, all of us present felt a collective unity in giving thanks for Her Late Majesty's life of devoted service while also looking to the future of the new reign of King Charles III. Following a rendition of 'God Save The King', the mayors and council chairmen stepped forward to receive a copy of the Proclamation from the High Sheriff with instructions to depart and announce it in the towns across the county.

And so, the traditions continue. While I will not have the honour of serving 70 more High Sheriffs before this tradition has to be repeated, today we can nevertheless say 'God Save The King' and wish His Majesty a long and happy reign over us.



1. Staffordshire: Ben Robinson on the steps of the Shire Hall building in the Stafford's Market Square with L-R Paul Snape (Chairman of Staffordshire Council) and Ian J Dudson (Lord-Lieutenant); and at Stoke-on-Trent Cenotaph, this time with Faisal Hussain (Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent)

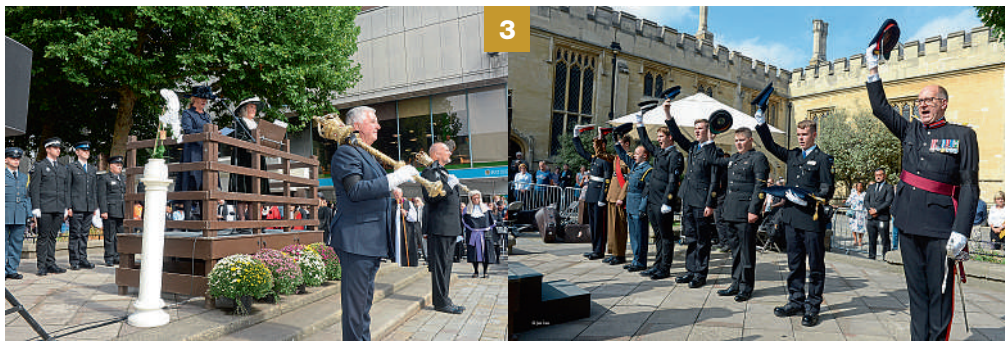
2. Lancashire: Martin Ainscough on the steps of the Harris Museum, Preston with Lord Shuttleworth (Lord-Lieutenant) and 14 borough mayors
Photo: Michael Porter Photography

3. Northumberland: James Royds on the steps of Morpeth Town Hall with Cllr Jade Crawford (Deputy Mayor of Morpeth Town Council) and Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland (Lord-Lieutenant)

4. Greater London: Heather Phillips outside Mansion House at HM The King's Proclamation with Biagio Fraulo (London Under Sheriff) and Master Director of Music, Coldstream Grenadier Guards

5. Durham: Shona Harper-Wilkes on the balcony of Durham Town Hall, with Sue Snowdon (Lord-Lieutenant), the Revd Canon Peter Fisher, and the Right Revd the Lord Bishop of Durham. Peter Fisher's great uncle, Geoffrey Fisher, when Archbishop of Canterbury, presided over Her Late Majesty's marriage to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, as well as the Coronation ceremony itself in 1952.
Crowd Photo: the Bishop of Durham

6. South Glamorgan: Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds at Cardiff Castle in the Welsh dias party with Mark Drakeford (First Minister of Wales) and Morfudd Meredith (Lord-Lieutenant)





Opposite page

1. Norfolk: David McLeavy Hill with the Rt Revd Graham Usher (Bishop of Norwich) and Lord Dannatt on the steps of County Hall, Norwich; the Lady Dannatt (Lord-Lieutenant) also present

2. Derbyshire: Michael Copestake with Elizabeth Fothergill (Lord-Lieutenant) at County Hall, Matlock
Photo: David John King

3. Bedfordshire: Lady Clifford with Susan Lousada (Lord-Lieutenant), in the presence of mace bearers, judges and the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson (Bishop of Bedford) in Harpur Square, Bedford; three cheers from the cadets and Christopher Sharwood Smith (Vice Lord-Lieutenant)

4. Hampshire: Lady Edwina Grosvenor at the Great Hall Winchester Crown Court with L-R: the Hon Mr Justice Garnham (Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit), Rachel Brooks (Under Sheriff), Nigel Atkinson (Lord-Lieutenant), Mrs Christine Atkinson, Cllr Marge Harvey (Chairman of Hampshire County Council), Cllr Rob Humby (Leader of Hampshire County Council)
Photo: Hampshire County Council

5. Mid Glamorgan: Maria Thomas at the Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, in the presence of Peter Vaughan (Lord-Lieutenant), His Honour Judge Twomlow, the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil and the Council's Leader and Chief Executive

6. West Glamorgan: Stephen Rogers at Swansea Guildhall with Louise Fleet (Lord-Lieutenant) and Cllr Mike Day (Lord Mayor of West Glamorgan)
Photo: Swansea Council

7. Cumbria: Alan McViety outside Carlisle Citadel on English Street

8. Devon: Richard Youngman with David Fursdon (Lord-Lieutenant) and the Rt Revd Robert Ronald Atwell (the Lord Bishop of Exeter) at Exeter's County Hall

This page

1. West Sussex: James Whitmore at County Hall, Chichester, after reading the Proclamation

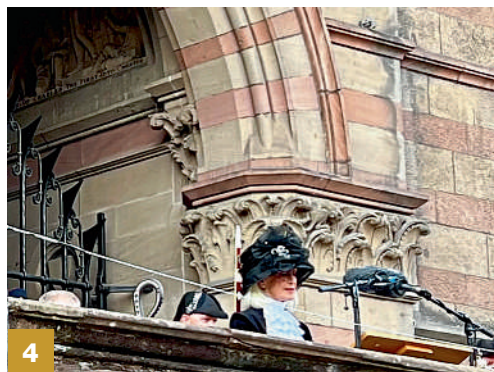
2. East Riding of Yorkshire: Jacky Bowes with James Dick (Lord-Lieutenant); the crowd at Market Cross, Beverley

3. Nottinghamshire: cadets with proclamation scrolls to present to the mayors and chairs of district and borough councils; Paul Southby at the flagpoles at County Hall on the bank of the River Trent, Trent Bridge

4. Cheshire: Jeannie France-Hayhurst at Chester Town Hall
Photo: Maj Gen Keith Skempton

5. Merseyside: Lesley Martin-Wright with Mark Blundell (Lord-Lieutenant) at Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and St Nicholas)

6. Gwent: Malgwyn Davies read the Proclamation before an invited audience at the Council Chamber in the Newport City Council offices; the proceedings were live streamed on the council's website





1



2



1. West Yorkshire: David Barraclough (Under Sheriff) on the steps of Leeds Civic Hall with Ed Anderson (Lord-Lieutenant)
Photo: Steve Riding, Yorkshire Evening Post

2. Buckinghamshire: Debbie Brock on the steps of the Old Court House in Aylesbury's Market Square with the Countess Howe (Lord-Lieutenant)
Photo: Buckinghamshire CC, Derek Pelling Photography

3. Herefordshire: Sarah de Rohan at the west door of Hereford Cathedral with Edward Harley (Lord-Lieutenant)

4. Worcestershire: Andrew Manning-Cox with the Rt Revd Dr John Inge (the Lord Bishop of Worcester), Lt Col Patrick Holcroft (Lord-Lieutenant), the Chairman of Worcestershire County Council and Andrew Duncan (Under Sheriff, far right)

5. Tyne and Wear: David Bavaid at the Law Courts on the Quayside, Newcastle
Photo: Steve Brock Photography



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1

1. West Midlands: David Moorcroft on the steps of Coventry Council House
Photo: Coventry City Council

2. Warwickshire: David Kelham at the Shire Hall steps, Warwick Market Place

3. Bristol: Alex Raikes in front of Bristol City Hall on College Green with Peaches Golding (Lord-Lieutenant), Cllr Paula O'Rourke (Lord Mayor of Bristol), Marvin Rees (Mayor of Bristol), the Rt Revd Vivienne Faulk (Bishop of Bristol), the Revd Canon Dr Martin Gainsborough (Residentiary Canon of Bristol Cathedral) and Sarah Crew (Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset)

4. Shropshire: Selina Graham (Hon Mrs Graham) with Cllr Elisabeth Roberts (Mayor) at The Quarry, Shrewsbury
Photo: David Hamilton MNA Media

5. Rutland: Geoff Thompson in the grounds of Oakham Castle with Cllr Jeff Dale (Chairman of Rutland County Council) and Dr Sarah Furness (Lord-Lieutenant) and an estimated crowd of almost 1,000 people, a good turnout for a county of only 40,000



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1. Essex: Nicholas Alston with Jennifer Tolhurst (Lord-Lieutenant) on the steps of County Hall, Chelmsford

Photo: Paul Starr Photographer

2. Greater Manchester: Lorraine Worsley-Carter in St Peter's Square, Manchester, with Cllr Donna Ludford (Lord Mayor of Manchester)

3. East Sussex: Jane King at County Hall, Lewes with Andrew Blackman (Lord-Lieutenant) and Cllr Peter Pragnell (Chairman of East Sussex County Council)

Photo: W King

4. Wiltshire: Fiona Lansdowne, the Most Hon the Marchioness of Lansdowne, outside County Hall after the Proclamation with cadets with their respective chiefs: Police Cadet Maddison Miller with Chief Constable Kier Pritchard and Fire Cadet Alyssa Ramsey with Ben Ansell, Chief Fire Officer of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

5. South Yorkshire: Lt Col Mac McPherson outside Sheffield City Hall

Photo: Nicola Downing

6. Isle of Wight: Kay Marriott in St Thomas' Square outside Newport Minster

7. Oxfordshire: Mark Beard at Carfax, Oxford

Photo: Oxfordshire County Council, Jon Lewis

8. Leicestershire: Mehmooda Duke with Cllr Kevin Feltham (Chairman of the County Council), Mike Kapur (Lord-Lieutenant), Cllr George Cole (Lord Mayor) at the town hall in Leicester

Photo: Leicestershire County Council





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Chairman's Report



This year has contained several events of significance; the most important, memorable and sad was the death of our Late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

I speak for all when I say that we do feel a profound sense of loss. All past and present High Sheriffs here had the honour of having their names pricked by Her Majesty. Those in nomination for 2023 will be the first to have their names pricked by His Majesty The King ably guided by Richard Tilbrook, Clerk of the Privy Council, who is here today for lunch.

Exactly a year ago, the Association had the honour of a reply (reproduced in the winter 2021 edition of *The High Sheriff*) to the Loyal Address which we sent on its behalf on the occasion of our 50th anniversary. In September a letter of condolence was sent to The King on your behalf signed by your President and Chairman.

It was a delight to be 'in the line-up' if you were High Sheriff when Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to your county. She was a stickler for protocol but also very forgiving, as she was on the occasion when she reportedly asked the High Sheriff why he was not properly attired with his court dress and sword, to which his injudicious reply was: 'Oh, we only wear that on special occasions, Your Majesty.'

Many of you serve on boards and committees. I have loved serving on the Association's Council, mainly because High Sheriffs care about their counties, and they do get things done.

The Association's Council is a group of hard-working members, and I would

like to highlight some of the work that has been achieved in the last year:

Tom Birch Reynardson (Oxfordshire 2015) came on to Council saying that he would not be able to help much as he was extremely busy. Nonetheless, he has been working hard and has helped with the revision of the High Sheriffs' Declaration; chaired the Governance and Nomination Committee; revised the Memorandum and Articles of the Association, which is work in progress and will be presented in due course; and followed through with his concern that the Association has been sitting on cash funds for several years which should have been invested and which now are.

Amanda Parker (Lancashire 2015) became Chair of National Crimebeat four years ago steering its evolution extremely ably. National Crimebeat is the youth crime prevention charity of the Association and Amanda will report on this later in the meeting.

We have now formed a Finance Committee to oversee the Association's finances, and I am grateful to Sarah Beazley (Hertfordshire 2019) for chairing this. Sarah Le May (Hampshire 2019) will be reporting on the finances as Honorary Treasurer.

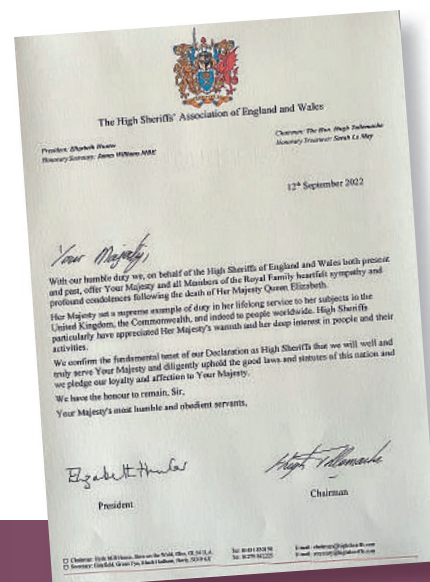
Virginia Lloyd (W Yorkshire 2013) has very successfully run the Burghley seminar for three years and this year's was as great a success as ever. We had excellent speeches from, among others, Dame Victoria Sharp, President of the King's Bench Division (then Queen's); Senior Master Fontaine, the King's Remembrancer (then Queen's); and an engrossing talk by Edwina Grosvenor, current High Sheriff of Hampshire, on prison reform. Ensuring that

High Sheriffs give due importance to supporting prison governors as well as organisations which help those who leave prison has been one of the focal points of the last few years.

John Lee (Devon 2013) took on organising the important regional meetings three years ago and has produced a valuable guidance paper to ensure that they are as useful as possible to those in nomination. Meetings are well organised and relevant to future High Sheriffs, and I thank the regional organisers.

Michael Gurney (Norfolk 2021), who joined Council last year, has taken over organising the magazine as well as being involved in communications in which he has many years of experience. I am most grateful to him for taking on so much so willingly. We are also most fortunate that Jayne Lewis, who has worked on the magazine with Andrew Wells for eight years, will be taking over as editor.

James Williams, our Secretary, is always embarrassed when I thank him for his support, so I won't embarrass him this year... except to say that



the Association, and in particular the Chairman, would completely fall apart without his help and guidance. I would particularly like to congratulate him on the efficient organisation behind High Sheriffs reading the Accession Proclamation in September.

Our President, Elizabeth Hunter, is charmingly but resolutely determined to keep Council on the straight path. We could not ask for a more helpful, friendly and actively engaged President.

Five years is a good amount of time to chair the Association, and as you know one of the first tasks for any chairman is to look out for a successor; so very gently, like a fly fisherman, you cast your fly and hope that it will attract a fine, fresh salmon. There wasn't exactly the leap out of the water that you might hope for on a river, but I am delighted to say that Lt Col Andrew Tuggey (Gwent 2015) has agreed to his election as Chairman by Council and I hope you will approve of this when I hand over to him at the end of this meeting. He is very approachable and well informed; he currently chairs UK Community Foundations.

Three members of Council are retiring this year. David Jones (Greater London 2013) has been a great support and has given consistently good advice, particularly financial, both to the Association and to National Crimebeat of which he was a trustee. John Young (Dorset 2019) has written a good guidance paper on prisons and managed regalia during his time on Council. Andrew Wells (Kent 2005) has served Council since 2006, being Hon Editor of *The High Sheriff* magazine for most of that time. He has a dry wit, a sharp eye, a friendly smile and a detailed knowledge of all things shrieval. He will be hugely missed by all who have worked with him over the years and special thanks are due to him for the hard work he put in to ensure that the biannual magazine reflected interesting aspects of the Shrievalty. His sharp eye was able to spot an

errant apostrophe or grammatical error often missed by High Sheriffs' in the published reports of their year in office.

We also say hello to three new members: Louise Bennett (West Midlands 2021), Martin McKervery (South Yorkshire 2021) and Simon Miesegaes (Warwickshire 2019), who have been proposed and who will shortly need your approval. Their CVs are in your folder, so I won't repeat their achievements now, but I would just say that new members are carefully chosen, initially by the Governance and Nomination Committee, with a number of factors in mind, not least: geography, representation, abilities (in particular the ability to give time to Council business), and whether a team player.



Chairman Hugh Tollemache and President Elizabeth Hunter signing the letter of condolence

We took the decision this year to give all serving Under Sheriffs free membership of the Association. This Council believes it is important for two reasons – first, receiving the magazine and being able to attend Burghley enables them to be better informed and therefore more able to support High Sheriffs; and second, because they almost all put in a lot of work pro bono and this is a relatively small 'thank you'. I am delighted to welcome Deborah Hutchinson here today. Deborah is currently President of the Under Sheriffs' Association and Under Sheriff of Nottinghamshire among other things.

So, as usual, it has been a busy year. We continue to move forward; for example, social media is proving to be an excellent way of showing what High Sheriffs are doing in their respective counties,

whether through Twitter or Instagram and I much enjoy looking at these.

Council has achieved much over the last few years, and there are several projects that stand out for me – the first is the more modern Declaration in which High Sheriffs can promise things that they are able to understand and fulfil unlike many of the outdated promises in the 1887 version. I am very glad that Queen Elizabeth approved the use of this version, and also glad that High Sheriffs still have to promise to 'well and truly behave myself... for the honour of the King'.

The introduction of social media, and in particular of Zoom meetings, has been valuable both for current High Sheriffs and for those in nomination, as well as for giving Council a clear picture of how things are going on the front line. The improvement of the information on the website has been of great benefit.

The reinforcing of the Guidance for Nomination Panels was essential; when inevitably asked 'Who chooses you to be High Sheriff?' the answer can proudly and truly be given: 'a diverse panel of people from across the county.'

Finally, the Association and indeed the Shrievalty

are in good shape and High Sheriffs are doing valuable and effective work in their counties.

I would like to thank you all for making the effort to come to this AGM and in particular for continuing as members of the Association. I am sure that you will remember how important the preparation towards your year was and, I hope, how helpful the Association was in preparing you for office and answering questions. We cannot do this for those in nomination without your continuing support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Hugh Tollemache'.

Hugh Tollemache,
Chairman; Gloucestershire 2013-14



51st Annual General Meeting 3 November 2022

James Williams MBE

*Honorary Secretary to the
High Sheriffs' Association*

Above: Council members L-R: Sara Le May, Richard Cole, James Williams, John Lee, Virginia Lloyd, Elizabeth Hunter, Andrew Tuggey, Hugh Tollemache (retired), Amanda Parker, Sarah Beazley, Andrew Wells (retired)

THE 51st Annual General Meeting and lunch took place at Fishmongers' Hall in London on Thursday 3 November 2022. The planning for the event became quite a challenge because it became known in October that a national rail and tube strike had been called for that day. It was decided to carry on with the event even with reduced numbers and cancellation arrangements were put in place. About 75 members and guests decided that they would have to cancel. Following the cancellation of the strike, those cancellation arrangements then had to be put into reverse! The Fishmongers' Company were extremely helpful coping with and planning for the very late changes. In the event about 150 members and guests attended.



Lord Sumption (former Supreme Court Justice, guest of honour), Julia Yorke



Sam Scott (Cumbria 2023), William Alexander (Kent 2015), Clare Granger (N Yorks 2023)



Nicky Weston (Notts 2013), Roger Merryweather (Notts 2008), Annie Brewster (Herts 2024)



Sir Charles Hobhouse (Wilts 2021), Thomas Sheppard (Somerset 2021)

RECENT EVENTS

AGM 2022



Stephen Larard (ER of Yorks 2013), Julie Fosh Rogers (Essex 2020), Zoë Henderson (Clwyd 2022)



James Lambert (N Yorks 2022), Mark Granger, Jo Lambert, Jeremy Burton (W Yorks 2009, past chairman)



Deborah Hutchinson (President of the Under Sheriffs' Association, Under Sheriff Notts), Bill Jackson (Hereford 2016)



Elizabeth Hunter (President, Hereford & Worcs 2010), Richard Tilbrook (Clerk of the Privy Council)



Senior Master Fontaine, Sally Burton (Herts 2022), Andrew Tuggey (Chairman, Gwent 2015)



Raji Kaur Gill (Warks 2024), Julia Mitchell (Staffs 2024)

At the meeting Hugh Tollemache retired as Chairman of the Association after five years and he said that he was delighted to say that Andrew Tuggey had been appointed by Council to succeed him. Louise Bennett, Martin McKervey and Simon Miesegaes were elected as new members to Council and Robina Shah was re-elected. James Williams and Sarah Le May were re-elected as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Amanda Parker on Council as Chair of National Crimebeat reported on its activities and encouraged all to support it in various ways.

Following the meeting we had an excellent lunch where our guest speaker was Lord Sumption, a past Justice of the Supreme Court. He is also a highly renowned historian and gave a fascinating talk to us about Britain being a Parliamentary democracy in a much more fundamental sense than most realise and explained to us why this should be and what it means to us.



Julia Yorke, Michael Dolling, Meryl Dolling (Beds 2019), Bav Shah (Beds 2024), Eric Masih (Beds 2021)



Nellie Bishop, James Macnamara (Oxon 2024), Charles Bishop (Essex 2023), Andrew Scott (Gtr London 2001)

Nomination Ceremony

James Williams MBE
Honorary Secretary to the High Sheriffs' Association

THE NOMINATION CEREMONY took place in Court 4 (the Lord Chief Justice's Court) on Saturday 12 November at 10.00 am when the names of all High Sheriffs in nomination for the next three years were read out by the King's Remembrancer before the Lord Chief Justice and three other senior judges.

About 130 High Sheriffs in nomination and their guests attended. The ceremony was held early in the day because the Lord Mayor's Show would also be taking place and the new Lord Mayor had to attend before the Lord Chief Justice a short time later. Following the ceremony, those attending met for refreshments comprising toasties and coffee in the nearby Knights Templar public house. Afterwards, we were able to walk down to Fleet Street where the Pageant Master had very kindly reserved a special enclosure for us from which we could view the procession of over 133 floats and groups stretching, we were told, for over three miles.



In the Knights Templar and at the Lord Mayor's Show



Ladies' Lunch

♦ Virginia Lloyd DL

West Yorkshire 2013-14; Council member

It was a pleasure to organise the annual Ladies' Lunch this year which took place at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, London.

This year 34 ladies including incumbent High Sheriffs, past High Sheriffs and High Sheriffs in nomination from England and Wales (with some flying in from overseas!) met at the Britannia Bar for a glass of sparkling wine.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Antonia Pugh-Thomas who brought a wonderful selection of ladies' court dress and gave some very helpful advice and guidance to those in nomination.

We were delighted to welcome Jennifer Tolhurst, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, as our guest speaker. Mrs Tolhurst was herself High Sheriff (2005-2006) and gave much practical and helpful advice to those in nomination, and also spoke about the relationship between a High Sheriff and the Lord-Lieutenant.

A delicious lunch in the Mountbatten Suite was followed by a lively question and answer session which covered a wide and diverse group of topics.

This was a very special occasion as it was 20 years since Marian Rae and Diane Jeffrey started the lunch in 2002. I was delighted Marian was able to attend for its 20th anniversary. Twenty years have passed and lady High Sheriffs now comprise 50 per cent of those in nomination as opposed to a tiny minority in 2002.

It was very gratifying to hear how those who attended found it such an enjoyable way of meeting others in nomination as well as an excellent opportunity to exchange views, hopes and fears, and to encourage and reassure each other.

My grateful thanks go to our guest speaker and to all who attended and supported the event.



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Photo courtesy of Harald Altmeyer

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RECENT EVENTS

BURGHLEY

Burghley 2022

✦ Virginia Lloyd DL

West Yorkshire 2013-14; Council member

IT WAS lovely to be back at the majestic Burghley House for our 2022 seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination. Hugh Tollemache, Chairman of the High Sheriffs' Association, welcomed all attendees and speakers.

The morning programme began with Dame Victoria Sharp DBE, President of the King's Bench Division (then Queen's). Dame Victoria stressed how hard-working judges away from home on circuit really valued support from the High Sheriff. Dame Victoria also said that, in her own experience, the role of High Sheriff was not merely a ceremonial post, but one which benefitted communities enormously. In particular, thanking organisations and charities in one's county was extremely beneficial.

Our next speaker was Senior Master Fontaine, the King's Remembrancer (then Queen's). Bearing in mind the role of High Sheriff is the oldest secular office surviving from Saxon times, it is always so fascinating to hear about its interesting and colourful history.

Lady Edwina Grosvenor then talked passionately about prison reform. Lady Edwina has worked in prisons since the age of 18 and spoke about some of the many issues facing the prison system, including staff shortages and the loss of many experienced staff. The service has been badly impacted by Covid. Lady Edwina suggested High Sheriffs should do as much research as they could on the prison before their visit and always ask how they can help.



This was followed by John Robins QPM DL, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. John stressed how important it was for High Sheriffs to emotionally support the front line and thank them for the work they do in every county, as well as ensuring they engage with their county's Chief Constable. He also talked about the challenges facing the force due to funding cutbacks.

Our final speaker for the morning session was Amanda Parker JP DL, Chair of National Crimebeat and Council Member. Amanda encouraged all High Sheriffs to engage with National Crimebeat and to encourage youth groups in their areas to put forward crime-reducing initiatives.

We then stopped for lunch. First, a delightful reception in the beautiful rose garden and then a delicious lunch where, following positive feedback from last year's seminar, seating was allocated so those attending could sit with others from the same region. It was very encouraging to see those

Above: Council members and speakers L-R standing: Michael Gurney, Amanda Parker, Andrew Tuggey, Richard Coles, Virginia Lloyd, Tom Birch Reynardson, Farooq Hakim, Lionel Wallace, Sarah Beazley, John Robins, Deborah Hutchinson, Lady Edwina Grosvenor, James Williams, Julie Llewelyn; seated: Senior Master Fontaine, Hugh Tollemache, Elizabeth Hunter, Dame Victoria Sharp

Below, L-R: Julie Llewelyn (Surrey 2021, guest speaker), Ruth Smith (N Yorks 2024)

Commodore Jake Moores (Devon 2024), Julie Moores, Lady Edwina Grosvenor (Hants 2022, guest speaker), Rosie Tollemache



RECENT EVENTS

BURGHLEY



Above: Lionel Wallace (Herts 2021, guest speaker), Dr Karabi Ray, Prof Jaydip Ray (S Yorks 2023)



Above right: Zulfi Karim (W Yorks 2023), Clare Granger (N Yorks 2023), John Robins QPM DL (guest speaker)



Guest speaker Senior Master Fontaine

Below: Celia Drewett, Robert Drewett (Somerset 2023), Farooq Hakim (Tyne and Wear 2021, guest speaker)

Below middle: Peter Davies, Janet Davies (S Glamorgan 2024), Hayley Davies (W Glamorgan 2023), Alan Brayley (W Glamorgan 2024)

in nomination making connections with their neighbouring counterparts.

After lunch the afternoon session began with High Sheriffs giving helpful and practical advice. Our first speaker was Dr Julie Llewelyn (Surrey 2021). Julie talked about her theme for her year in office – Every Child Included – and just what could be achieved in the space of the year.

Farooq Hakim DL (Tyne and Wear 2021) talked about how he had worked to encourage and support the police in his county. He also commented how important it was to concentrate on being a High Sheriff and not High Show-Off! He stressed the importance of using Twitter to raise the profile of organisations throughout the year.

Lionel Wallace DL (Hertfordshire 2021) talked about the importance of making something relevant to the person in front of you and making people feel special – the power to engage and not just be engaged.

Next, James Williams, Secretary of the High Sheriffs' Association, and Deborah Hutchinson, President of the Under Sheriffs' Association and Under Sheriff of Nottingham, discussed the important role of the Under Sheriff.

A lively question and answer session concluded an insightful and interesting day for those in nomination.

We concluded at 3.30 pm and many stayed for the delicious afternoon tea; some took advantage of the beautiful day by choosing to go and sit at tables in the fragrant garden, others took a tour of Burghley House.

Grateful thanks to all our wonderful speakers who gave their time so generously to share their knowledge and expertise with those in nomination.

Finally, our grateful thanks to Miranda Rock and the Burghley House Preservation Trust for yet again allowing our seminar to be held in their stunningly spectacular house and garden.



High Tollemache (Chairman, Glos 2013), Richard Pendlebury (Bristol 2024), Ina De (Gtr London 2023)

Below: Rosie Sethia, Professor Krishna Sethia (Norfolk 2023), Yvonne Mason (Suffolk 2024), Michael Gurney (Council, Norfolk 2021)



2023 awards are now open for entries

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



WE ARE ringing the changes for our 2023 awards. No longer with separate Adult and Youth Led categories, all projects will be judged together. The overarching criteria are that young people must be involved in delivering the project, which helps to reduce crime or anti-social behaviour in our communities.

High Sheriffs past, present and future are encouraged to look around their counties and put groups forward for

national recognition. The revised application form is available for download from our website www.national-crimebeat.com together with an information booklet.

The six finalists will all be invited to London to present their projects to our audience, after which the results are announced.

We've increased the prize money, with the winning entry receiving £1,500; runner-up £1,250; third place £1,000; and three highly commended each receiving £500. Our finalists enjoy a day in the capital, including a tour on the Big Bus after lunch, followed by a trip on the London Eye.

At our recent AGM we said good bye to some very long-serving and hard-working colleagues: David Jones, who brought health, rigour and structure to our finances; Nicky Weston, who was supreme in supporting the groups in the build-up to the awards ceremony; and Debbie Inskip, who ensured all certificates, trophies and medallions were correctly scripted and delivered. All three have been huge contributors to National Crimebeat and we thank them.

I'm encouraged by the positive response to the revised 2023 awards and look forward to receiving your nominations. It's our 25th anniversary in 2023 so help us to make it a bumper year by celebrating your local young people.



Some of the participants of the 2022 awards on the Big Bus tour



Walk the walk, start the talk

IN THE run-up to my year, what was foremost on my mind was how to make the most of the year ahead, even if Covid did reappear. I love gardens and gardening and am lucky enough to live surrounded by beautiful Bedfordshire countryside.

Throughout the lockdowns, the green spaces, both private and public, became the guardian of our sanity and made me realise just how difficult it must be for those deprived of it living in built-up areas – without gardens, sometimes in high-rise buildings where the communal outside area is usually small and not always green. These conditions are, we are told, most likely to breed discontent, vandalism and other anti-social, often criminal, behaviour. The redemptive quality of simply being outside in green space was clear, so, alongside the shrieval remit, I made 'Green Spaces' my theme for the year. This tied in neatly with the initiative for The Queen's Green Canopy.

To this end, and through much discussion with Susan Lousada (2020-21), soon to become our new Lord-Lieutenant, we came up with the idea of a five-day walk along all 40 miles of the Greensand Ridge. The Ridge is a geological feature peculiar to Bedfordshire, straddling the county diagonally, from Leighton Buzzard in the south-west to Gamlingay in the north-east, technically just Cambridgeshire. The idea was to make it an outdoor networking event that



Left: Ribbon Cutting at Gamlingay: End of the final day, Lady Clifford cutting the ribbon with Jennifer Crompton, High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, to inaugurate the new Greensand Ridge Walk bench at the Eco Hub Gamlingay. Walkers include: Sir Timothy Clifford and John Crompton, Rachel Newell (CSR from Kier), Cllr Farzana Kharawala (Mayor of Leighton-Linslade), Martin Pettit (Mayor of Sandy), Lin Rogers (Keech Hospice), and Caroline Maudlin and Ali Bradbury holding the ribbon (both from Greensand Trust)

would serve fourfold. First, to introduce myself to those I didn't yet know in the county, having only lived here for 12 years, including the key people in charities involved in rehabilitation and mental health, the grant-giving bodies, the judiciary and magistracy, mayors, councillors, the wider Lieutenancy, religious leaders, heads of the emergency services, and finally those involved in improving education. Second, to introduce to one another charities doing similar but not identical things in the different areas of the county and in some cases to introduce the counterparts from the different councils. Third, it was to show how good you feel when you get out and explore the exquisite countryside around us, how freely conversation and positive ideas are generated. And finally, to promote the Greensand Ridge as a visitor destination like the Chilterns.

As we thought of guests, it became apparent that there were categories or themes evolving, so we allocated a different theme to each day: the first was Green Spaces, the second Rehabilitation, the third Youth, the fourth Heritage at Risk and we purposely left the fifth without a theme.

The walk itself took us through unspoilt countryside with stunning views from up on the Ridge. It was never gruelling and guests could peel off at a halfway point each day thanks to the bus service laid on by the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

What was extraordinary was the synergy between the guests each day – beyond our wildest expectations – and how enabling walking and talking



Heritage at Risk Day at Clophill Church: Participants included: Professor Gurch Randhawa DL, His Honour Judge Gill, Jane Malcolm (Heritage, Luton Council), Lila Begum (Senior Project Lead, Bedford Borough), Major Matt Brown (MOD Chicksands)

alongside someone, instead of face to face in a room, is so positive and non-confrontational. Consequently all sorts of collaborations were conceived and various important projects are now in the pipeline: training teachers how to engage children in local nature; hopefully, helping to rehouse a homeless charity in a heritage building that needs repurposing; proposed footbridges for the two dangerous road crossings along the Ridge Walk; and holding an all-faith Iftar in a forest to introduce inner-city folk to the woodlands and to celebrate with diverse ethnicities and religions. This evolved into what may well be a unique initiative!

Jane Clifford
Lady Clifford, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire 2022-23



End of Green Spaces Day: Jon Balaam (Ranger of Greensand Trust); Deborah Inskip OBE DL (2013-14), Helen Nellis (then Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire); Judith Lovely (School Improvement Manager Bedford Borough) and Caroline Maudlin (Vice Chair of Central Beds Council) in a field approaching Woburn Park



A time of continuity and change

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GAINED its first city during Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen's Letters Patent conferring this grace and favour on Milton Keynes in north Buckinghamshire was prepared on vellum. As High Sheriffs, we have a historic connection to vellum, as does Milton Keynes.

The 2022-23 High Sheriffs are the last to be chosen by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who pricked our names on the Sheriffs' vellum roll with a bodkin. Our Guide to the Office of High Sheriff tells us this practice dates back to the reign of Henry VII. Names were pricked through vellum because this hole could never be repaired, so the sometimes unwelcome honour of being Sheriff could not be avoided.

At the turn of the 20th century there were 54 businesses in Britain making vellum or parchment, a material made from the split skin of an animal (usually goat, sheep or cow).

By 1986 that number had dropped to just one: William Cowley Parchment Makers, a company founded in Newport Pagnell in 1870 (now within the City of Milton Keynes). In the West, parchment predates paper by about 1,000 years, and the survival of many ancient documents points to one of its greatest qualities: longevity. The Domesday Book of 1086 is still legible. At the Proclamation Ceremony in Aylesbury, organised by

Buckinghamshire Council, I presented mayors and chairmen from across the county with Proclamations printed on vellum to read out in their towns and the city and to keep as an enduring record of a historic event.

Earlier this summer, I presented a High Sheriff's Award to the Curtis Palmer Program for Police Personnel, prepared for me on parchment by William Cowley. The dangers and stresses of policing can cause PTSD, mental ill-health and other health-related issues. This programme offers peer support through expeditions and training. Retired officer Gary Jones says, 'We are one big family who derive great satisfaction from supporting each other.' Former officer PC Matt Midwinter, who was involved in an on-duty car crash resulting in a catastrophic brain injury, has been supported by the team to climb up Pen y Fan, the highest peak in South Wales. Serving officer, Sergeant Loz East and his family are being supported through his cancer treatment by setting him one goal after another. I met the team at Marlow on the banks of the Thames on Sergeant East's canoe trip from Devizes to Westminster, a journey of 77 locks and an arduous 125-mile paddle. A High Sheriff's Award, presented at the Thames Valley Police Chief Constable's Awards Ceremony, was received by Sergeant East on behalf of the Curtis Palmer Program.



Photo Bucks County Council

Handing over a Proclamation scroll to Cllr Arif Hussain, Mayor of High Wycombe



Milton Keynes received City status

My shrieval year coincides with the year Olney and its parish church in north Buckinghamshire celebrate the 250th anniversary of the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. This has inspired both my year and my recent Justice Service. In 1764 John Newton, former slave trader and newly ordained revd, arrived in Olney 'a wretch', and said he was saved by 'the Amazing Grace of God'. Newton felt he had been lost in a life of 'dangers, toils and snares' but 'now was found' by the power of grace bringing him home. In 1772 he wrote the hymn for his 1773 New Year's Day service. From his position in Olney and later in London, he was instrumental in slavery being abolished. Throughout the history of the Shrievalty in Buckinghamshire, Olney has never hosted a Justice Service, so it was an enormous honour to process the route to St Peter and St Paul, along with fellow High Sheriffs, members of the judiciary, and others serving law and order in the county, together with uniformed youth members.



Above left: Presentation of the High Sheriff's Award to the Curtis Palmer Program received by Sergeant Loz East pictured with Thames Valley Police Chief Constable John Campbell QPM, retired officer Gary Jones, Inspector Damien Isherwood and High Sheriff's Cadet Sean Owen



Above right: At the Justice Service in Olney. Back L-R David Kelham (Marks), Mark Beard (Oxon), Sally Burton (Herts), Crispin Holborrow (Northants) Front L-R Sqn Ldr Jeremy Davies (Javelin Man), Lady Clifford (Beds), the Countess Howe (Lord-Lieutenant), Debbie Brock, Alka Kharbada (Berks), Ben Robinson (Staffs), Geoff Thompson (Rutland)

Photo credit Marion Mason Professional Photography

Debbie Brock DL
High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2022-23



Joy in bringing everyone together

BARELY HALF the shrieval year has passed and times have been momentous. Although we anticipated the joys and celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, no one expected the events which unfolded in September.

It was quite enough to have a new prime minister, turmoil in Europe and fears about an energy crisis, but all was swept away in a moment by the sudden death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. It was immediately clear that the meticulous planning and our nation's organisational skill and dignity would carry us through.

We saw the clearest evidence of what the Shrievalty and Lieutenancy reflects in our country and the way in which the regions fit into the national picture. If we hadn't quite realised how we should approach this job, the dedication and dignity of the Crown was right there in front of us, the best example of all.

My more comfortable round of supportive visits to the courts, regular police and fire service awards, discovering extraordinary dedicated charity volunteers, marvelling at factory processes, watching school children sing, dance and perform have all been unexpectedly wonderful. They are but a faint echo of the work of the sovereign. We have a bare year in office: The Late Queen had a matchless reign and her reach was national and global.

This outpouring of loyalty, appreciation, and devotion to our traditions has confirmed our trust in and admiration of the British people:

pragmatic, proud, stoic and sensible. It's a privilege and pleasure to serve them, even during this brief period in office.

Reflecting on my now distant Declaration, I was determined to hit the ground running, knowing how rapidly days would pass and knowing how hard it had been for my predecessors during lockdown. The direction was still uncertain but we had a packed service at my local church and a cheerful reception afterwards. Guidance and support from multiple High Sheriffs gave me confidence and I made early contact with blue light services and community leaders.

Courts had been my regular stamping ground as a barrister so the day after the Declaration we hosted a 'Law in Cheshire' event, bringing together key members of the county's legal system, building a sound contact base and a foundation of easy reciprocal relationships.

There have been so many events – celebrations for The Prince's Trust youngsters, charity visits organised by Cheshire Community Foundation, magistrates' swearing-in ceremonies, mayors' investitures and a wonderful burgeoning relationship with Chester Cathedral and the four major councils. Every minute has been valuable and I bless the time spent making individual connections.

I gave a garden party for all the county's mayors and civic chairs as soon as they were appointed creating a sound foundation of friendship for later events and inside local knowledge. I was happy to accept invitations from

local radio stations, to write pieces for local magazines and newspapers, to visit schools (the younger the class, the better the questions) – all great fun. I was blown away by technology at both North West Ambulance Hub and Police HQ, had a training day with the crew at Fire Central (training area for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service) and walked the beat in Chester. I kept on tweeting and started to enjoy it enormously.

My fundraiser, Platinum Proms at Chester Cathedral in July, was compèred by Gyles Brandreth, Chester's former MP and the chancellor of our university. (I serve on the university council, another great link throughout the county.)

The concert brought together a mass of regional talent which entertained a thousand guests. We raised the roof in a flag-waving finale, echoing the Jubilee spirit. It gave real insight into just how much joy there is in bringing everyone together, the strength of community and of national pride.

The summer continued – and what a glorious summer, driving through Cheshire and just being bowled over by the land and its beauty – with the County Show, the Nantwich Show, food festivals, opening village fêtes and carnivals, supporting charities at art exhibitions and lunches. It was a happy time, discovering more hidden gems in the county than I had ever realised existed.

I hosted two large garden parties for Ukrainian families and their Cheshire hosts, recognising Cheshire's compassion and generosity; friends rallied as bartenders and bakers. Next we intend to welcome our new Afghan and Hong Kong families; our community's kindness has been humbling.

Now, as the days shorten and the Legal Services come into play, I look forward to the next six months: can it possibly get any more interesting or rewarding?



Above: At the new ShareShop in Chester (Supporting Homeless Assisting Refugees Everywhere)
Above right: Joining in with Fallen Angels, a dance troupe consisting of former drug and alcohol users and those who have suffered in abusive situations – clearly more training needed



Jeannie France-Hayhurst
High Sheriff of Cheshire 2022-23



An honour and a privilege

AS I write this, we find ourselves in mourning following the loss of Her Majesty The Queen. The shock and impact this is having on all of us is so great that the period of mourning gives us all a chance to reflect and renew our beliefs in the importance of the monarchy in the fabric of our society.

Devon and Cornwall Police have welcomed me with open arms, and I am lucky to have a very full and diverse dialogue with them. The retirement of Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer heralds a changing of the guard here; his leadership has been a guiding light for us all and he will be a huge loss. However, as I write, his replacement is serving his notice before joining in the New Year. There has been a strong link between Cornwall and Devon in this process – even down to serving jam first at the Chief Constable's leaving do!

The Police Cadets have been amazing; selecting one from eight was impossible as all were brilliant and worthy of selection in their own right – we eventually managed to select two.

My visits to the Devon prisons of Dartmoor and Exeter were able to go ahead and I appreciated the openness of the Governor in welcoming us to see the day-to-day workings – fascinating. It did though pose some real questions around staffing levels and the need to continue to recruit quality staff to undertake these testing roles. The challenges around internship or rehabilitation with the support mechanisms after a prisoner's release are a challenge; we all need to support and discuss. Together with the Police and Crime Commissioner, they are working with prisoners to build houses, thus providing life skills but also meeting another huge challenge, that of affordable housing.

The Homes For Cornwall project is something I am keen to support and the need to secure housing for staff in all sectors is critical. This debate is important across all blue light services.

I am planning to go out supporting police officers as well as TSSOs (Tri-

Service Safety Officers), an initiative in Cornwall that has the potential to change the way interactive and efficient blue light services can be provided and one which is already proving very successful.

June was a wonderful celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I was honoured to officially light a beacon overlooking the Atlantic from Gwennap Head, with the Isles of Scilly off in the distance. Sadly, as I write in September, we are at an awfully sad end of an era.

As High Sheriffs our role is mixed including supporting the Lieutenancy with all matters from books of condolences to church events; in the middle of this came the honour and privilege of proclaiming the new monarch, our King, Charles III. The Proclamation took place on the steps of Truro Cathedral and judging from all reports around the county the crowds we witnessed were a true reflection of how we adore our new King and Queen Consort.

During my year I aim to support two key local charities: Kreslu which provides support to officers and staff affected both mentally and physically in the line of duty; and the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI), a voluntary organisation assisting in the protection and preservation of life at sea and along the UK coastline.

Andrew Williams

High Sheriff of Cornwall 2022-23



L-R Richard Youngman (Devon) with Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer QPM, Devon and Cornwall Police, and Andrew Williams (Cornwall)



Above: The Platinum Jubilee beacon at NCI Gwennap Head Lookout Station

Below: Greeting HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall at Mousehole





A ceremony close to home

I STARTED my year on 31 March 2022 with my Declaration in the Public Hall in Appleby-in-Westmorland, my local town. I wanted to hold the ceremony close to home as this part of the county hasn't had a High Sheriff for a number of years so I wished to share it with the local community. I was very fortunate to be able to do so in person unlike my two predecessors who held theirs via Zoom.

The reception and support I have received from the people of Appleby and the town council have been amazing. As a result, the Mayor of Appleby, Dr Gareth Hayes, has become a close friend and we have worked on a number of local projects including refurbishment plans for the local play area – to be renamed the Platinum Play Park, in recognition of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cumbria is geographically challenging but despite this my wife and I have met many wonderful people and heard some great stories about local community engagement throughout the county. We have worked alongside Cumbria Community Foundation who arranged visits to organisations and charities they have given grants to and I am very



Opening ceremony for a stone seat erected by the community in Raisgill in celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

grateful to members of staff for the work and time spent in arranging these.

My theme for the year is 'Youth Opportunities' so I have tried to focus on visiting youth organisations, including Scouts, Guides and Young Farmers' events. I met with Cumbria Youth Alliance and as a result I have agreed to take part in their Youth Mentoring Programme to be launched in schools throughout the county. This is an exciting scheme and over 360 pupils will be taking part in the initial stages with plans to extend it further.

I feel very privileged and humbled to be High Sheriff in this eventful year and particularly so to have been responsible for reading the county Proclamation at Carlisle Citadel with approximately 5,000 in attendance. The support from Scouts, Guides and Armed Forces Cadets was very much appreciated on this momentous occasion.

Another privilege has been the number of commendation and long service award ceremonies I have attended and I will shortly witness the attestation ceremony for the Police

Cadets. I never imagined how rewarding and interesting my year would be and how quickly time would pass.

I have received lots of support from previous High Sheriffs and the Under Sheriff, Tim Cartmell, has been outstanding and a great reference point when I am in need of guidance.

Getting to grips with social media has been a challenge but worthwhile because posting pictures and comments on the groups visited has been greatly appreciated by the recipients. It has also made me realise how much the volunteers and beneficiaries appreciate a visit from the High Sheriff and this makes the role so rewarding.

The next major event in my diary is the Judges' Service to be held in Carlisle Cathedral marking the start of the new legal year and also the midpoint of my term – I eagerly look forward to my remaining time in office.



At my Declaration ceremony with David Beeby (2021) and his consort Sue Redshaw

 **Alan McViety**
High Sheriff of Cumbria 2022-23



Young people and unsung heroes

OUTSTANDING COUNTRYSIDE and companies are some of the great strengths of Derbyshire. On the debit side are low aspiration, educational achievement and social mobility. Notwithstanding fantastic, well-paid jobs (Rolls-Royce, Alstom and the largest cluster of rail companies in Europe, and Toyota), many of these jobs are not going to young local people. Research from London suggested that the fantastic success of their secondary schools started with their primary schools in the early 2000s (London Challenge, Teach First, etc.).



A visit to one of my target 100 schools



Addressing youngsters, volunteers and trustees at Enthusiasm, a youth club in one of the most deprived parts of Derby



With the Polish group at Eurojam Scout Festival in the High Peak

My main focus has been talking about careers and aspiration to primary school children throughout the more deprived parts of the county. Before the summer holidays, I visited 35 schools and have another 20 booked in before Christmas. My aim is to get as near to 100 visits during my term of office as I can. I start with a brief history of the Shrievalty, move on to young, local people who have achieved fantastic things and then move on to jobs of the future – particularly those with an environmental focus. Rolls-Royce and Toyota have some amazing futuristic projects and, of course, Alstom are working with Hitachi on the new HS2 trains. I am working closely with the police, who have introduced me to a number of schools, and the local equal opportunities team who have created a careers portal for schools.

I have attended police award ceremonies in the north and south of the county. I was overwhelmed by the courage and sensitivity shown by police officers in handling potentially lethal and traumatic situations. I went out with the Street Pastors over August Bank Holiday until the clubs closed at 4.00 am. The way young female police officers talked down potentially violent drink or drug-affected youngsters was incredible. I have attended Magistrates' Courts and Crown Courts and was impressed with the quiet efficiency of the court staff and the use of technology.

Young people have been a major part of my programme. I judged a national mooting competition which was won by a local school (which I did not judge!). I have attended scouting events including a European scouting festival called Eurojam based in the High Peak, as well as the final of a schools' debating competition run by the local law society and judged the semi-finals. I attended a concert in Buxton by the Derbyshire Youth Orchestra; their principal violinist was nine – what a future he has.

My other main focus has been on unsung heroes. The amazing Street Pastors tend to those who have had too good a night out. I visited a drug addiction centre

in Derby run by ex-Class A drug addicts who have an incredible success rate based on tough love. I spent a day with a lady from the ambulance service, who has made it her mission to ensure that the 'down and outs' [sic] get access to the health service. I have visited charities who specialise in helping children and families who have been the victims of abuse.

The Platinum Jubilee was fantastic. I went to a beacon lighting at Grin Low Hill above Buxton (the views were amazing) and a couple of brilliant street parties. Inspecting the army's 170 Engineer Group Jubilee parade in Derby on 4 June was an inspiration. Any one of those I saw could walk straight into well-paid jobs in 'civvy street'.

It seemed very strange and sad to bear witness to the death of Queen Elizabeth – surely one of our greatest monarchs – so soon after the Platinum Jubilee. She truly was somebody who epitomised the words 'duty and service' and her funeral was a fitting tribute. I am still hearing the drums!

Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and my Under Sheriff Andrew Cochrane were incredibly well organised for Operation London Bridge (many thanks to them) so I was duty bound to do my small contribution as well as I could when I read the Proclamation at County Hall, Matlock and Market Place, Derby.

Apart from the Platinum Jubilee and the events surrounding the death of Queen Elizabeth and the accession to the throne of King Charles III, the one thing which has stood out for me has been the opportunity to meet so many people and organisations doing amazing things. The vast majority of primary schools I have visited have enthusiastic staff and have welcomed my initiative. It has also been a huge opportunity to put people together. To some, the Office of High Sheriff has seemed an anachronism. My impression has been that it is a great opportunity to make a difference.

Michael Copestake
High Sheriff of Derbyshire 2022-23



Memorable and precious moments

I FELT very fortunate to start my year, unlike my two predecessors, with minimal Covid restrictions, HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the first Parliamentary by-election in the South West, never mind Devon, for thirty years. On taking office every High Sheriff was handed details of London Bridge in preparation for the possible death of the monarch and fervently prayed, as I did, that it would not be required. Sadly, this proved not to be the case.

The Jubilee celebrations were like a microcosm of a shrieval year with a surreal seated tea with the Lord-Lieutenant and Lord Mayor at a trestle table in Exeter High Street (much to the bemusement of shoppers), lighting the beacon (not, contrary to appearances in the image, the trumpeter) in our parish, taking the ceremonial Sunset Salute on HMS *Portland* (a Type 23 frigate) in Torbay, attending Exeter Cathedral's splendid Service of Thanksgiving and finally, and by no means least, a heart-warming tea with the occupants of Exonia Park, a residential park home estate.

I was asked by the acting returning officer for the Tiverton and Honiton constituency to declare the result of

June's by-election; mindful both of the poll's somewhat colourful genesis in the Dominator Tractor/porn website scandal, which led to some 60 media organisations registering to attend, and the anticipated 4.00 am declaration time raising the spectre of a drink-fuelled and rowdy crowd, I must confess to feelings of some trepidation. In practice the event proceeded remarkably smoothly and no one seemed to notice when the one police car in attendance was called away to another incident. The by-election was also noteworthy for recording highest government majority overturned.

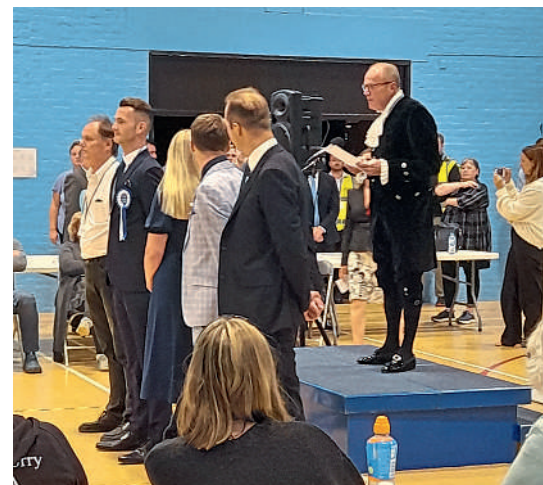
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died on Thursday 8 September and on Sunday 11 September, in common with High Sheriffs throughout the land, I read the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to the throne outside County Hall in Exeter. This period was bitter-sweet, with the deep feeling of loss caused by the passing of our longest-reigning monarch with an unparalleled 70 years of dedicated service matched by the people's gratitude for her life, and enthusiasm for a King determined to follow in her footsteps.

The other most memorable and precious moments of my year have involved meeting the amazing men and women, often volunteers, who work at the coal face of the areas a High Sheriff seeks to support and encourage. I am particularly reminded of giving High Sheriff's Awards to the wonderful Linda Sillifant, kitchen manager at one of my chosen charities, St Petrock's, for 20 years' service to people experiencing homelessness in Exeter, and to Geoff Edwards, a community first responder in Barnstaple, who racked up an extraordinary 10,000 volunteer hours of being on call, saving the lives of many patients and reassuring others – especially important with the advent of longer periods of time before an ambulance arrives.

I must also mention LandWorks, my other chosen charity, which



Richard Youngman definitely lighting the beacon



Performing returning officer duties at the Tiverton and Honiton by-election

provides a supported route back in to employment and the community for ex-prisoners through developing skills in woodworking, market gardening, landscaping and cooking, achieving significantly below average reoffending rates in the process.

Richard Youngman
High Sheriff of Devon 2022-23



At Exeter's Jubilee Party in the High Street



Poverty hurts – my million pound ambition

ON A bright but chilly April Fool's Day, I was sworn in at Durham Crown Court as the new High Sheriff of Durham. Four short (and slightly stressful) days later, with my curtsy perfected, I was meeting HRH The Prince of Wales and Her Majesty The Queen of Spain, as they came to Bishop Auckland to open the Spanish Gallery – part of the remarkable Auckland Project. Little did I know that His Royal Highness would shortly become King Charles III and I'd be reading the Proclamation of Accession from the balcony at Durham Town Hall, just a short distance from where I'd been sworn in and a moment's walk from Durham Cathedral, where we'd so joyfully celebrated Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

In between all of this, of course, there have been countless wonderful social, civic and ceremonial engagements – too numerous to list – but in these first few whirlwind and rather magical days of office, I realised two things. To achieve the goals I'd set myself, I was going to have to work out how to achieve the balance between the proactive and the reactive; the ceremonial duties and the personal aims; the visiting and the doing!

I'm my own worst critic, and my biggest fear as High Sheriff was looking



HRH The Prince of Wales and Queen Letizia of Spain meeting school children after the opening of the Spanish Gallery in Bishop Auckland

back and thinking –
what did I really achieve?
Whose lives did I impact?
What did I change?

Luckily, the second light bulb moment I had in those intrepid first few days of office was that, as High Sheriff, I could really make a difference to the county I'm passionate about. After all, I'd met my future King and The Queen of Spain by noon on day four!

My realisation was also helped along by the fact that most of the local school children thought I was The Queen of Spain. For one wicked moment, I did wonder whether to confess – seeing their little faces crumple with disappointment, especially after they'd braved the bitter north-east wind, was not one I relished! To their credit, they took the news stoically and happily chatted to me anyway!

Building back stronger communities

Recovery from the pandemic and those most adversely affected by it could clearly not be ignored and working towards stronger, safer communities aligns with both my Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner's strategic objectives. Working with County Durham Community Foundation, we quickly agreed an appeal was urgently needed – the question was, what should the ambition be?

The poverty headlines in our county are immensely worrying and it saddens me that in 2022 the North East is the child poverty capital of the UK. In areas such as Bishop Auckland, the statistics are even worse, with 40 per cent of children living in poverty yet most have a working parent. With the cost of living spiralling, there is worse to come. We've gone from



Image: Katy Melling Photography

High Sheriff Shona Harper-Wilkes with husband John and daughter Juliette outside Durham Cathedral after Matins for the Courts of Justice

second top of the table in terms of child poverty to the very bottom in just eight short years – the fastest rate of change in any region in the UK.

Added to this, we have a horrifying forecast of excess winter deaths due to soaring energy costs and of food banks receiving in recent weeks an uplift of 50 per cent in requests relating to food that does not need to be cooked. Imagine – those same families who can't afford to heat their homes not having hot food either.

In light of these needs and ever-worsening headlines, we set our sights on raising a whopping £1m. I feel passionately about helping those who need it most in these extraordinary times. Our launch is planned for 4 November where we'll be displaying especially commissioned striking documentary-style images of the issues our county is facing. I'm pleased to report that we've already reached over £350,000.

While the needs of our county are not something to shout about with pride, the kindness, compassion and generosity of our donors most certainly are!

 **Shona Harper-Wilkes**
High Sheriff of County Durham 2022-23



A demanding time

I AM sure all High Sheriffs feel that their year in office is remarkable, but this certainly rings true for those of us in the role this year. The joy and excitement of The Queen's Jubilee was followed by her sad death, our mourning for her, and the Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III. Our courts are operating under huge pressure following Covid-19 and, as I write, are affected by the barristers' strike action. There is war again in Europe, and in the United Kingdom the threat of a deep recession.

Since my Declaration as High Sheriff of Essex in April 2022, I have toured the county meeting people from all walks of life. From these conversations with people living and working in cities, rural settings or by the coast, the unifying factor has been their selflessness and wish to improve the lives of others, despite the challenges they may face.

It is therefore fortuitous that the simple theme I chose for my year was 'volunteering'. Almost every day as I work through my programme of visits and events, I am able to pay tribute to the volunteers who are so important in every one of the institutions on which we rely. In the criminal justice system, they include the magistrates in our courts,

the many volunteers in policing and supporting the prison service, and those helping witnesses and victims.

Volunteers play equally important and sometimes key roles in the many charitable and voluntary organisations that form the core of our communities. All these organisations are concerned about growing financial pressures as the cost of living increases and need support now more than ever.

In 1993, the then High Sheriff of Essex, Christopher Gosling, raised funds to start the 'Essex Against Crime' awards. In 1997 Robert Erith, as High Sheriff, moved that fund, now named the Essex High Sheriffs' Fund, to the custody of Essex Community Foundation. This enables each High Sheriff to make annual awards to local groups which contribute to community safety or which tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

This year we are celebrating the Fund's 25th anniversary and like my predecessors any fundraising I do is directed into the Fund, which has grown to more than £450,000 and given out grants totalling nearly £700,000. This financial support is just one way in which High Sheriffs can contribute to their counties and here in Essex, the Fund enables us to do that



The story of the Essex High Sheriffs' Fund

with confidence and sustainably, well into the future.

Essex Community Foundation and the High Sheriffs in Essex have always enjoyed a close relationship with Essex Police who are strong supporters of the High Sheriffs' Fund, and contribute to it annually from monies received under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) through a matched-funding scheme. In addition, they assist the High Sheriff's panel which meets each year to decide which charities that have applied for funding should receive awards. Having seen it in action myself, I warmly commend this model to other counties and encourage you to speak with your local community foundation.

To help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fund and all it has achieved, I have edited a book telling the story of the Shrievalty in Essex, Essex Community Foundation and the Fund. It is beautifully illustrated with photographs taken especially for it by a former Essex police officer, Matthew Mallett. If you would like a copy, please email me at essex@highsheriffs.com.

As I write, we can't know what else this extraordinary year has in store. I am sure, however, that every day I will continue to meet remarkable people serving their communities. Some will be officers and staff in various organisations, and many others volunteers. It is a privilege to meet them, to hear their stories and to say 'thank you' for their service at a demanding time.

 **Nicholas Alston CBE DL**
High Sheriff of Essex 2022-23



With the Mayor of Southend City Council, Cllr Kevin Robinson, and volunteers supporting the local 'Aspirations Program'



Joining volunteers supporting a 'Lads need Dads' group in Colchester, previous winners of awards from the High Sheriffs' Fund



The right track... together



Photo: picturepress.co.uk

LONDON IS BIG: 9.5 million people, 32 boroughs, 50 plus courts and tribunals, 180 police stations, 8 prisons, 3,000 schools... the High Sheriff is just another Londoner. The Dean of Westminster recently asked me where I'd parked the shrieval car; I pulled my trainers from my handbag and pointed across the square to the tube.

It was clear the High Sheriff needed to be more visible. Greater London was only founded in 1965, so we are not required to wear the sumptuous velvets of our peers. So I raised £30,000 from the Livery Companies connected with textiles for prison charities Fine Cell Work and Making For Change to make a 'visibility cloak'. London College of Fashion students designed it. Eight of Fine Cell Work's best stitchers in five prisons did the embroidery. Making For Change cut and assembled it in HMP Downview. Our hope is it will last 100 years, being passed on to successive female High Sheriffs – and any male High Sheriff who can style it out... We held a party for it and the 32 people who funded, designed, embroidered, stitched and printed it. The embroiderers who were still serving sentences were represented by gold balloons attached to

David Moorcroft (West Midlands), Jonathan Floyd and Heather Phillips outside HMP Birmingham at the beginning of The Right Track 100-mile walk home

the cape. The project brought together livery companies, students, charities and people serving sentences – 'Sheriff power'. Since then I've visited four men stitchers in HMP Frankland and women at Low Newton and Downview; Shona Harper-Wilkes, High Sheriff of County Durham, kindly hosted me.



The Cape – new to the role of High Sheriff of Greater London

Building on Lynn Cooper's (2021-22) work, I've done the 'Business as Usual' (police, courts, prisons) but focussed on four boroughs to make it 'doable'.

I've also started some 'High Sheriff's Youth Awards'. Realising our Justice Awards were very successful I have introduced awards for young people who 'do the right thing' and show up for themselves even though things are stacked against them. This has created relationships with our Virtual Schools (educational oversight teams for children in care) and the Met's Safer Schools Teams as well as local schools and pupil referral units.

The Proclamation was different in London. We had Clarenceux King of Arms to proclaim The King. My only role was to process from Mansion House with the Lord Mayor, City Sheriffs, Aldermen and Livery Companies, to hear it read in the City. It was a fabulous day of bandmen, pikemen and heralds: London at its best. I thanked God for the Cape (off-the-peg would not have cut it).

The last week in September I got to combine my day job as CEO/Founder of Beating Time (a prison charity) with my role as High Sheriff. In 2020, Jonathan, who was serving a sentence at HMP Birmingham, and I set up an employment project: Inside Job. Since then we have placed 212 people leaving prison into work. On 21 September he was released after seven and a half years. He decided to walk the 100 miles home to Manchester to prove that people who have served a sentence do change and want to give back but need support. Sixty-five of us walked with him. The High Sheriff of the West Midlands, David Moorcroft OBE, came to walk him out of Birmingham and the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Lorraine Worsley-Carter MBE DL, welcomed him home to Manchester. It was great being in The Right Track Together! He started work with us the next day.

Photo: @benstockley

Heather Phillips
High Sheriff of Greater London 2022-23



Worker bees of Manchester

I MADE my Declaration as High Sheriff of Greater Manchester at The Lowry in Salford Quays. At first glance it might seem an odd choice for a role carrying a 1,000-year history. During its 22 years, however, The Lowry welcomed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and, during the pandemic, became a Nightingale Court. One of my principal guests was His Honour Judge John Potter, who presided over the Nightingale Court.

I began my year with a resolve to meet and thank as many citizens as possible for their selflessness, and for their show of humanity in the face of the hardships and the resulting inequality that Covid had brought over the last two years. The pandemic meant putting on hold many landmark occasions in the life of a charity or voluntary organisation, and everyone was keen to mark these milestones – as were the Royal Family. We had three royal visits within the space of six weeks, the third being to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Manchester Arena bombing.

Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee was nearly upon us, and I was soon in meetings with civic events' teams

regarding the forthcoming celebrations. Little did I know that I would be back in conversation with the same people only a few weeks later to discuss the protocols surrounding the Proclamation of Accession of our new King.

Greater Manchester has ten boroughs and two cities, and is rich in diversity and culture. I have been honoured to attend many interfaith events, not least being invited to light the lamp to open the United Kingdom Bengali Convention. Manchester Cathedral marked its 600th year as a collegiate church this year, and I continue to attend many multifaith events there – as well as visiting its roof! Manchester is synonymous with the bee, and I met senior apiarist Catherine Charnock and her assistant, together with the thousands

of bees nestled in their hives. They provide 'Heavenly Honey', the sale of which helps to fund 'Volition', Manchester Cathedral's volunteer programme – an innovation in volunteering and employability.

During one of my early court visits I met with His Honour Judge Nicholas Dean, Honorary Recorder of Manchester. From our conversation, it emerged that we both had a mutual desire for young people from areas of high deprivation to have the opportunity to pursue a career in the legal service. With the enormous help of the Kalisher Trust and the judiciary, including tremendous support from High Court Judges, we are working on a strategy for this to become a reality.

I visited the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police and the Chief Fire Officer of Greater Manchester Fire Service, as I wanted to find the best way to support their officers. Our plan, among other initiatives, is for me to visit police and fire stations within each of our ten boroughs. I have very quickly found that there is enormous disparity between the additional roles within the respective services due to their station location – city or rural – within our vast county. On visiting Manchester Central Fire Station, I learned that a turntable and crane are needed to reach the existing and the rapidly emerging high-rise apartment buildings, and so I joined a firefighter on the crane, going up over 40 metres. The crane enables firefighters to reach people attempting to die by suicide or fleeing from a burning building.

I am enormously proud of my two cadets – one is a Scout, and the second a member of St John Ambulance. I decided that I would concentrate on the ambulance service later in my year, as they had been working to capacity during the pandemic. I look forward to spending time in the call centres in the autumn.

Lorraine Worsley-Carter
MBE DL
High Sheriff of Greater Manchester
2022-23

Clockwise from top left: At the Bengali UK Convention in Manchester

With High Sheriff's Cadets Gracie Acton and Eoin Duffy Photo: Stuart Thomson

At Manchester Crown Court with the Hon Mr Justice MacDonald, the Hon Mrs Justice Yip and students of Abraham Moss School Photo: Stuart Thomson

With apiarist Catherine Charnock and assistant Nirmala Jennis on the roof of Manchester Cathedral





What's around the corner?



With a family at a citizenship ceremony in Winchester



With PC Gary Crouch and PC Ben Popham of Hampshire Police Marine Unit



With helpers and residents at the Winchester Beacon, a homelessness charity (formerly Winchester Churches Nightshelter)

IT'S SEPTEMBER 2022 and I am only halfway through my year as High Sheriff of Hampshire. My year started under the dutiful eye of Her Majesty The Late Queen Elizabeth II and it will likely finish in six months' time under our new monarch, His Majesty King Charles III. Two days ago I stood at the steps of the Great Hall in Winchester and read the Proclamation announcing the new King to the county. A crowd of around 1,000 people stood in front of me while I was flanked by the Lord-Lieutenant, the Mayor of Winchester, the Bishop of Winchester, the Fire Chief, Chief Constable, both the Chairman and Leader of the County Council, High Court Judges and representatives of the Army, Navy and Airforce. It was a profound moment, and the sense of responsibility to deliver the Proclamation well was enormous.

Earlier on in the year of course many events centred around Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A wonderful time for the county to come together and make merry. I so enjoyed having that time in Winchester Cathedral to celebrate her, to think about her, to give thanks to her. This Saturday in Winchester Cathedral I will be doing the same only this time it will be in a period of mourning two days before her state

funeral. I will be remembering, giving thanks and thinking about the legacy she has left and reflecting on what that means for us as a county and as a country as the Elizabethan age comes to a close.

My six months have entailed much more than these high-profile and somewhat overwhelming events, of course. Much of the excitement for me has come from spending a lot of time at close quarters with the Hampshire Constabulary, with charities, and with different faith groups, visiting mosques, guduwaras and temples – chatting to folk different from me, learning about their lives, their view of the county, and of law and order. What does justice look and feel like to the LGBTQ+ community? How do we as an office come across to the Muslim community? The Sikh and Hindu communities? How do we broaden our reach? I am not claiming I have the answers just yet but I am so enjoying the discussions, the visits and am so very grateful for the time people are willing to give to me to help me learn.

Another high-profile event which has been looming for some time and dominated most of the summer has been the plight of the courts and judicial system and we are, at time of writing, still experiencing the barristers' strike. It must be known that the courts are having an incredibly challenging time; justice is not working as it should by any stretch of the imagination and I do feel that part of my role is to try to lean into this, to understand and provide any support that is humanly possible.

I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude already for the opportunities that the role of High Sheriff has awarded me. I cannot believe for a moment that the second half of my year will be as eventful as the first but one just never knows what's around the corner!



At Abu Bakr mosque in Southampton

The Lady Edwina Grosvenor

High Sheriff of Hampshire 2022-23



Small things can make a huge difference

I ANTICIPATED many things for my year as High Sheriff, some of which have come to pass and some of which have been very unexpected. I had always imagined that Her Majesty The Queen would outlive me by years, and so when the news broke that she was not well and the Royal Family were travelling to Balmoral, I was astonished.

What an incredible time to have been High Sheriff though. Thankfully Herefordshire's plans for London Bridge were well discussed and practised, meaning the actual events – from the books of condolences, Requiem Mass, County Service of Remembrance and the Proclamation – went (at least to the audience) seamlessly, and with dignity and meaning. I cannot praise all those involved highly enough. My main preoccupation was to read slowly and not cry and apparently I managed to achieve that.

I had always hoped that I would be able to leave a legacy of some good after my year in office but what I have discovered, or perhaps had revealed, is that it is the small things that we

do that make a huge difference, rather than the large gestures. I have two small examples which spring to mind, the first of which is when I awarded some High Sheriff's Certificates in July this year.

Superintendent Edd Williams had forwarded me a letter he had received from a doctor in Worcester, describing an incident on a bridge in Hereford where a father and sons aged 12 and 16 prevented a woman committing suicide. Thanks to the Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Mark Dykes, the Harley family (Phil, Dawn and the boys, Ewin and Mikey) were invited to the Mayor's Parlour in the town hall for a ceremony with myself, the mayor and deputy mayor, Superintendent Williams and Councillor Sebastian Bowen, Chairman of Herefordshire Council, where they were presented with certificates. They are an amazing family. Phil had already received the George Cross from his time dealing with landmines in Afghanistan and Ewin was head boy of Aylestone School. We publicised their incredible efforts and community spirit and had a huge response from people I would not normally have heard from. I feel



Sarah de Rohan with some of the many thank you cards from pupils

the knock-on effect from all of this has been much larger than anticipated.

My focus this year is on youth and preventing young people falling into the criminal justice system. To that end I am visiting all the secondary and tertiary educational establishments in the county, as well as fitting in as many primary schools as possible. The most life-enhancing visit happened at St Mary's Primary School in Credenhill. It is a school slightly different from many as it has a high proportion of children from SAS families. I spoke at a whole school assembly and have never come across such marvellous children – totally engaged, full of questions and an absolute delight to be with. I absolutely loved my time there and subsequently heard via social media from some of the parents. I also received about 40 most beautifully decorated thank you cards and envelopes from the pupils which I will treasure forever.

Sometimes, with all the invitations coming in and a full diary, it can be easy to forget the smaller, lower-profile, less significant (so say) events we are asked to attend, but I believe it is in those that the strength and power of the Shrievalty can often make the most difference.

Below: At the Mayor's Parlour with Superintendent Edd Williams, Cllr Jacqui Carwardine (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Mark Dykes (Mayor) and Cllr Sebastian Bowen (Chairman) to present High Sheriff's Certificates to the Harley family



◆ Sarah de Rohan JP
High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2022-23



The Wight way

WHEN INVITED to be High Sheriff five years ago I could not have envisaged what a significant year 2022 would be: emerging from a pandemic, with everyone making up for lost time and celebrating missed anniversaries, as well as the wonderful opportunity to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Then, of course, came the sad news of the death of The Late Queen Elizabeth II and the subsequent Proclamation of King Charles III.

At my Declaration I chose to announce my theme for the year, 'Inspire to Aspire', the influence for which was my role as a magistrate and my background in nursing and working with young people.

We recognise that some folk choose paths which may ultimately lead them into criminal activity and the importance of positive role models and those who inspire others cannot be overstated.

My year was to shine a light on those groups, charities and individuals who make a difference and inspire others to aspire to make better lifestyle

choices. It has also been an opportunity to connect people in many ways.

I have met people from such a diverse range of backgrounds; highlights for me have been: digging an allotment with some young people; joining them on their practice Duke of Edinburgh Award walks; watching them grow in confidence and having great admiration for their leaders who inspire them to succeed and, literally, go that extra mile.

I have been able to join families with a disabled person getting out on the water in specially adapted boats, each family being excited – giving them confidence and making memories. The smiles on their faces were truly heart-warming, and a privilege for the High Sheriff's Trust to sponsor.

For me, like everyone, Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were extra special. I was honoured to be invited to the rehearsals of Shademakers, 270 volunteers representing the Island, who took part in the pageant processing down The Mall with their fantastic heraldic beast-themed costumes.

The Island does not have a very diverse ethnic population, so it was all the more rewarding to spend time with Equals, a group celebrating equality and diversity on the Isle of Wight, who came together to participate in Ryde Carnival (the oldest carnival in the UK). I was able to join them making their costumes and rehearsing for the procession. They are such a benefit to the Island and enrich the lives of all they meet.

One tip: do not underestimate the power of the High Sheriff's Awards. Thanking your community is such an honour, especially those volunteers who give up their time to make your county a special place to live. The presenting of awards is so very powerful. A number of people have said they received an award and it was something they will treasure. One young lady told me it still gives her goosebumps today when she remembers receiving her award, explaining she had been a troubled child



The Shademakers' unicorns were part of the Platinum Jubilee pageant



Three volunteers from Northwood House & Park each received a High Sheriff's Award

and the award gave her a boost which shaped her decisions and her future.

Although not expecting to get thanks back, this is a recent quote from the IOW High Sheriff's Facebook page; how humbling...

'I follow your posts and just wanted to say what you do, and how much you do, must be appreciated by so many people all over our Island. I see you used to be in the NHS – clearly the service ethic became deeply embedded. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for sharing what you do on social media platforms – bringing images of ordinary people to public recognition. Keep doing what you do and thank you for your service to the Island.'

Kay Marriott
High Sheriff of Isle of Wight 2022-23



With Police Cadets for my Declaration



Connecting communities

JUST BEFORE the end of March, dressed in a long black coat with steel cut buttons and frills, a hat with a sculpted burnt ostrich feather and a sword, I found myself making a solemn declaration to 'truly serve The Queen's Majesty in the Office of High Sheriff of the county of Leicestershire'.

Little did any of us know that six months later we would be standing before our counties, reading the Proclamation, and saying the words 'God Save The King'. Shock, sadness, honour and duty were my overriding emotions. With little time to process the news, everyone came together to honour the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and prepare for our King.

This solemn historical moment eclipsed the whirlwind six months spent engaging with the community from all corners of the county, shining a light on some incredible charities, including Help The Homeless, LOROS (a local hospice), Jamilah's Legacy (a voluntary mental health initiative), to name a few; visiting police headquarters; spending a day on the beat; and sitting in on a murder trial.

'Connecting Communities' has been my theme. After a long period of life in a bubble, my aim was to bring people from the diverse communities of Leicester and Leicestershire together in different ways.

As Ramadan began within a few days of taking office, a *Celebration of Fasting* seemed a fitting way to bring people together and was an initiative supported by our Director of Public Health; people were encouraged to give something up for the day on 20 April (food, TV, social media, sugar, or go nil by mouth).



Breaking of the fast at St Philip's Church, Leicester

Members of the secular and non-secular community from Leicestershire fasted from sunrise to sunset, as did friends, family, and others internationally who picked up what we were doing from social media. Locally, members of the diverse Leicestershire community celebrated the breaking of the fast at St Philip's Church, the Muslim call to prayer bouncing beautifully from the church walls, echoed by the call from the mosque across the road as the sun set.

In July, 60 people from the county walked 10 miles across Bosworth Battlefield with historian Professor Kevin Schurer and expert Richard Mackinder raising funds for charity.

In September, a *Charity Cricket Match, Community Festival, Bake Off and Awards Evening* was organised 'by the community for the community' in collaboration with Leicestershire County Cricket Club. Twenty-four people played cricket at Grace Road, including the Bishop of Loughborough, the former PCC, and representatives from three universities,



At my Declaration with Police Cadets Phillip Scarborough and Anna Barnes, flanked by junior consorts Evony Higgins and Zaara Moosa



With members of the winning charity cricket team



Charity walk across Bosworth Battlefield

charities, local schools, cricket clubs, police, the BBC, etc.

At the celebration of *Unsung Heroes in the Community*, awards and certificates were presented to individuals nominated by the community for making a difference in the areas of Law and Order, Education, Charity, Disability, Women and Girls, Children and Young People, Health and Sport. It was a privilege to meet so many people doing incredible work. One winner said, 'I have been doing this work for 25 years and never before have I had an award for the work that I do.'

So far £23,500 has been raised to support four charities all of which work with children: Warning Zone (keeping children safe from the perils of the digital and physical world), STEPS (conductive education for children with brain injuries), Healing Little Hearts (babies with heart defects), and Leicestershire County Cricket Club Foundation (cricket for underprivileged children).

It has been wonderful to have the support of Police Cadets Phillip Scarborough and Anna Barnes; consorts Vijay Sharma, Krishna Kotecha, Diana Esho; junior consorts Evony Higgins (14) and Zaara Moosa (13); the Very Revd David Monteith, my Chaplain; and Helen Johnson, my Under Sheriff.

 **Mehmooda Duke MBE DL**
High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2022-23



A fitting tribute

HOW QUICKLY the last five months have passed since my Declaration at Knowsley Hall on 21 April. Looking back, I had completely underestimated the amount of admin that comes with the role, and the large file with monthly dividers purchased soon started to fill. The use of social media, photographs and hash tags has been invaluable in helping to profile events and engagements attended, while at the same time outlining the important work undertaken by the third sector, which is beyond measure. Having nearly 30 years' service as a magistrate under my belt, attendance at swearing-in ceremonies of newly appointed magistrates has been rewarding.

As expected, we started off embracing the glorious occasion of the Platinum Jubilee, lighting beacons, celebratory teas, and planting trees for The Queen's Green Canopy. This joy has now been replaced by the immense sadness on the passing of our nation's beloved Queen Elizabeth II. Thursday 8 September 2022 ended a historic reign of 70 years. Her Majesty was a beacon of stability and dignity in what has often been a turbulent world. Her commitment to her duty as sovereign, and a lifelong love of selfless service is beyond comparison.

On receiving the email titled 'London Bridge', there was a sudden realisation that I would now face one of the most important tasks asked of any High Sheriff and would take part in a ritual that was more than 300 years old. At noon on Sunday 11 September, 350 people including the Lord-Lieutenant, Deputy Lieutenants, Bishop of Warrington, Dean of Liverpool, Rector of Liverpool, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, borough mayors, political and executive leads, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services, civic organisations, the judiciary, third sector representatives, faith leaders, Armed Forces, veterans, Merseyside Scouts, and Liverpool Commonwealth Association arrived at the Liverpool Parish Church to hear the official Proclamation of the Accession of the new sovereign, King Charles III. It was a pivotal moment when the congregation declared in unison 'God Save The King'. The service reflected our historic past, but also captured the moment of change when the new adjusted words of National Anthem were sung.

Following the sad passing of Her Majesty tributes have flooded into my office. Over the past few days, I have been interviewed for radio and television, and attended many unique

engagements including the Requiem Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral, a Service of Celebration at Liverpool Cathedral, a civic service at the Hindu Temple, and at the Allerton Synagogue. In recognition of the importance of the River Mersey in Liverpool's history, a fitting tribute was arranged by the maritime sector, when all working vessels gathered in front of the Three Graces (Liver Building, Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building). The formation included pilot launch boats, RNLI lifeboats, river tugs, Mersey Ferries, and the *Disney Magic* cruise liner. River tugs performed Fleur De Lis – spraying water from their fire cannons.

Mirroring the work of my fellow High Sheriffs in England and Wales, I have fulfilled a host of terrific engagements and events. To date I have undertaken 125 engagements. Through each encounter I have learned so much more about my county, including the wonderful diversity that exists within communities. I always return home feeling inspired.

Over the years, High Sheriffs have witnessed many historic and unique events. As we reflect and look forward to serving our new sovereign, King Charles III, our role, function and independence are likely to be just as important now as they were over 1,000 years ago.

Lesley Martin-Wright JP DL
High Sheriff of Merseyside 2022-23



Image: Arthur Gold

At the award-winning Evergreen Chinese Wellbeing Centre whose aim is to provide high-quality, culturally appropriate, community-based services to support older people from Chinese and other communities



On board the *Royal Iris* for the Maritime Commemoration Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with the mayors and of Wirral and Knowsley with their consorts



What goes on under the radar

WHAT AN incredible first six months as High Sheriff – almost impossible to put into 500 words. First, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone I have had the pleasure to meet and work alongside during those months who have been so inspirational and supportive and enabled me to have a more in-depth knowledge of what really goes on under the radar across our county and beyond.

I have reflected on my six months and would like to share a few photographs of just some of the events. It is phenomenal quite how much work goes on across sectors and the impact of that work in providing a more positive life experience for those in need. I have had the opportunity to see how the people in our county do some amazing things, and I have been thrilled to work with young people undertaking wonderful work in a voluntary capacity.

South Wales Police and Police Youth Volunteers, together with borough councils have been so engaging and supportive while always going that extra mile to make things happen. The huge number of charitable events has been

really impressive so far and I am very humbled by what they do and achieve.

Being part of the judicial system and meeting judges, probation staff, magistrates and many others has given me further insight into the work they do.

Presenting High Sheriff's Awards to those who have made a difference in their communities either as a group or individual volunteer has also been so inspirational.



At Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Pontypridd for a remembrance service for Armed Forces Day with officers from South Wales Police and Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Peter Vaughan QPM



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to John Codd, now 92 years old, who has volunteered at Rowan Tree Cancer Care in Mountain Ash for over 40 years

There are two very exceptional occasions that I have had the privilege and honour to be part of during my first six months. The first was meeting His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in July. They visited Treorchy in the Rhondda Valley of Mid Glamorgan after the town won an award for having the best high street – not just in Wales but in the United Kingdom. Thousands of people were there and many of the shops were visited by the royal party – an amazing occasion.

The second was being part of the solemn and ancient Proclamation ceremony marking the Accession of King Charles III, which took place across the country. Following the Proclamation that I made at Merthyr Tydfil I reflected on the passing of our late monarch who touched so many people, with many finding it very difficult to comprehend.

While very sad at The Late Queen's passing, I was hugely honoured and privileged to read the Proclamation – a profound moment in history.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the role as High Sheriff and I look forward to the next six months.



In Treorchy with Their Royal Highnesses The Duchess of Cornwall and The Prince of Wales, and the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Cllr Wendy Treeby

 **Maria Thomas BEM JP**
High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan 2022-23



Thank you, Ma'am

LIKE MANY of you reading this article I have known no other monarch. The Late Queen Elizabeth II has provided the canvass on which I have inked in a few wispy brush strokes since my inglorious arrival in 1958. As I watched my television transfixed, spellbound by the flawlessness of Her Majesty's state funeral on Monday 19 September, I reflected on the unforgettable impression she made on me when we last met in 1993. Her Majesty met millions of people in her long life and I was only one of many. Yet in the moment we shook hands I felt like I was the only person in the world who mattered. I was left dazzled and utterly speechless as she gave me her fullest attention.

As her Lord Chamberlain broke his wand of office and laid it on her coffin at the committal service in St George's Chapel, it suddenly dawned on me that our intake – the cohort of 2022 High Sheriffs – and sworn in only five months before, would be her last.

A walk-through of London Bridge was my first duty as High Sheriff: four days

after my Declaration. I little imagined it would be for real and so soon. Secretly we all hoped and prayed this day would never come. But now it has and the continuity of the Crown has been assured; it is as if I, and others like me, have helped in our own small way to place a reverential full stop on one of the greatest lives this realm has known in over a thousand years.

As an ex-serviceman I feel the loss personally. In 1977 and only a few weeks after Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee, I was sworn into the British Army and began preparing for Sandhurst. My first task was to repeat the Loyal Oath of Allegiance:

I do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend her Majesty, her heirs and successors in person, crown and dignity against all enemies and will observe and obey all orders of her Majesty, her heirs and successors and of the generals and officers set over me.



Meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she opened new law courts in Bedlington in 1993



Re-enacting the visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she visited Hexham in 1974 to celebrate Hexham Abbey's 1300th anniversary (the previous reigning monarch to visit was Henry III in 1224)

As an impressionable 19-year-old it meant something and I have reflected on these words ever since. No wonder then that when I was collared in 2018 as a prospective High Sheriff I didn't give it a second thought. Fast forward to the historic and profound occasion of reading the Proclamation on the steps of Morpeth Town Hall on 11 September 2022 and I was overwhelmed by a wall of noise in response to my call for 'God Save The King'.

A crowd of 1,500 people responded in voluminous and perfect unity 'God Save The King'. That noise will stay with me forever.

Like all High Sheriffs everywhere life in Northumberland has been incredibly busy meeting so many interesting people. But my most iconic moment by far to date was to provide a royal guard for Elizabeth – playing her royal namesake – in a re-enactment of Her Late Majesty's visit to Hexham in 1974. To the sound of drums and the Town Crier, the heroes and volunteers of a Hexham charity, Gateway into the Community, paraded in the Market Place on Saturday 24 September 2022.

Thank you, Ma'am, fare thee well and rest in peace.

God Save The King.

 **James Royds TD**
High Sheriff of Northumberland 2022-23



Focussing on crime prevention

ONE OF my principal points of focus for the year is to work with local projects concentrating on crime prevention, and my chosen charity for the year is Switch Up which operates in Nottingham and the Mansfield area.

Switch Up works with young people – often from difficult backgrounds and often over a period of years – to encourage them to break the cycle of offending and reoffending, and to help them understand that with focus and a little discipline they can do well, get a job, and make a meaningful and productive contribution to society. It has also been working in Mansfield this summer to provide a midday meal for many children who might otherwise have gone hungry over the school holidays.

I felt privileged to have taken part in the grand opening of the new joint Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, officially opened by Vicky McClure from *Line of Duty*. The new HQ is a state-of-the-art facility and – while most local people will never see it – the people of Nottinghamshire should be proud of it and reassured that our local police and fire services have modern and resilient facilities with which to serve and protect our community. The grand opening accompanied the passing out

parade of a large cohort of newly qualified police officers, and a new experience for me was to carry out an inspection of the parade; from my conversations with the new officers, it was clear that they are a great bunch of people determined to serve our local community well.

Over the first half of my year I have become increasingly occupied by the fact that so many of the young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system have significant but undiagnosed speech, language and literacy needs with – locally – 82 per cent having difficulty understanding information, and often lacking sufficient linguistic skills to understand what is happening to them within the system; and 54 per cent having poor social communication skills rendering them more vulnerable to gang involvement and exploitation. In Nottinghamshire we have a brilliant pilot scheme called Divert Plus, working alongside our county's Violence Reduction Unit. Divert Plus works with children and young people who have entered the youth justice system, and aims – among other things – to provide multi-disciplinary support and specialist services including mentoring and speech and language therapy to those most in need, with a view to equipping them with the tools to make better choices in future and to understand the consequences of their



At a visit to Switch Up Mansfield



With PCC Caroline Henry and the Divert Plus team at the Nottingham Custody Suite

behaviour. I recently visited the fantastic and dedicated Divert Plus team at the new Nottingham Custody Suite with our Police and Crime Commissioner, Caroline Henry.

On a lighter note, it was a pleasure to be invited by two fellow Sheriffs, Niamh and Maisie, to the Years 5 and 6 production of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies* at Abbey Gates Primary School, Ravenshead. I had met the girls at our village picnic for the Platinum Jubilee, and their parents and teacher subsequently invited me to see their performance. It was a great evening and it was an honour to note that the girls had modelled their costumes on my uniform... although I found myself feeling a little envious of the fact that – on one of the warmest days of the year – they had sensibly incorporated shorts into their costumes. Thank goodness thick black velvet is so absorbent!



With Marcellus Baz from Switch Up, Jonny Owen, TV producer, actor, writer and fiancé of Vicky McClure, Chief Constable Craig Guildford, and Vicky McClure at the grand opening of the new joint headquarters



Right: With fellow Sheriffs Niamh and Maisie at the Abbey Gates Primary School performance of *Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies*

Paul Southby
High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2022-23



Six months to treasure

I KEEP reminding myself what an honour and privilege it is to be High Sheriff of Oxfordshire and how I have one shot of making an impact within our county. From the outset, I committed to throw myself into every event I attend. This I have done and subsequently thoroughly enjoyed each and every one. I am also aware that providing short-term publicity has limited benefits compared with creating lasting, long-term impact and wherever possible I have tried to create pathways which lead to this.

The key theme of my shrieval year has been 'supporting young people from challenged backgrounds'. My year started off with Six Rackets Sports Day at Radley College where 14 teams from local businesses played real tennis, rackets, fives, squash, badminton and table tennis. Radley College were immense in their support of the event which raised c.£25,000 for Active Oxfordshire.

Next up is a corporate singing day and dinner at Blenheim Palace on 3 November where I will be raising funds for Children Heard and Seen (a charity supporting children, young people and their families who are impacted by parental imprisonment), followed by a wine tasting evening at St John's College Oxford later that month where I will be raising funds for Youth Challenge Oxfordshire.

In addition to helping my own youth charities, I have done what I can to support the broad spectrum of others in Oxfordshire and on 12 September I hosted a youth charities workshop at the Wood Centre for Innovation in Oxford. We were fortunate to have 25 of the largest youth charities in the county attend. John May, Secretary General of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, left the audience spellbound when describing how small acts of kindness had transformed young people's lives throughout the world. Jodie Lloyd-Lewis, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Youth, and Katy Barrow-Grint, Chief Superintendent of Thames

Valley Police, delivered similarly compelling speeches. However, the event was as much about the youth charities sharing their experiences and having the opportunity to meet numerous business people and others offering pro bono support. Similar events are planned for Banbury in the north of the county and Didcot in the south.

Handing out awards to police, prison and fire officers, and search and rescue volunteers has been a joy and re-enforced to me the tremendous work they do each and every day on our behalf.

Over and above the more typical High Sheriff's activities, the Oxfordshire High Sheriff inspects the ladies and men's teams before the National Anthem at the rugby union Varsity Match at Twickenham and participates in the University of Oxford Encaenia, a historic ceremony where citations are read in Latin and honorary doctorates are handed out.

Coming from a world where trade unions are few and far between, I thought I would reach out to the Oxfordshire branch of UNISON. A little shocked at first to hear the High Sheriff was taking an interest in their activities, branch secretary Janie Wease and three of her colleagues made me very welcome. The meeting was extremely constructive, with a good focus on building aspirations; I left knowing a little more about the very real cost-of-living pressure the low paid in our county are facing and the way trade unions go about supporting their members.

All in all, a wonderful first six months, and my focus now turns to setting the agenda, rather than reacting to invitations and events.

◆ Mark Beard

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2022-23

Below: With John May, Secretary General of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Grant Hayward, Champion for Business and Social Value, Katy Barrow-Grint, Chief Superintendent Thames Valley Police, and Jodie Lloyd-Lewis, Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Youth, at the Oxfordshire Youth charities' workshop





Accessible and rewarding volunteering

ONE OF the great privileges of being a High Sheriff is to shine a light on the community heroes in our counties – never has it, or have they, been more relevant and essential than in this year following the global pandemic, war in Ukraine, looming inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

In the past few months I have met with over 100 amazing charities, community interest companies, and organisations with wonderful people doing wonderful work responding to various urgent needs in the county – from manning mental health hotlines, to harvesting food for food banks, supporting the sick, elderly and isolated, and hosting refugee families, to name but a few. Almost all of these wonderful organisations are desperate for more volunteers.

My theme this year is volunteering and I have not only been thanking all those who currently are, and highlighting the ordinary people doing extraordinary things, but also trying to show others how accessible and rewarding volunteering can be. In order to reach as many potential volunteers as possible I have been working (with volunteers!) to harness the power of social media and launched 'High Sheriff Asks' on Facebook and Instagram which highlights the opportunities and benefits of volunteering. This has undoubtedly

been part of the reason that the online following has trebled since April.

I began my year with a series of meetings to raise awareness of Crimebeat. Bringing together representatives from church, education, council, alternative provision, youth groups, law and order, and others in a series of meetings made for some fascinating conversations and connections made. Over the past few months I have heard the words 'prevention and early intervention' almost every day, and the word 'purposeful' and the phrase 'lived experience' just as often – for young people, their peers are the next best thing to 'lived experience'; it is a fact that they listen to their peers more than any other group. For their peers to think of purposeful activity which in turn prevents crime is so 'on message', and with more meetings to come, I hope that we may see some initiatives put forward by Shropshire in the coming years.

It has been a momentous year. We have had Platinum Jubilee celebrations with associated lunches, beacons, fetes, and parties in the park. We planted 1,000s of trees for The Queen's Green Canopy project and applauded community heroes bearing the baton for the Commonwealth Games. Then, of course, came the devastating news of the death of the longest-serving monarch in our history.

It goes without saying that nobody embodied community spirit more powerfully than our Late Queen Elizabeth II; she was an inspiration and has given us all a legacy to cherish and a standard of humanity to admire.

I think all High Sheriffs in recent years had been hoping that the duty did not fall to them, but reading the Proclamation was undoubtedly a defining moment and it was extraordinary to be part of something so historically profound. The momentousness of the



With Perry, the official mascot of Birmingham 2022, and Mayor of Telford and Wrekin Cllr Raj Mehta at an Energize School Games event supporting the legacy of the Commonwealth Games



Opening the new Men's Shed in Cleobury Mortimer

occasion weighed heavily, but thanks to the immaculate planning of many behind the scenes the events in both Shrewsbury and in Telford were fantastic, and it was hugely heartening to see how many people turned out, or watched online, to recognise the historic moment and to pledge their support for our new King.

In early October I shall be hosting around 1,000 people at two events: the first as a fundraiser for the Shropshire Community Foundation and the Alzheimer's Society, and the second a 'bring a volunteer' party to celebrate the many unsung heroes in our county.

The adjectives tumble for my first six months as High Sheriff – interesting, exhilarating, compelling, humbling, fascinating, genuinely life-changing... and exhausting!

Selina Graham

Hon Mrs Graham, High Sheriff of Shropshire 2022-23



Unveiling the Covid Memorial Sculpture in Market Drayton



Blazing a trail

LITTLE DID I think that almost six months into my term so much in our country would have changed since I made my Declaration when I enjoyed the most amazing day.

The Shrievalty had placed their trust in me as the first High Sheriff to have been born disabled. The year has not been without its challenges, but that is the normality of life when one has a physical impairment. I have been heartened by the trouble many – sadly not all – have taken to accommodate my additional requirements.

I was keen to reach out to all my fellow Welsh Sheriffs, and organised Zoom meetings and a WhatsApp group at least a year before we took on our roles. Together, we have been able to work through all manner of issues, which collectively has helped us in what we do in our respective counties.

I have been honoured to attend court to witness the installation of a new Recorder of Cardiff and a swearing in ceremony for new magistrates. I have joined with faith leaders, the military, and charitable groups (among others) to lend support to many good causes in the county. Often the highlight has been to give High Sheriff's Award certificates to very deserving individuals or organisations.

I have been in the company of royalty, school children, volunteers and asylum seekers, and they have each taught me vastly differing but valuable lessons.

During the course of the Jubilee celebrations I was presented to Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, together with Prince George and Princess Charlotte. Shortly after the

Jubilee holiday, it was also a delight to welcome His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to Cardiff. I was uniquely privileged, at the suggestion of the Prince's private secretary, to show His Royal Highness a photograph of an oil portrait of him I had recently completed. This was painted as part of a project to support the work of NSPCC Cymru, my chosen charity for the year. Fortunately it was viewed favourably, and a trip to the Tower was avoided!

The lighter side to being High Sheriff over the glorious Jubilee weekend was to be asked to open our local street party, during which I presented a High Sheriff's Award to a dedicated lady who, during lockdowns, spent a great deal of time making sure her older neighbours were safe and secure.

I have been humbled by the commitment of blue light and emergency services to their communities and have been able to witness first-hand the rigorous training police, fire and ambulance officers undertake. I had the pleasure of presenting High Sheriff's Awards to members of the Welsh Ambulance Service for their actions in saving a member of the public from certain death, having fallen into the path of a moving train.

The saddest part of my year has been Queen Elizabeth's passing. Despite the arrangements laid out in Operation London Bridge, I genuinely hoped that the consequences of the monarch's death would not fall during my year.

Below left: Enjoying my local Platinum Jubilee street party

Below: Presenting High Sheriff's Awards to the Welsh Ambulance Service



Meeting Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, together with Prince George and Princess Charlotte over the Platinum Jubilee weekend

As a High Sheriff whose county includes the capital city of Wales, the reading of the Proclamation was a little different. Nevertheless, arrangements had to be made to allow me to access the dais to take part in the ceremonial aspects of the occasion. I have only the highest praise for the designer, and was honoured that my appearance on the dais at the start of the new Carolean era meant an obviously disabled person had taken part in a significant moment in history.

I could only marvel at the stoicism shown by His Majesty The King and The Queen Consort during their tour of the UK. To be presented to the now King prior to the service at Llandaff Cathedral – only weeks after his last visit to Wales as Prince of Wales – was a very surreal moment.

So what of the rest of my year? It goes without saying that I shall continue to blaze a trail in my own inimitable way, showing that no matter the level of impairment, a disabled person can make a meaningful and lasting contribution to institutions whether ancient or modern. Hopefully my time as High Sheriff will help further promote an inclusive and encompassing Shrievalty.

Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds OBE

High Sheriff of South Glamorgan 2022-23



Quickly on the start line

AS I write this article, we are in the midst of the period of national mourning – a time of great sadness. I served Her Majesty for almost 45 years as a soldier and was fortunate to meet her on several occasions. This included my investiture and subsequently my son's investiture at Windsor Castle as well as at several regimental celebrations when we were joined by our Captain General.

My enduring memory is of a lady who radiated charm, had an eye for detail the envy of any regimental Sergeant Major, and of someone who was dedicated to the service of others. As I have watched the dignity and precision of the arrangements of the military and the outpouring of emotion from the public, I have been immensely proud. We have been so fortunate to have served her; we will all be equally proud to serve our new King.

Reading the Proclamation was a task I had hoped not to have to undertake but it is a job I am immensely proud to have done. On the steps of City Hall in Sheffield with the great and the good of our county together with members of the



Celebrating Armed Forces Day with the Royal Horse Artillery

public as far as the eye could see, there was a fanfare; the crowd fell silent, the town hall clock struck and, after a short introduction by the Lord-Lieutenant, I read the Proclamation. Immediately afterwards, the mayors of Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster returned to read the Proclamation one hour later at their own town hall while I took the opportunity to speak to members of the public. Then, and at other times, I have been struck by the palpable sadness and mourning in our communities at the loss of our Sovereign Lady, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

A year ago, I was planning for my tenure as High Sheriff in 2023-24. This changed when the High Sheriff in nomination, Professor Dame Hilary Chapman, was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire. I had to step up and make some changes to my working life to accommodate my now rapidly approaching appointment. This was not difficult and, with the support of an excellent Under Sheriff and the new Lord-Lieutenant, I was quickly on the start line of the Declaration in April in very good order. Since then, it has been a



With Chaplain, Padre Albert Jackson

roller coaster of events. I recognised that the focus needed to be support of the judiciary and was made most welcome by the Recorder of Sheffield, His Honour Judge Jeremy Richardson KC, and all the judges and staff in Sheffield. I have found the experience of seeing the workings of the judicial system at close quarters fascinating. It has also been a real pleasure to meet socially on several occasions.

The Jubilee Weekend was a great opportunity to reach out to so many of our communities and support their many and varied activities for this never-to-be-repeated celebration of service. The happiness and warmth we felt towards our sovereign of 70 years were evident.

This year, we have seen the great joy of the Jubilee celebrations and the sadness of Queen Elizabeth's death. High Sheriffs 2022-23 have served both The Queen and The King, a historic moment and probably unique in our lifetimes.

God Save The King.

♦ Lt Col Robert
McPherson MBE
High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2022-23



A 'confusion' of Yorkshire High Sheriffs at the Great Yorkshire Show L-R: James Lambert (North Yorkshire), Mrs Sue Baker (West Riding) and Lt Col Mac McPherson (South Yorkshire)



Fantastic community response

IT WAS a great honour to take over the historic Office of High Sheriff of Staffordshire in April and a privilege to be able to celebrate the Jubilee of the longest-serving monarch in British history. But my first six months as High Sheriff have also seen the end of that reign and the great sadness across the county, country and Commonwealth as we mourned Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The High Sheriff's duties at that time included reading the Proclamation of our new King and I was able to see first-hand the deep affection and respect for our Queen and what her passing has symbolised for so many people.

It's now the role of the High Sheriff to support King Charles III in all matters of law and order and to continue to bring people together in the county and to benefit the community.

My engagement with the local community has been wide and varied, ranging from visits to HM Prison Stafford and Werrington Young Offender Institution, to the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the National Memorial Arboretum.

I have been overwhelmed and honoured by the sheer quantity of invitations I have received to experience and celebrate the incredible work that goes into making Staffordshire the county that it is. It warms my heart

to see the crowds of people all eager to engage with their local community especially given that only a year ago socialising in large groups was still a cautious task because of Covid.

As the High Sheriff of Staffordshire, I was delighted to attend the vaccination volunteers' celebrations at the Pirelli Stadium, home of Burton Albion FC where I am chairman. The English Football League (EFL) recognised the Pirelli Vaccination Centre as the Best Community Project of the Year among all 72 clubs competing in the EFL. The first dose was administered at the Pirelli Stadium COVID-19 Vaccination Centre in December 2020, which was the catalyst for an incredible response to the pandemic in the local community. Eighteen months later over 400,000 vaccinations have been administered (now including flu jabs) saving the lives of countless residents. This fantastic community response would not have been possible without the selfless volunteers who put their hands up amid a national emergency and the support of the Burton Albion Community Trust. I assisted the Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Ian Dudson CBE who presented volunteers with certificates and COVID badges as a token of appreciation for their dedication and the timeless hours they undertook in supporting the vaccination programme.

I was delighted to have been invited to the Staffordshire Garden Party Marquee at the Staffordshire County Showground by the Lord-Lieutenant. It was a great privilege to be one of the 500 nominees from organisations across the county invited in recognition of their outstanding service to the community of Staffordshire throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The celebrations also coincided with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

I engaged in many celebrations across the Jubilee weekend, notably the official opening of the new Jubilee Park in the village of Loggerheads. I hope the children who attended will remember the Jubilee celebrations fondly and they will bring their families to the park in the future.

It was my profound honour to perform the first Proclamation in over 70 years on the steps of the Shire Hall building in Stafford and the Stoke-on-Trent Cenotaph. It was delightful to see hundreds of Staffordshire citizens who had travelled to pay their respects to Her Late Majesty and witness the historical event of proclaiming King Charles III. I hope these events will be recalled by the citizens of Staffordshire for generations to come.

Ben Robinson MBE BEM DL
High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2022-23



Image: Elan Homes

With Kate Davis from Elan Homes at the official opening of Jubilee Park in the village of Loggerheads; the new Brook Meadow development by Elan Homes crowned its play area in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Image: Robert Yardley Photography

With L-R: Sydney Sawyers, Jane Sawyers QPM DL (former Chief Constable of Staffordshire), Ruby Nagi and Pritpal Singh Nagi MBE DL at the Staffordshire Platinum Jubilee Garden Party



Image: Robert Yardley Photography

With front L-R: handler Greg Hedges and the mascot of Staffordshire Regimental Association, Cpl Watchman VI, Jane Dudson and Lord-Lieutenant Ian Dudson at the Staffordshire County Show



A 'taste match' special



Some of the charities at the High Sheriff's garden party



Photos: Andy Newbold Photography

THE SUDDEN passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has of course been, and will remain, the most significant event in my year of office. I read the Proclamation from the steps of Guildford Cathedral before a large gathering at 1.00 pm on Sunday 11 September.

The Dean, her team and those responsible for the special operation, worked tirelessly with my Under Sheriff Caroline Breckell and ensured all went smoothly. It was a memorable historic occasion, with people of all ages coming together to herald the Accession of King Charles III. I handed to the mayors of the county their copies of the Proclamation and they departed to read them in

their boroughs. At 2.00 pm a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving witnessed the choir superbly sing two anthems and the Lord-Lieutenant give a moving address.

The theme for my year is 'Against abuse, for recovery', my intention being to give support to victims of domestic abuse and also to those most adversely affected by Covid. In 2019 I was asked by the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux to chair a Lieutenancy focus group on domestic abuse. As High Sheriff I am helping to publicise the shocking increase in abuse and violence against women and girls, especially since the first lockdown. I have met not just the police and judiciary, but also public and charitable agencies who help victims. One initiative in May enabled the women and young children living in refuges in Surrey to enjoy a day out at a working farm/ play area. There will also be a December trip for them to meet Father Christmas. In October I have invited a distinguished speaker to talk about domestic abuse at an evening conference.

The first High Sheriff's Youth Awards charity golf day was held in June and a substantial sum was raised. This will mean more grants for projects that help young people. It was the idea of my predecessor, Shahid Azeem DL (2020), but Covid prevented it happening in 2020 and 2021. A lot of work was carried out by a team experienced in arranging such a day.

My garden party on 23 June was held at the University of Surrey School of Veterinary Medicine. I invited 20 charities to attend and set up stalls. My guests enjoyed talking to the charity workers who, together with their charities, apparently benefited from such contact.

Following a conversation with David Kelham, High Sheriff of Warwickshire, at the Old Bailey reception for this year's High Sheriffs, he and I have agreed upon a 'Taste Match' at a vineyard in Dorking in October, when producers of wine, gin, beer and cider from the two counties will meet. The public will be able to

taste and compare the drinks from the two counties. Over 30 artisans from the Surrey Hills will also offer their goods for sale. Any net proceeds from the event will go to the High Sheriff's Youth Awards scheme. In February there will be a return event at Warwick Castle to benefit charities in Warwickshire.

I have so far hosted two themed dinners. The first brought together 10 individuals whose work is connected with domestic abuse: a senior police officer, three women who run refuges or outreach services, focus group members, and University of Surrey legal academics. The second was about sustainability and my 10 guests were from businesses relating to fossil fuel consumption, environmental DNA, and construction, as well as from the Stock Exchange, the county council, and the environmental department of the University of Surrey. Both dinners facilitated an exchange of ideas and practices and created useful links. I plan follow-up dinners shortly before my year ends. In September I am giving a dinner for those working with individuals of all ages who have mental health problems, particularly referable to Covid.

The county held a 'Surrey Day' in May, organised by the Surrey Hills Society and BBC Radio Surrey. From 9.00 am to 7.00 pm the Lord-Lieutenant and I separately visited different businesses and organisations across the county, culminating in radio interviews in front of Guildford Cathedral. The day involved my visiting five locations: a workhouse museum, a vineyard, a large garden centre/ farm, a mosque, and an art gallery. The day was a delightful way to publicise and celebrate the county's beauty, diversity and businesses.

I believe that there has not been a Law and Order Conference organised by a Surrey High Sheriff since the 1970s, so I have organised one for November at which a former Chief Constable, a former Prison Governor and a QC will talk about the criminal justice system.

His Honour Christopher Critchlow DL

High Sheriff of Surrey 2022-23



Volunteering for community good

I MUST start by saying that it has been an honour and a pleasure to be the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear and the first six months have passed so quickly. I suspect like all High Sheriffs I have had the joy of being involved in Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – with 21 events in three days including eight garden parties – and the sadness of Her Majesty's passing and I know for certain that I will never make a more important speech than the Proclamation.

The Proclamation was made outside Newcastle Law Courts at 1.00 pm on 11 September and was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant, all the civic leaders from the five local authorities in Tyne and Wear, chiefs from all the blue light services, judges, and thousands of members of the public. The date was also the same as the Great North Run so, due to extensive road closures, it was decided that that the platform attendees would meet at Middle Engine Police Station and that we should have a blue light escort to make sure that we all arrived on time – a huge thanks to Northumbria Police for their attention to detail. I had hoped that I would never have to make this speech but on the day the Proclamation went well and allowed Tyne and Wear to complete its role appropriately.

My theme for the year has been 'volunteering for community good' with a very much bottom-up approach – please do not get me wrong, it is a pleasure to attend the large ceremonial events. But equally, it is so good to meet smaller often very local groups which, through challenging work and imagination, volunteer to make their community better. I have particularly enjoyed the sessions and events with young people where we discussed the benefits of volunteering for community good.

If I was asked to use one phrase to describe the role of a High Sheriff, my reply would be 'connecting people'. There are no doors which will not be opened for a High Sheriff and it is great to be able to bring different groups together for community good, with these relationships continuing after my year in office a real positive legacy.

While the High Sheriff is the figurehead my year in office has been so well supported by the Lord-Lieutenant, Lucy Winkell OBE, and her office, by my Under Sheriff, Russell Hewitson, by the civic leaders from the five local authorities and all the blue light services; it has been a joy to work with them all and I look forward to working with them for community good in the future.



Platinum Jubilee Gosforth Village Hall garden party

David Bavaird JP
High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2022-23



Platinum Jubilee visit to ambulance call centre in Newcastle



Platinum Jubilee visit to Tynemouth Fire Station



Thank, convene and connect

I HAVE been described as a fairy-story character when in costume – one of the Grimm ones, given our historical role. The recent royal succession has shown that we are a small part of the pageant and there are characters in it far more colourful – some with actual wands.

All has changed with the death of Queen Elizabeth II – and yet all has stayed the same. That is part of the magic of myth; there is comfort in archaic roles, rituals and continuity.

According to Yuval Noah Harari in *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, it is that shared belief in myths which supports all the structures and keeps society together, and that would include law and order.

Beyond the costume, the superpower the High Sheriff wields is in the simple 'thank you'. Whether to paid public servants or to volunteers, it carries real weight when backed by the heritage of the role and the representative power of the sovereign.

Our late sovereign held true to 'Faith, Hope and Charity', the three great Christian virtues which I find motivate volunteers in some of our cutting-edge services – community centres, community groceries and prisoner rehabilitation.

Faith, Hope and Charity, a book by Andy Wood, looks at society in the harsh years of the early 17th century. He quotes an epitaph: 'Charity with us grows cold / Worse in this age than twas of old.' A common trope then as now.

'Ah neighbourhood, neighbourhood, dead and buried art thou with Robin Hood,' lamented the poet and playwright Thomas Nashe in 1592 – noting in passing the reference to the bête noire of High Sheriffs. Yet the spirit of neighbourliness did survive and that should give us reassurance as we face a bleak end to this year.

King Charles III intends consistency and continuity, mirroring the view I have of how the impact of the High Sheriff can be increased. With only

12 months, limited resources and no actual power, I did not expect to change the world (and will meet that expectation). However, the power within the mantra: 'Thank, Convene and Connect' has highlighted some areas where a difference can be made.

Working in concert with others: High Sheriffs all face similar problems but with different outlooks. I have found the opportunity to partner with my colleague in Surrey to leverage connections to have an impact in both our counties.

Raising relevant profile: This doesn't require grand gestures. The Late Queen said, quoting Mother Teresa, 'Do small things with great love.' People remember being thanked, remember you turning up, or making a connection you promised. That builds a consistent profile.

Linking initiatives: An oral history project emerging from therapeutic work with recent veterans is building on work done arising from Coventry's year as UK City of Culture – one that will have impact beyond my shrieval year.

Delegation: A frustration is not being able to be in two places at one time. My proudest moment has been when my son laid a wreath at the rededicated grave of a Victoria Cross recipient, part of a ceremony made possible by the work of very committed volunteers recognising an individual who was no older than my son when he won the honour.

An image I saw from the copious but compelling coverage around both the Jubilee and the funeral of Her Majesty The Queen resonated in its capture of the close collaboration of the voluntary and professional public services: members of the Scouts, Police and St John Ambulance working to hold back the crowds at George VI's Coronation.

History has much to teach us.



At my Declaration with Police Cadets in the Chapel of St James at the Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick



Tobias Kelham (second from left) at rededication of the grave for Cpl Amey VC MM in Leamington Spa

 **David Kelham**
High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2022-23



In the international spotlight

WHEN I was sworn in as High Sheriff of the County of West Midlands in April 2022, I knew that it was a real privilege to have been asked to take on this role and everything that I have seen and done since then has proved that to be true.

This was always going to be a momentous year for the country and, particularly, for the West Midlands region. We were at the tail end of UK City of Culture in my home city of Coventry and I was fortunate enough to be the High Sheriff for the final month of celebrations which were truly spectacular.

Then, of course, we had the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, with activity and excitement stretching across the whole of the region which all helped to put the West Midlands and the country in the international spotlight.

The Commonwealth Games has a very dear place in my heart and I was asked to be the Mayor of the Athletes Village at the University of Warwick, which was wonderful. I've experienced

Games' villages before and they are very special places – this was no different.

There was so much joy spread among the many representatives of so many nations and, for me, if that proves to be my last 'hands-on' experience of a Games then it was extremely fitting and wonderful to be part of it.

This role has also afforded me the opportunity to be involved with Armed Forces Day celebrations in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, which were particularly poignant during these troubled times and a great opportunity to pay tribute to those who make up the Armed Forces community.

I've seen many great projects and causes which benefit so many people in the West Midlands such as the Sense TouchBase Pears (supporting adults and children who are deafblind, have sensory impairments or complex needs) and I also took part in a lovely memory session run by CV Life in Coventry which gave individuals that safe place of looking back into the past, which can be comforting.

With my counterpart, Heather Phillips – the High Sheriff of Greater London – I have seen the great work that the charity Beating Time is doing both in and out of prisons by presenting opportunities for those who are serving time and for those who have recently come out of prison, who need support around finding a job and integrating back into society.

Of course, I cannot look back upon my first six months in this role without reflecting on Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

First, it was a joy to be part of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. When I became High Sheriff that was something I was really looking forward to and the outpouring of love for The Queen and the joy that the weekend brought could be seen right across the West Midlands.

We saw that outpouring of love and gratitude again more recently but this time due to the very sad passing of Her Majesty. It was a moment that touched the whole world.

Part of my role was to ensure that the Proclamation was read out across all local authority areas in the West Midlands and I attended the event in Coventry; I pay tribute to the Lord Mayor, Cllr Kevin Maton, for the way he handled it so sensitively and dutifully.

It was an extremely moving few days and while extremely sorrowful, I was proud to fulfil such an important duty – something Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took very seriously.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has supported me in this role so far, including Lord-Lieutenant John Crabtree OBE, all of the Deputy Lieutenants, who do such a great job for the region, my Cadet, Pavan Johal, the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and, finally, the network of High Sheriffs across the Midlands.

David Moorcroft OBE
High Sheriff of West Midlands 2022-23



Above: At an impromptu service for Her Late Majesty at Coventry Cathedral on the Friday evening after her death

Above right: At the premiere of the West Midlands Platinum Jubilee Anthem with Linda Moorcroft, Oliver Hayne (composer), John Crabtree OBE (Lord-Lieutenant) and Diana Crabtree

Right: With some of the 1,000s of volunteers at the Commonwealth Games





Using my role to connect

I WAS declared High Sheriff of West Sussex on 14 April at Lewes Crown Court by the Rt Hon Lord Justice Haddon-Cave, Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales, 25 years after my father was declared for East Sussex in the same court. I proudly wore his slightly altered court dress with a maternal family sword.

East and West Sussex have a strong bond as the counties are one bailiwick with one police force and both High Sheriffs undertake several engagements together, which I value.

I am six months in and have a good picture of how the county operates. I have been involved with the police, visited prisons, courts, many charities and worshiped many times in our wonderful cathedral in Chichester with my diary offering so much more to look forward to.

This year is all about my county and I am using my role to connect people where there could be positive synergies. So much of the third sector is underpinned by volunteers who quietly perform their duties day in, day out, for which we owe them a deep sense of gratitude. However, we need more as they have dwindled to below the levels we enjoyed before the pandemic so wherever I go I spread the message.

The legal system is one of concern as it is creaking with an unprecedented

backlog of cases, shortage of staff and, in many areas, difficult buildings, so I try and offer support wherever I can as the judges, magistrates, support staff and all the others involved are doing a great job under very trying times.

My most humbling event has been an award ceremony for The Order of St John for Organ Donation where the

“This year is all about my county and I am using my role to connect people where there could be positive synergies.”

High Sheriff of East Sussex, Jane King, and I gave awards to people who had lost family members and donated their organs to unknown people in need. The decision for this to happen has to be taken very soon after their family member (whether partner, sibling or child) has died and therefore it was

Below left: with Chief Constable Jo Shiner, recently retired Deputy CC Julia Chapman and PCC Katy Bourne at the Chief Constable's Award Ceremony

Below right: With Jane King (East Sussex) at the South of England Agricultural Society remembering Queen Elizabeth II; Her Majesty was patron of SEAS

a very personal and heart-warming day where we met so many forward-thinking, brave, wonderful people.

Clearly the most important and proud role of my year will have been to read an introduction and then the Proclamation of Accession of King Charles III on County Hall's steps in Chichester on 11 September. Following Queen Elizabeth's death all the events in my diary, except one, were postponed or cancelled but quickly replaced with new events to honour our late monarch. All were memorable and moving but a service at Chichester Cathedral stood out. The Dean put together a fitting programme and the Bishop of Chichester gave a wonderful address highlighting the exceptional person she was together with her achievements both personal and public.

I must also mention the police; an easy target for the press but gosh they do a good job, and often when on the beat or being called to an emergency do not know the outcome. I have attended four award ceremonies so far whether they be Long Serving, Bravery, Chief Constable Special or Attestation Awards. Each is as important as the others and greatly valued by the officers and their families. The connection between the police and Shrievalty in Sussex is strong.

James Whitmore
High Sheriff of West Sussex 2022-23



Photo: William King



Two little words

SOMETIMES EVEN the best laid plans go wrong, and so it was that I found myself testing positive for Covid two days before the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, unable to take part in the important Proclamation ceremony for my county.

That role went to my Under Sheriff, David Barraclough, graciously supported by my Lord-Lieutenant, Ed Anderson CBE, and I could only watch events unfold via the BBC! However, I was still able to take part remotely in various county meetings as the London Bridge plans were implemented, and I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of the local authorities in West Yorkshire for the way they worked tirelessly, bringing together all the disparate council and emergency services to ensure everything ran smoothly throughout the mourning period. It was wonderful to see so many different communities coming together and the deep sadness I felt was tinged with enormous pride at being a part of this great nation.

As I look back over the start of my year, my Declaration ceremony already seems an age ago. However, the preparations for my shrieval year had begun some two months earlier when,

with the encouragement and support of my predecessor, Clive Lloyd, I started introducing myself to a number of civic dignitaries whose help I hoped I might receive during my year of office.

While I knew many interesting invitations to a wide variety of events would come my way, I wanted my focus for the year to be on supporting small grassroots community groups, particularly those working with young people at risk of becoming involved in drugs, gangs and crime.

The variety of ways in which these organisations deal with the young people they are trying to help has impressed me greatly. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has a number of youth intervention programmes and works with The Prince's Trust to implement them. Project Challenge in Halifax provides alternative education for young people aged 16 to 19 who have long dropped out of formal education. CATCH in Harehills, a deprived inner city area of Leeds, has a youth community hub designed, built and run by the young people themselves, who are the volunteers, with minimal supervision from adults. These are only three of the organisations I have visited, but their aims are the same:



With the staff at Project Challenge, Halifax: Tom Harnett, Kate Brander, Lorna Butterick (Business Manager), Stacey Wood, Georgia Frampton, and Kate Tavana



On a visit to West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service with Annabel Pugh and Claire Wright, Youth Intervention and Prince's Trust Manager

to help disadvantaged young people build their self-esteem and self-confidence, to take on responsibility and to learn skills which will help them in the future.

Many of the groups rely on volunteers for their survival and I have already met a number of ordinary people doing extraordinary things within their communities. They do not seek recognition or reward, but believe passionately in what they are doing.

It has been heartwarming to be welcomed by each of the groups I have contacted, all of whom are delighted that a High Sheriff has taken an interest in their work. Having been a volunteer myself, I know how much it means when somebody notices you and says 'thank you'. It has been an opportunity to present High Sheriff's certificates to individuals who deserve special merit and I have learned never to underestimate the importance of those two little words.

Susan Baker MBE JP DL
High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2022-23



With young volunteers at CATCH (Community Action to Create Hope) in Harehills, Leeds



For those who go the extra mile

‘DEAR DIARY, what a day it’s been...’ (The Moody Blues, 1969)

I made the Proclamation on 11 September 2022 at the Guildhall, Worcester. These lyrics were in my mind when I stood in front of a large crowd, many gathered hours before. Live streaming and a camera crew all added to the occasion. We made the lead on BBC *Midlands Today* that evening.

Philip Larkin wrote
(Silver Jubilee in 1977):

*In time when nothing stood
But worsened, or grew strange
There was one constant good:
She did not change*

Henry James said on the death of Queen Victoria: *‘We all feel a bit motherless today.’*

I had these mixed emotions as I prepared for my day. We had lost our queen and gained a new prime minister and a new king, all in the



At my Declaration with the Rt Hon Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division, and my predecessor, Richard Amphlett



The team at Batchley Support Group (BSG), Redditch with their High Sheriff's Award

space of a few days. And, as I practised the cadences of the Proclamation beforehand in front of the dog, I felt I was playing a small part in history.

I went out to the steps of the Guildhall. Quiet. All eyes on me. Statues of Charles I and Charles II looked down from this historic building – dating from 1721 and once the seat of justice in the city. The Lord-Lieutenant, the Lord Bishop of Worcester and assembled dignitaries stood to my right and left.

I was about 90 per cent of the way through the Proclamation when someone collapsed at the front of the crowd: a lady who, to get a prime position, had arrived two hours before. She had been standing all that time. I paused, explained what had happened and asked for paramedics to help. It soon emerged that the lady had fainted, thankfully nothing worse, although she was shaken by the experience.

I resumed. Deciding to repeat a few lines from the Proclamation before finishing it, I added a rousing ‘God Save The King!’ and ‘three cheers for His Majesty Charles III’. A fitting reflection that from past sadness arise hope, optimism and expectation for the future.

My final duty was to hand over Proclamation scrolls to representatives of the seven districts in the county so they could spread the word to their communities.

I dived into the crowd and spoke to the lady, now sitting on a Guildhall chair and feeling much better. I also met so many people, all enthused by being part of Worcestershire’s history that day. A big thank you to all involved. You know who you are.

A privilege to play my part, to add to the many events, wonderful charities, public servants and lay people I have met in my shrieval year. In their own way, the warp and weft of the county, they have been as important to me as the Proclamation day.

Just one typical example from one day in the diary, yesterday, as I write this:

I gave a High Sheriff’s Award to retired PC Paul Downes of West Mercia



With PC Paul Downes (retired) and Insp Richard Field (both of West Mercia Police) at Redditch police station to present a High Sheriff’s Award

Police for long and outstanding service, and then another award to the long-running Batchley Support Group in Redditch for their community work, counselling, mental health and homeless support, and the famous Community Pantry where food is distributed and no one is ever turned away. Paul and BSG are making a real difference. It was also my pleasure to distribute to the BSG team my Extra Mile lapel pins.

The Thursday Club in Worcester is where I finished my day: it is for people young and old with learning difficulties and is celebrating 40 years of existence. Meeting weekly – typically more than 100 people – it fulfils a need which statutory authorities do not: getting together for social events, activities, and just making friends in what could otherwise be a lonely life. I gave them an award and Extra Mile lapel pins. They are a delight to be with and their enthusiasm almost tangible – a joy to experience. Days like this make this role so important for our county.

Andrew Manning-Cox
High Sheriff of Worcestershire 2022-23

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 DL
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
R J Beckley Esq QPM	Somerset	2024
G R Biss Esq BEM DL	Isle of Wight	2024
Mrs P B Churchward	Herefordshire	2024
Mrs L Fraser	East Sussex	2024
Ms M L Grant KC	Greater London	2024
Mrs H Jones	Dyfed	2024
Ms K B Mirza	Buckinghamshire	2024
Ms A Schaaafsma	Cambridgeshire	Under Sheriff
A W Woodhouse Esq	Dorset	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.

DEATHS

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

Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham Bt Date of death: 26-May-22 Age: 88 County: Cheshire Year of office: 1991	Sir Edward Hulse Date of death: 25-Aug-22 Age: 89 County: Hampshire Year of office: 1978
D G W Barham Esq JP DL Date of death: 17-Jun-22 Age: 95 County: Kent Year of office: 1974	Mrs S E Lee JP DL MBE Date of death: 31-May-22 Age: 82 County: South Yorkshire Year of office: 2005
R L Bradbeer Esq Date of death: 5-Oct-22 Age: 93 County: Isle of Wight Year of office: 1997	Marianna, the Viscountess Monckton of Brenchley Date of death: 5-Jul-22 Age: 93 County: Kent Year of office: 1981
Colonel H G Brown TD MB DL Date of death: 21-May-22 Age: 95 County: Tyne and Wear Year of office: 1992	Sir David C Samworth CBE DL Date of death: 16-Aug-22 Age: 87 County: Leicestershire Year of office: 1997
R D Clegg Esq Date of death: 19-May-22 Age: 80 County: Gloucestershire Year of office: 2012	E W A Sanford Esq Date of death: 28-Jun-22 Age: 93 County: Somerset Year of office: 1992
The Countess of Erroll Date of death: 13-Jan-20 Age: 64 County: Bedfordshire Year of office: 2015	Mrs Anna M Trye MBE DL Date of death: 25-Feb-22 Age: 77 County: Warwickshire Year of office: 2008
M S Evans Esq Date of death: 14-Sep-22 Age: 88 County: North Yorkshire Year of office: 2002	

THE HIGH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF ENGLAND

COUNTY	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
BEDFORDSHIRE	R A Beard Esq	B Shah Esq	Mrs C A King
BERKSHIRE	S H Muir Esq	A Barfield Esq	S Z Taylor Esq DL
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Dame Ann Geraldine Limb DBE DL	Ms K B Mirza	Mrs P J Kirkbride
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Dr B N Khetani	D J Way Esq	The Hon F Stanley DL
CHESHIRE	D Dunn Esq MBE JP DL	C E Hayward Esq MBE DL	Mrs J S Warren MBE DL
CITY OF BRISTOL	Miss S R Foster	The Revd R N Pendlebury MBE DL	Mrs K K Woolf
CUMBRIA	Mrs S Scott	C N C Holmes Esq DL	Dr G C Jolliffe
DERBYSHIRE	Miss T M Peltier	R I Morgan Esq OBE	Sir Richard FitzHerbert Bt
DEVON	The Rt Revd N H P McKinnel	Commodore J K Moores OBE DL RN	Mrs C A Harlow
DORSET	C W G Weston Esq MBE JP	A W Woodhouse Esq	C Bremner Esq JP
DURHAM	Mrs A E Elliott	H M Swan Esq	J M Poole Esq JP DL
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	M Rice Esq	Miss C Cerutti	C E Blacksell Esq DL
EAST SUSSEX	E R Bickersteth Esq	Mrs L Fraser	Mrs A D Brown
ESSEX	C R M Bishop Esq	D T Hurst Esq DL	Mrs J A Fosh DL
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	H C W Robinson Esq DL	C O Lewis Esq OBE DL	M Hurrell Esq DL
GREATER LONDON	Mrs I De	Ms M L Grant KC	J Garbutt JP
HAMPSHIRE	Mrs A S Ashton JP DL	J C Whitaker Esq JP	Mrs S P Elton
HEREFORDSHIRE	R C C Robinson Esq	Mrs P B Churchward	Mrs H C Bowden
HERTFORDSHIRE	Mrs M E Green	Mrs A P Brewster JP	N F Buxton Esq
ISLE OF WIGHT	Mrs D K Haig-Thomas	G R Biss Esq BEM DL	A M Wake Esq
KENT	Mrs N Ahmed OBE DL	Dr G Fargher	J B Neame Esq DL
LEICESTERSHIRE	Mrs H J Chubb JP	J H Chatfeild-Roberts Esq	Dr N R Kotecha Esq OBE DL
LINCOLNSHIRE	R J Lake Esq OBE	P H M Dymoke Esq	D C Chambers Esq DL
NORFOLK	Professor K K Sethia	D J Flux Esq	P S Lines Esq
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	M N Shah Esq	Mrs A L Crawford JP	Mrs P J Chauhan-Birdi
NORTHUMBERLAND	Mrs D M A Barks	Mrs L M B Bridgeman	G N Farr Esq
NORTH YORKSHIRE	Mrs C D Granger	Dr R M Smith	Sir Andrew P Lawson-Tancred Bt
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Mrs V M Pickering DL	N D Rubins Esq	E J Attenborough Esq
OXFORDSHIRE	Mrs S P Scott	J J Macnamara Esq	TBC
RUTLAND	Mrs G M E Feehally	R A Cole Esq TD	Colonel R T Chesterfield
SHROPSHIRE	Mrs A J Thorn MBE DL	B Welti Esq JP	Mrs J M Trowbridge
SOMERSET	R N F Drewett Esq DL	R J Beckley Esq QPM	Mrs J Montgomery
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Professor J Ray DL	J Baddeley Esq	Mrs J C Allen
STAFFORDSHIRE	Mrs V L Hawley DL	Mrs J Mitchell	J T J Gillow Esq
SUFFOLK	J M Pendlington Esq DL	Mrs Y Gilchrist-Mason OBE	Mrs G K Kayembe
SURREY	T A de B Wates Esq DL	S Azeem Esq DL	P C Cluff Esq
TYNE AND WEAR	Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL	Dr L J Whiterod CBE OBE	Ms J J Curry MBE
WARWICKSHIRE	Mrs S Hilleary	Mrs R K Gill JP	Mrs K J Lynch
WEST MIDLANDS	W C Lyn Esq CBE	D R Wright Esq	Dr J L Brooke-Smith OBE
WEST SUSSEX	A G Bliss Esq QPM	Mrs P M Gogarty	Dr T J C Fooks
WEST YORKSHIRE	Z A Karim Esq DL	R A Cryan Esq	Mrs N J Chance-Thompson DL
WILTSHIRE	P Bhardwaj Esq	Dr S O Chapple	M J Nye Esq
WORCESTERSHIRE	Mrs L C Hewett DL	C W Moyle Esq JP	I J Crockatt Smith Esq

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

NOMINATION OF HIGH SHERIFFS OF WALES

COUNTY	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
CLWYD	Hon Mrs Hill-Trevor	Mrs K A Farrell-Thornley	Mrs J A Gillbanks
DYFED	M D Raymond Esq CBE DL	Mrs H Jones	Mrs A M Jones
GWENT	Prof S J Gibson CBE DL	Her Honour Judge Mifflin DL	Lt Colonel R R D Griffin
GWYNEDD	Mrs J Phillips	Ms S J Foskett JP	R M Davies Esq
MID GLAMORGAN	Professor J White CBE	Dr R J P Lewis MBE DL	Ms S I Dixon
POWYS	R Cawthorne Esq	Lady Silk JP	Mrs S Roberts
SOUTH GLAMORGAN	D R H James Esq	Mrs J Davies	Mrs J E Howell
WEST GLAMORGAN	A Brayley Esq DL	Mrs M J James	Mrs D S Stroia

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

ASSOCIATION REGALIA AND PUBLICATIONS



The High Sheriff's Badge

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



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



Chaplain's or Cadet's Badge

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



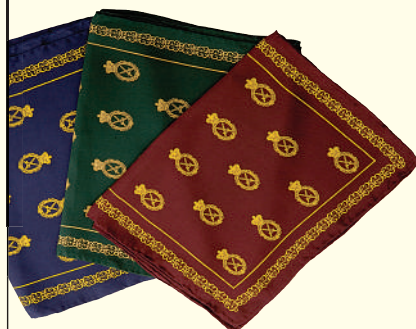
Miniature Badge for High Sheriff and Spouse

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



Enamel and gilt cufflinks

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



Ladies' Pure Silk Scarf

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



The Lady High Sheriff's Badge

(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.

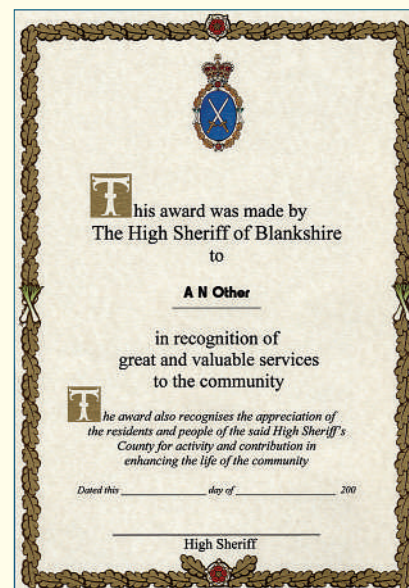
HSA 2 is a blank certificate. This enables the High Sheriff to overprint the recommended text which can be found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

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.

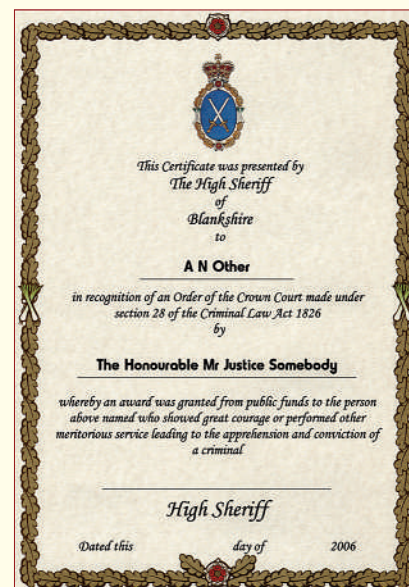
CCA 2 is a blank certificate. This can be overprinted using the recommended text, again found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

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

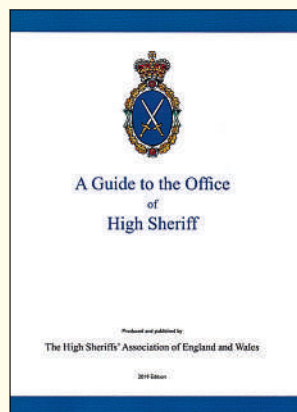
CCA 1: 50 for £25

CCA 2: 50 for £20

Example CCA 1*



PUBLICATIONS



Guide to the Office of High Sheriff

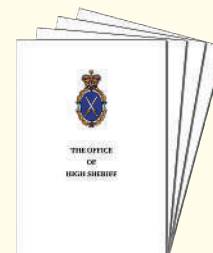
This comprehensive and revised guide outlines the key elements of the role of High Sheriff in the 21st century and gives practical advice to those preparing to take Office
£2.80



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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Henry Poole & Co	IBC
HL Brown	page 19
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Lock & Co	IFC
William Bartholomew	page 13

The High Sheriff

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

The next edition of *The High Sheriff* will be published in **June 2023**.

Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be **Friday 21 April 2023**.

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

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

HELPFUL TOPICS FOR MEMBERS

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

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

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

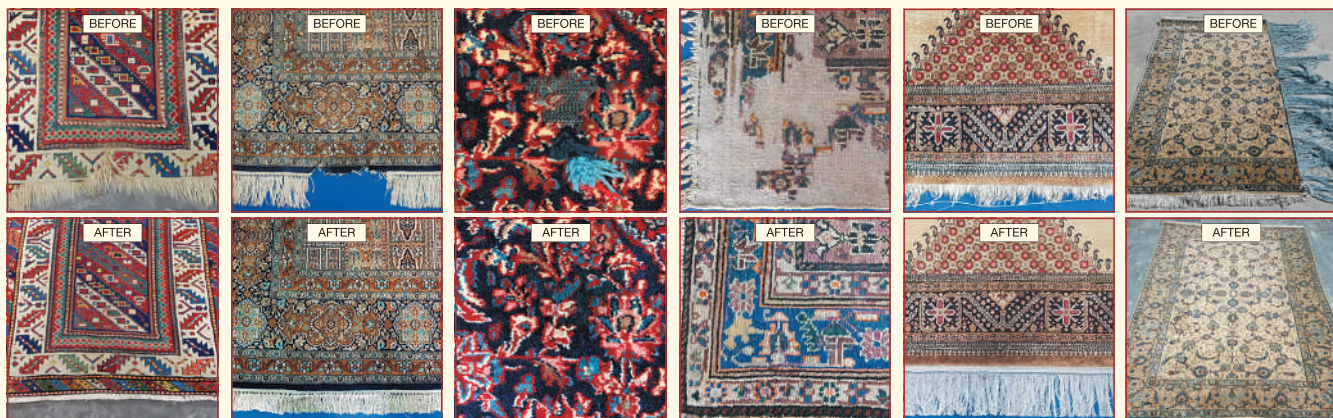
- *Chaplains to High Sheriffs – their appointment, duties and insignia
- *Citizenship Ceremonies
- *Court Awards recommended by judges to be made by High Sheriffs (Criminal Law Act 1826)
- *Court dress and badges

- *Courts System Structure
- *Death or resignation of High Sheriffs in office – procedure
- *Declarations by High Sheriffs and Under Sheriffs (English and Welsh)
- *Eligibility for nomination as High Sheriff

- *Forms of Address covering the judiciary, and civic, military and other office holders (and even High Sheriffs)
- *Heraldic insignia of the Association and High Sheriffs and how this may be used
- *National Anthem – deportment when this is played (and when taking parades; [not] saluting)

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

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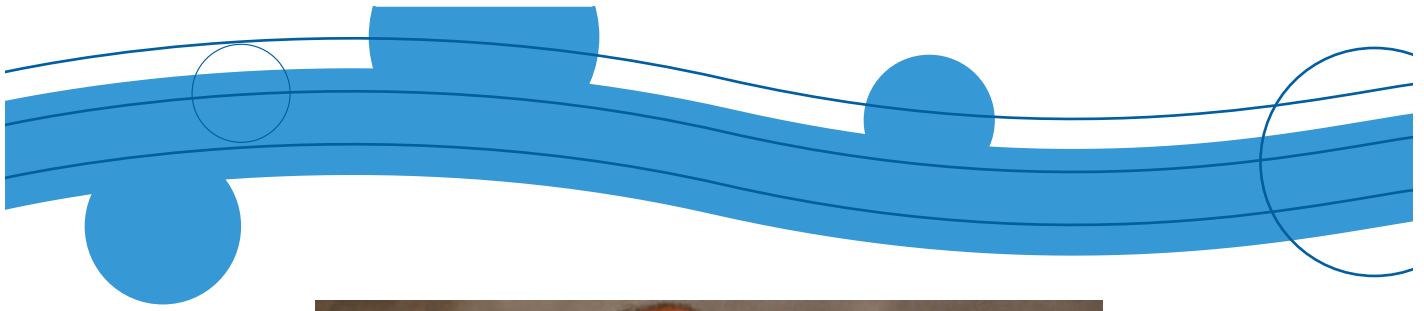
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MR GOLDING MVO HAS RETIRED OR PERHAPS HE HASN'T

Geoffrey Golding, who started his tailoring business in 1963, virtually left school at the age of 12 because he could not read and write (it is known today as being dyslexic). My father worked from home as a tailor, making jackets for a Savile Row tailor and doing alterations and repairs for local customers.

As I was home most days, I observed my father without realising how much I was learning and occasionally assisted him, who also taught me how to properly use a needle and thimble and a pair of tailor's shears.

When I officially left school at the age of 15, I managed to get a job as a tailor in London's Savile Row. Instead of being at the bottom of the class, suddenly I was at the top by a very long way. At the age of 19, I opened my own shop and started my own tailoring business in 1963. By 1978, I was making officers uniforms for the Household Cavalry (the most prestigious regiment in the British army). By 1988, I was working for the royal family. In 2001, I was honoured to receive a royal warrant for tailoring from the Queen. I was now also working for the officers of 50 different regiments of the British army, also providing court dress for high sheriffs, postilions and walking grooms coats for the Palace, and other specialised clothing.

We have now probably become the most successful small bespoke tailors in England. In 2018, I was given the Royal Victorian Order for tailoring services to the Royal Family.

In 2021, I retired, but it did not take me long to get bored. After phone calls from the Royal Family and other long-standing customers, I started a small tailoring business in my very nice garden, where I have built a little garden room and have made it into a tailor's workshop. If a tailor measures you, cuts the garment, tailors it, and puts the shape into the garment, bearing in mind the person whom he has measured and observed the shape of the customer, I do not have to explain to another tailor the shape and measurements of the person for whom the garment is intended, as I do all of this myself. This is where you get a beautifully made and fitted garment. This is what I now do, and I very much enjoy doing it.

So, if you would like to have a chat about court dress or you would like to order your court dress from me, we will supply everything you will need for your year as High Sheriff. I am in St Albans, Hertfordshire. My phone numbers are 01727857746 and 07903001773.

I do hope to hear from you soon

Geoffrey Golding