



# 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

