



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