



SUMMER
2023

The High Sheriff

Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales



Coronation celebrations of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla

National Crimebeat // FDACs // PEGS // News – from and about members



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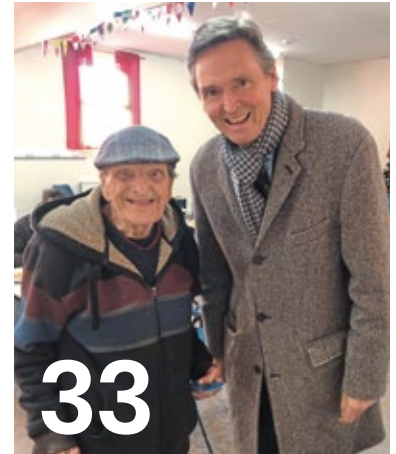


Front Cover:
His Majesty
King Charles III
seated in the
Throne Room



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Selina Graham, Hon Mrs Graham, High Sheriff of Shropshire 2022-23 with Debbie Brock (Bucks) and Clive Knowles Chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, creator of the *Knife Angel* and *Manchester Bee*, receiving his third and fourth High Sheriff's Awards!



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From the Hon Editor

The High Sheriff magazine has a new look reflective of the new reign and the evolving roles of High Sheriffs in their bailiwicks. Our aim has been to make it more approachable and easier to read. Please do let us know what you would like adding or changing as this is your, the members', magazine.

Reading the different county articles one can see the immense value that individual High Sheriffs bring to their communities, not just in supporting law and order but also in spotlighting and thanking the voluntary sector. Some of the initiatives from last year's High Sheriffs are particularly valuable and I commend them to both serving High Sheriffs and those in nomination.

We are introducing more informative articles to support



current and future High Sheriffs. This summer edition features an article on Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDACS) and another on child to parent abuse – some High Sheriffs are already aware if not yet involved in one or both but I hope you find the information useful.

If there is a particular topic you feel would sit well as a 'Focus on...' article, please do get in touch (editor@highsheriffs.com).

Michael Gurney, Hon Editor, Norfolk 2021

From the Editor

'Thank you' to the 2022-23 cohort who responded to my requests for county articles and to current High Sheriffs – barely in office – who sent snapshots of their county's Coronation weekend. After two 'one-offs', I confess I am looking forward to a more straightforward winter edition...

For that edition, High Sheriffs in office are encouraged to look back on the first six months and share any specific initiatives in which they have been involved and how they have made a difference in their county. Beyond the important work High Sheriffs undertake with the judiciary and emergency services, and projects relating to law and order in the wider community, each High Sheriff may have a specific personal focus. What has worked well? Is it something that can be replicated elsewhere? And, of course, please don't forget to capture high resolution



images of your activities and achievements.

I would also welcome any contributions to Consorts' Corner (see page 50) – my thanks go to William King for sending in and for the title! One thread running through a number of county articles is the *Knife Angel* and, as it makes its way around the country, I anticipate that it's a thread which will run for a while yet. Its creator Clive Knowles (Chairman of the British Ironwork Centre), also responsible for the *Manchester Bee*, is pictured on page 3 with Debbie Brock (Buckinghamshire) and Selina Graham (Shropshire) receiving his third and fourth High Sheriff's Award!

I wish you an enjoyable and productive summer and look forward to hearing from you come the autumn.

Jayne Lewis, Editor

From the Chairman



High Sheriffs have been serving Sovereigns for over 1000 years. The High Sheriffs' Association was established only during the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Thus this is the first time that your magazine has focussed on a Coronation. My thanks to our Hon. Editor and fellow Council member, Michael Gurney, and to our Editor, Jayne Lewis, for this splendid Coronation edition of *The High Sheriff*, a new look magazine for a new reign. We hope you like it.

On Saturday 6 May, our newly declared High Sheriffs and their families joined the many millions from across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla. It was a joyous, moving, and historic service, surrounded by the magnificent, colourful pomp and ceremony of 6,000 servicemen and women on parade.

On the Sunday, local community picnics and tea parties were supported and enjoyed by High Sheriffs, and on Monday 8 May, The Big Help Out, highlighting the value of volunteering, was launched by the Royal Foundation, the Royal Voluntary Service, the Scouts and other charities. The High Sheriffs' Association supported the launch and many High Sheriffs joined events to celebrate and encourage volunteering in communities.

The contribution of volunteers is often unseen and unrecognised, but during their year, High Sheriffs will see the enormously positive impact of volunteers in their counties. There will be many opportunities for them to recognise and amplify those contributions and to thank the volunteers.

All of us on Council wish 2023's High Sheriffs a successful, enjoyable, and happy year with lots of fun as they uphold and enhance the ancient Office of High Sheriff and make a meaningful contribution to their counties and bailiwicks.

Lastly, I am delighted to congratulate two Council members on their outstanding achievements; Professor Robina Shah MBE JP DL (Greater Manchester 2018) was appointed a Dame in the New Year's Honours List, and Amanda Parker JP DL (Lancashire 2015) is to become Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire in August.

Andrew Tuggey, Chairman, Gwent 2015



Diary of Forthcoming Events

JULY 2023 **SEMINAR FOR HIGH** **SHERIFFS IN NOMINATION** **FOR YEARS 2024 AND 2025**

FRIDAY 7 JULY

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

FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER

The annual Ladies' Lunch will be held at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London. Full details will be sent in late summer 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 **NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT**

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

This is the opening date for submissions for the 2024 awards. See page 14 for more details.

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 2.00pm 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 Clements Danes Church in the Strand. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other.

MARCH 2024 **NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT**

TUESDAY 19 MARCH

The awards ceremony will take place in London. All projects to be entered must be endorsed by a High Sheriff and submitted by 21 January 2024. Finalists will be announced shortly after that.

IN THE NEWS...
For news updates
on members
see page 50

High Sheriffs and the Coronation

The High Sheriffs of England and Wales last year experienced national prominence fulfilling their historic and privileged role of proclaiming the Accession of His Majesty King Charles III. In early May this year they gave a lead in their counties on multiple occasions when the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and Queen was marked by a variety of activities.

As the images on the following pages show, High Sheriffs were involved not only in their historic role of supporting the interests of His Majesty in all matters relating to law and order, but in the wider encouragement of volunteering in myriad ways. The Coronation inspired the Coronation Champions Award made to 500 exceptional volunteers under the auspices of the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) of which The Queen is President. Recipients were given



Andrew Wells TD

High Sheriff of
Kent 2005-06

Below: Francis Dymoke (Lincolnshire 1999), the King's Champion

Inset: The King's Champion in armour on horseback in Westminster Hall

certificates signed by Their Majesties, often presented by High Sheriffs, and attended the Windsor Castle Coronation Concert or a Coronation Garden Party.

High Sheriffs were involved in the Big Help Out, supported by large volunteer organisations like the Scouts and the RVS, which made a particular impact over the Coronation week. They enthusiastically rolled up their sleeves and helped with food banks, litter picking, tree planting and weed clearance. Church services, generally including an interfaith element in line with the Coronation service, and 21-gun salutes played a significant part in shrieval activity – all in line with the spirit of volunteering inspired by The King, who for the first time pricked their names on the roll in March.

From time immemorial the High Sheriff's responsibility has been to the Sovereign within a designated county so there is no shrieval role within the Coronation Service as a national event. A subtle shrieval presence

among some of the more prominent participants at the service should not be overlooked. Her Majesty The Queen's Companion, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, was High Sheriff of Wiltshire last year, while The Queen's grandsons and Pages included Gus and Louis Lopes, who are also grandsons of Sarah Lopes, High Sheriff of Devon in 2011. His Majesty The King's Page, Ralph Tollemache, is a great-nephew of the Association's immediate past Chairman.

The holders of two offices of medieval origin are held by former High Sheriffs. Lord Carrington, the Lord Great Chamberlain, served in Buckinghamshire in 2002 and Francis Dymoke, the King's Champion, in Lincolnshire in 1999. Lord Carrington's prominent hereditary role rotates through three families descended from the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, who received the appointment in 1133. Changing family at the beginning of each reign, the last holder in his own was his great-great-uncle who served at King George V's Coronation in 1911. He is His Majesty's representative at the Palace of Westminster and is on duty at state occasions throughout the reign.

Mr Dymoke's office is one of very few extant held by grand serjeanty, a specific feudal duty imposed on the lord of a manor, in his case Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire. As the 34th owner, his obligation, performed only at coronations, is to 'defend with his body against any man who may assert that the king is not the rightful king', which his ancestors have been doing as successors of the Marmion family in 1377. While he bore the Royal Standard, his forebears were obliged to ride in armour into the coronation banquet in Westminster Hall and throw down a gauntlet in challenge. This last happened in 1821 at George IV's banquet, which like much of that Coronation itself was chaotic.

The father of Lord de Mauley, Master of the Horse, was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1978, while the father of Sir John Eliot Gardiner, a Coronation conductor and founder of the Monteverdi Choir, was High Sheriff of Dorset in 1967. Doubtless there are other instances to show that this Coronation was not bereft of shrieval influence.





1. Oxfordshire: Sally Scott with Imam Monawar Hussain MBE DL (HS 2021-22) celebrating the Coronation of The King at the Oxford Interfaith Community Lunch at the Asian Cultural Centre; and at Shenington Village

2. Bedfordshire: Russell Beard at All Saints church in Clifton with the Bishop of Bedford, the vicar and members of the organising group of a performance of 'The Making of King Charles' by children's group The Coronets; with organisers and participants; Christopher Sharwood Smith, Vice Lord-Lieutenant at the wet but cheery celebrations in Luton

3. Buckinghamshire: Ann Limb took part in the Big Help Out at the local foodbank which His Majesty King Charles visited when in Milton Keynes to mark the granting of formal city status



1. Cambridgeshire: Bharat Khetani and his wife started the day with a morning service at St Peter & St Paul, Wisbech, conducted by the Revd Cannon Matthew Bradbury (High Sheriff's Chaplain) followed by a street party in Peterborough and a Celebration Service at Peterborough Cathedral led by the Very Revd Chris Dalliston

2. Cheshire: Dennis Dunn raised a toast to Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla with residents of Willaston

3. Cumbria: Sam Scott in the spirit of the Big Help Out presented awards to volunteer groups and individuals who had been nominated by members of the community for outstanding service within the parish of Coniston. Represented here: the WI, Coniston CE Primary School Home School Association and Girl Guides

4. Derbyshire: Theresa Peltier with Elizabeth Fothergill (Lord-Lieutenant), before a service at Derby Cathedral with fantastic attendance from young people from all the uniformed services; Sutherland Rd has been holding street parties since the coronation of King George VI in 1937 and this was their eleventh; and on BBC East Midlands for coverage of a rather damp Sutherland Rd Coronation street party



OPPOSITE PAGE:

1. Devon: The Rt Revd Nicholas McKinnel with the Very Reverend Jonathan Greener (Dean of Exeter) prior to the Coronation Service at Exeter Cathedral

2. Greater Manchester: Mary-Liz Walker at Salford Cathedral with Bishop John Arnold and Sister Grace (PhD Student, Salford University); and with Cllr Yasmine Dar (Lord Mayor Elect of Manchester, 3rd from L), and Cllr Donna Ludford (Lord Mayor of Manchester, 4th from L), together with ladies of different faiths – many faiths and cultures were represented at a service at Manchester Cathedral and Their Majesties were prayed for in English, Hebrew, Hindi, Urdu and Ga

3. Hampshire: Amelia Riviere at Portsmouth Naval Base for the 21-gun salute sounded at midday in honour of The King's Coronation. On the dais Rear Admiral Steve Moorhouse CBE (Director of Force Generation at Naval Command), Captain Andrew Robinson, and Mark Thistlethwayte DL. Also present Cllr Hugh Mason (Lord Mayor of Portsmouth) and Marie Costa (Lady Mayoress)

4. Hertfordshire: Elizabeth Green at County Hall for a celebration of volunteers across many different sectors; with 'Bundles of Joy' packs to mark the Coronation and Big Help Out to be distributed to children and organised by the Shimrad Rajchandra Dharampur UK in Bushey; at Berkhamsted street party

5. Leicestershire: Henrietta Chubb with members of Coalville Belvoir Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Ashby de la Zouch Castle to help with weeding, tidying and litter picking at Snibston Colliery Park for the Big Help Out

6. Merseyside: Ruth Hussey with Lorraine Shaw (secretary to Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside Mark Blundell) and husband Graham Shaw at a street party in Liverpool





1



2



4



Photo: Chris Moorhouse,
The News, Portsmouth

3



9



5



6



1. Northamptonshire: Milan Shah in the procession to All Saints, Northampton, for a Service of Choral Evensong; and by the maypole at the Community Coronation Festival in Northampton with Alan Larsen (historical re-enactment consultant and guardian of the maypole) and Cllr André González De Savage (Chairman, West Northants Council)

2. Northumberland: Diana Bakes in the sunshine with the Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley (Bishop of Newcastle) outside Hexham Abbey; and in the rain with the Friends of Crofton Field in Blyth for a Big Help Out litter pick

3. Nottinghamshire: Veronica Pickering at Southwell Minster for a service bringing together representatives from the emergency services, Windrush and multi faith communities, and including wide range of charities, many youth organisations; with Chaplain Lauren Simpson; local community and business leaders; and Mr Justice Hildyard

4. Rutland: Geraldine Feehally with the choir of All Saints Church, Oakham; and with Jake (born during the reign of George V) proudly wearing his medals on Coronation Sunday. Jake has now lived under the reign of five monarchs



Photo: Ketan Photography



Photo: Susan and Alan Devlin



3

Photos: Whitefoot Photography



4





1



Photo: Paul Millward



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral

2



3



Photo: Steve Porter



4



5



1. South Yorkshire: Jaydip Ray with South Yorkshire civic mayors, Master Cutler, police and fire chiefs at Sheffield Cathedral just prior to the Service of Celebration for the Coronation; and at a High Sheriff's Award ceremony to recognise people in South Yorkshire during the Coronation

2. Staffordshire: Victoria Hawley in the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Stafford with the Venerable Magan Smith (Archdeacon of Stoke-on-Trent), the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford, Ian Dudson (Lord-Lieutenant) and the Revd Prebendary Richard Grigson (Rector of Stafford); and at a tree planting ceremony in The Close of Lichfield Cathedral of a Red Windsor Apple tree by Ian Dudson, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE (Bishop of Lichfield), and the Rt Revd Jan McFarlane (Interim Dean of Lichfield)

3. Surrey: Tim Wates litter picking with the Surrey Hills Society at Newlands Corner near Guildford for the Big Help Out; and with gathering of the Lieutenancy for the county service for the Coronation at Guildford Cathedral

4. West Sussex: Andy Bliss presenting a Coronation Champions Award to Pauline Fox, CEO and Child Welfare Officer at Worthing Town Football Club. The official Coronation project celebrated 500 extraordinary volunteers from across the UK. As well as receiving a badge and signed certificate from Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla, Pauline was invited to attend the Windsor Castle Coronation Concert.

5. Essex: Charles Bishop on board HMS *Diamond* at a reception with the First Sea Lord ahead of the Coronation (HMS *Diamond* was the Royal Navy's guard ship for the duration); three Bishops – two spiritual, one in name only – attending Evensong Service at Chelmsford Cathedral ahead of the Coronation with Bishop of Chelmsford (Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani) and Bishop of Colchester (Rt Revd Roger Morris)



Photo Mark Radford



1

Photo Mark Radford



2



3





OPPOSITE PAGE

1. Warwickshire: Sophie Hilleary at the Old Shire Hall Warwick signing the Coronation Scroll with Tim Cox (Lord-Lieutenant), Monica Fogarty (Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council) and Dave Humphreys (Chairman of Warwickshire County Council); and at Kingsbury Water Park

2. Wiltshire: Pradeep Bhardwaj at a reception and dinner at St James' Court Hotel, hosted by the High Commissioner of India in honour of Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar (Hon'ble Vice President of India) representing India at the Coronation; in New Delhi with His Excellency Mr Alex Ellis (British High Commissioner to India) discussing the beautiful county of Wiltshire, the role of the High Sheriff, and the Coronation; with the residents of Wroughton at a street party

3. Worcestershire: Louise Hewett at the Worcester Cathedral Coronation Thanksgiving Service with Nick O'Hara (new Under Sheriff) and Beatrice Grant (Lord-Lieutenant); ready to process with granddaughter Georgia who is doing a project on 'Granny Lou's Year in Office'

THIS PAGE

1. Shropshire: Mandy Thorn was a 'plus one' at the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle; presenting Coronation medals to children from three very rural schools in South Shropshire, having been invited by two Year Six pupils who wrote a lovely handwritten letter requesting her presence; at a Coronation tea party organised by the Shrewsbury Drapers Company for their almshouses residents

2. West Yorkshire: Zulfiqar Karim and wife Saira were honoured to attend three services to mark the Coronation at Halifax Minster, Bradford Cathedral (not shown) and Leeds Minster

3. Clwyd: Kate Hill-Trevor (Hon Mrs Hill-Trevor) at St Asaph Cathedral with Harry Fetherstonhaugh OBE (Lord-Lieutenant) and the Right Revd Dr Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph; and visiting Youth Grow Open Day at Felin Puleston Outdoor Centre, Erddig, Wrexham for the Big Help Out



National Crimebeat Awards 2023

The Royal National Hotel was our venue once again for the 25th National Crimebeat Awards. A room full of High Sheriffs past, present and future; sponsors; special guests and participants were treated to some of the best presentations by our finalists that we have seen over the years. Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Louisa Rolfe, spoke directly to the finalists praising them for their outstanding achievements. Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean, one of National Crimebeat's judging panel and Resident Judge at Snaresbrook Crown Court, explained that Snaresbrook is the biggest court in the UK and sees more than its fair share of youth crime trials. Both congratulated our finalists for their crime reduction work.

Our 2022 winners of the Richard Walduck Award, St Andrew's School, returned to tell us about the work they had done over the last twelve months. These primary school children from Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire stole the show! They were passionate, confident, articulate and thoroughly deserved the applause they received.

The Burnett Presentation Award went to overall runners-up Support Through Sport from Nottingham and we're delighted that Tranai, their leader, will be joining us at Burghley to talk about the impact their work has on the community.

Lt Col Andrew Tuggey, Chairman, presented the High Sheriffs' Association award to Tyne and Wear's police cadets for their initiative in reducing anti-social behaviour on the Metro, which was a direct result of underage alcohol purchasing.

After an excellent lunch our finalists departed for a tour on an open-top Big Bus and a trip on the London Eye.

Once again we are indebted to our supporters, sponsors and donors for their generosity, particularly Imperial Hotels for the use of their premises and hospitality, Big Bus Tours Ltd, Merlin Entertainments Ltd, the Fishmongers' Company, Oldfield Partners and the many individuals and charities who have given financial support to us. I should like to thank my fellow National Crimebeat Trustees for doing an incredible job organising and supporting the awards.

Entries for the 2024 Awards will open on 1 November 2023 and the awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday 19 March at The Royal National Hotel, London. Full details can be found at www.national-crimebeat.com.

We look forward to hearing from your young people!



Amanda Parker JP DL

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

Winners

Lancashire: By Young People 4 Young People

One of the neighbourhood policing team's tasks is to go into schools and deliver talks to pupils about keeping safe in their day-to-day lives. The police cadets attend the school talks as pupils and they identified that the material was out of date, especially around social media and staying safe online.

The cadets put their own lesson plans together and delivered them to the local primary and high schools. Each lesson included a question and answer session where the pupils could ask honest questions and make it as interactive as possible.

The project was a big success with the cadets' lessons being used by the local policing team and youth offending teams. All the recipient schools have asked for them to attend again to deliver their lessons to new pupils, and other local schools have invited the cadets in.

Below: National Crimebeat trustees and guests at the 2023 awards ceremony



Runners Up and winners of the Burnett Presentation Award

Nottinghamshire: Support Through Sport

At the age of 16, Tranai found himself in a similar situation to many young people within inner-city communities and began to get involved with the negative influences around him. After starting boxing at a local club, Tranai was able to shift his mindset and applied the attributes that he gained through sport to his general life. Tranai managed to achieve good grades in his final year of school, but many of his peers did not and so he did his best to support those around him through sport and mentoring, setting up Support Through Sport.

Tranai is hands-on, and at every opportunity the team will always do their best to inspire young people and encourage pro-social behaviours and youth development.

Alongside sport-based intervention and intensive mentoring, Support Through Sport also delivers workshops, positive trips and experiences, volunteering programmes, leadership projects, motivational talks and outreach in the community.

Third Place

East Yorkshire: TBZ community garden

The two young brothers that planned and delivered the project had been involved in anti-social behaviour in their area, regularly coming to the attention of the police. A lack of provision for young people led to community tensions about them hanging around and behaving in an anti-social manner.

Supported by their Youth Justice worker, the boys decided to transform a disused and overgrown area of their street into a community garden in memory of their older brother Ryan, whom they lost to suicide, creating a safe space for young people to gather.



Overall winners Lancashire: By Young People 4 Young People



Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Louisa Rolfe, with Nottinghamshire's runners-up Support Through Sport



East Yorkshire's project TBZ community garden was awarded third place



The local policing team have identified that the garden has reduced reports of anti-social behaviour, connecting the street as a whole, and that young people gathering there respect what it stands for. A neighbour says it is a pleasure to speak to the young people that use it.

By supporting the garden, police have forged positive relationships with the young people. The two brothers have not been 'dealt with' by the police for any criminal activity since they started the work.

Highly Commended

Merseyside: KidsKast

KidsKast is a podcast made by 'Kids for the Kids'. KidsKast interviews do a deep dive into choices and consequences.

This project aims to educate children and young people (CYP) about the serious consequences of crime, to prevent and reduce initial offending behaviours, reduce re-offending, and enhance community cohesion. The aim is to support CYP to understand the consequences of crime, and help them to navigate their way out of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and other potentially criminal situations.

Left: Merseyside's KidsKast was highly commended

The impact of the project is to gain noticeable improvements in CYP engagement, improve feelings of self-worth, and to stimulate motivation so that CYP realise their potential.

The CYP behind KidsKast were and still are instrumental in the foundation and growth of KidsKast. They set about designing the logo, producing and structuring interviews, selecting/approaching guests and then conducting the interviews.

Highly Commended

South Yorkshire: Make a Change

Carlton was an 11-year-old pupil at the Pupil Referral Unit when he attended a Make a Change presentation (a programme run by the charity In2Change). The impact on him was profound and he made the choice to change his life path, handing in weapons at the same time.

Carlton assists in the delivery of the programme and educates other young people in situations similar to those he experienced, helping them realise the consequences before it's too late. Make a Change uses young people's lived experience to educate other young people to make life-saving choices. Young people relate to their peers' experiences and the programmes are delivered to schools, colleges and community centres.

Carlton has authenticity, commitment, and drive. The positive impact Carlton – and the project in general – has had on individuals with chaotic lifestyles is a joy to see.

Highly Commended and winners of the High Sheriffs' Association Award

Tyne and Wear: Operation Hayness (GRIP)

In early 2022 Northumbria Police received an increasing number of calls regarding youth anti-social behaviour fuelled by alcohol consumption. The objective of this project was to identify premises



From top: Carlton and the Make a Change project (South Yorkshire) were highly commended

Lt Col Andrew Tuggey, Chairman, presented the High Sheriffs' Association award to Tyne and Wear's police cadets for Operation Hayness

Winners of the Special Award in 2023, Lincolnshire's St Andrew's School (Seven Knights Ambassadors) returned to talk about the work they had done since winning the Richard Walduck Award in 2022

which were selling alcohol to minors – a known factor in youth disorder which was having an extremely detrimental effect on the safety and wellbeing of the local community.

The police cadets believed that they could be of assistance. In the presence of plain clothed police officers and trading standards officials, the cadets stepped up, offered their help and acted as test purchasers at newsagents, convenience stores and off-licences surrounding several of the North Tyneside Metro stations.

Thanks to the efforts of the cadets, three shops were issued with fixed penalty notices and now risk losing their licence to sell alcohol due to their illegal actions.

A further positive was the ripple effect on other businesses selling alcohol, with local intelligence confirming that there was a reduction in the area of alcohol-based youth anti-social behaviour.

Special Award

Lincolnshire: Seven Knights Ambassadors

A winner of a National Crimebeat Award in 2022, St Andrew's School joined us once more. The premise is simple: children at the school devise and undertake projects to earn seven different badges.

The Seven Knights initiative takes a proactive approach to community cohesion and social harmony. The children are taught that if something looks wrong, then it probably is and to do something about it. Despite being young they can be the catalyst for action. The objective is to allow children the opportunity to not only devise their own projects but have a voice at meetings and become influential members of the community.

The children in Years 5 and 6 are all engaged in a project called 'My Oath' whereby they consider their actions and the positive impact they can have on their community. They also speak in public on crime-related subjects including alcohol harm, internet safety, anti-social behaviour and bullying.



Enjoying the Big Bus tour after the awards ceremony

Cheshire Crimebeat @25

Michael Trevor-Barnston

Cheshire 1998-99

Cheshire Crimebeat is delighted to have recently celebrated its first 25 years in operation, having originally come into being in 1998 – an event recorded in *Shrivalty News* in June 1999.

We signed off our 4,000th project in June 2022 in support of the South Cheshire ABC (Amateur Boxing Club) whom we have supported for many years – their schemes help young people in the Crewe and Nantwich areas, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

South Cheshire ABC was awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022, which was presented by HRH the Duke of Gloucester at Cheshire Constabulary HQ in November at a joint celebration with Cheshire Crimebeat.

Over the years we have been privileged to have two amazing co-ordinators. Frank Harding, a retired chief inspector, joined us in 1998 and installed our first 548 projects through to the end of 2013 with a total expenditure of £160,000.

Mark Watson (also a retired police inspector) then joined us in January 2014 and he has taken us through the 4,000 project mark (4,567 @5 May 2023) with a total expenditure since our formation of over £500,000 – hence the recent celebration of passing that milestone.

Cheshire Crimebeat exists to encourage the young people of Cheshire (anyone aged up to 25 years) to get involved with crime prevention, community safety or citizenship projects in their communities. We can see how an average cost per project of just £120 goes so far in supporting young people's schemes to tackle crime. The latest national crime statistics

show that Cheshire is a safe place to live, work and visit, and that Cheshire Constabulary is outperforming national averages in almost all categories. Cheshire Crimebeat does all it can to help in that regard.

Cheshire Crimebeat has had wonderful support from Cheshire Constabulary since its formation, together with generous funding from Police (Property) Act sources, which allows for the disposal of property that comes into the possession of the police in connection with investigations and subsequent distribution of funds to charitable causes. The four Cheshire unitary authorities have also been supportive, recognising the value of the projects installed in their respective areas.

The last 25 High Sheriffs of Cheshire have each represented Cheshire Crimebeat as our figurehead during their year of office – Crimebeat enables them to visit the various projects around the county giving them a 'handle' for the year and the opportunity to visit schools, youth



Then... the front cover of *The Shrivalty News* showing the Cheshire Crimebeat launch at Christleton High School in 1998. L to R: School Head Marion Jones, CB Co-ordinator Frank Harding, Home Office Minister Paul Boateng, High Sheriff Michael Trevor-Barnston and Chief Constable of Cheshire Nigel Burgess

groups, cadets and scouts and to present various awards.

We are lucky enough to have two former Cheshire High Sheriffs – Nick Bromley-Davenport and Sue Sellers – as trustees and our ongoing opportunities remain strong.

As did other counties, we started small and tackled such projects as graffiti, vandalism, underage drinking, and security

awareness. Indeed, our launch project – attended by the then Home Office Minister, Paul Boateng – was to address bullying and unrest on school buses via an identity card scheme.

Moving with the times, we now tackle county lines drug issues, illegal money lending/launders, knife crime and identity theft, together with cyber-based criminality and projects that address local issues in all areas. Despite having many deprived areas in the north-west of the county we can boast of the second lowest incidence of knife crime in the UK.

Five major projects over the last few years have been organised via Collaborate Digital whereby we ran competitions through the media and Cheshire schools to highlight and tackle hate crime, knife crime and criminal activities – the winning schools have their successful project aired on TV and radio.

Our thanks go to the 250,000+ youngsters who have been directly involved in Cheshire Crimebeat projects since 1998, as well as to all those PCs, PCSOs, schools, youth leaders and others who have supported and benefitted from this High Sheriffs' Association initiative.



And now... The Duke of Gloucester presenting The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Nathan Clarke of South Cheshire ABC

Wales Regional Meeting

24 November 2022

Henry Gilbert

Regional Coordinator for Wales,
West Glamorgan 2018-19

The Welsh region of the High Sheriffs' Association assembled for its annual meeting at Llangoed Hall, Brecon, on 24 November 2022.

The region is made up of eight preserved counties comprising the Principality of Wales and was well attended by current High Sheriffs, High Sheriffs in nomination for 2023 and 2024, Under Sheriffs and respective consorts – 40 in total. We were particularly appreciative of our new Association Chairman, Andrew Tuggy, attending and speaking on this occasion.

The meeting proved to be a great success as reported by all who attended. An observation of particular note was the comments from current High Sheriffs stating that their first eight months had been incredibly busy – much more demanding in terms of organisation than anticipated.

It was suspected that this trend might be the same for other regions and fuelled by two factors. First, the impact of Covid on the experience of High Sheriffs over the previous two terms of office meant there was relatively less to share and current High Sheriffs were subsequently less well prepared for what was to come. Second, the demands generated by communities coming out of self-isolation/lockdowns were that much greater.

With support pledged by Under Sheriffs and colleagues, next year's High Sheriffs did not seem too daunted by what they may expect. In fact, recognising that the key to success was being well prepared and organised, they were both grateful for the advice and support offered and looking forward with even more fervour to their year of office.



© Stephen Symonds

Reception at the Old Bailey



One of several groups of High Sheriffs and guests who attended

JAMES WILLIAMS MBE

Honorary Secretary to the High Sheriffs' Association

All current High Sheriffs and their spouses and partners were invited by the Sheriffs of the City of London to a reception at the Old Bailey in London on Wednesday evening 17 June and it was a most enjoyable event. As many may know, the inside of the building and especially the Grand Hall are quite stunning and we were given a fascinating insight into its origins and history by the Recorder of London, His Honour Judge Lucraft KC, who is the most senior circuit judge at the Old Bailey. This year three High Sheriffs from Northern Ireland joined us and in addition there were a number of Old Bailey judges and others connected with the City whom we were able to meet. The guests were invited to enter and explore the well-known Court 1 and again the Recorder gave a most interesting talk about that court. Alderman and Sheriff Alistair King gave us very warm words of welcome and Association Council member Amanda Parker responded.

Profile of police cadets

Caroline Bewes DL

Cambridge 2021-22

Before starting my term of office, I was advised to appoint High Sheriff's cadets for support through the year. Recognising that law and order are an integral part of the role, I approached the Cambridgeshire Volunteer Police Cadets who were delighted to put forward the names of potential candidates. Among them was Billy Cunningham who comes from a Traveller background and joined the cadets at the age of 14, having set his sights on becoming a police officer since primary school.

With a positive attitude, Billy supported me throughout the 2021-22 year and grew in assurance and professionalism. He also had the opportunity to do some public speaking at a few events

which increased both his profile and his confidence. He was awarded Cadet of the Year 2021 by the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire.


Currently training to become a police officer, Billy's unusual career path attracted media attention and he told the BBC in a recent interview: 'I want to create change, not only for my community but for everyone, from all walks of life, and show young Gypsy Travellers that we can have a career in policing and to not be afraid of what everyone else thinks.'

I'd highly recommend taking the opportunity to increase the profile of police cadets through the High Sheriff's role and to make a positive difference to VPCs and their future. As Billy said, 'Most people think of maybe army or sea cadets, and the profile of police

cadets is comparatively low. Having the opportunity to be a High Sheriff's cadet with the link of the role to law and order is a natural fit and a great experience.'





Caroline Bewes presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Billy Cunningham



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Family Drug and Alcohol Courts

Debbie Brock DL

High Sheriff of
Buckinghamshire 2022-23

High Sheriffs are privileged to visit Family Courts, where judges seldom wear robes and proceedings are more informal than those in a criminal court, reflecting the sensitive nature of family proceedings. Around the UK there are currently 14 specialist FDAC teams, working in 22 courts and serving families in 36 local authorities. Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDACs) are concerned with cases involved in the protection of children where substance abuse is a central feature of the parent's struggles to parent, often accompanied by issues of domestic abuse and mental health. The harm and trauma that children experience in those households are often deep and long lasting, impacting negatively upon them and in turn potentially shaping their ability to parent.

FDACs aim to keep families together, where it is safe to do so, by supporting parents to address their substance abuse. They are a therapeutic problem-solving alternative to standard care proceedings which tells a powerful human story: how through a compassionate, supportive, trauma-informed approach change is not out of reach no matter how hopeless a situation might seem; that with commitment, the right help and support, change is possible.

Following much interest and mutual support from High Sheriffs and judges, Buckinghamshire hosted an introductory seminar to help serving High Sheriffs, High Sheriffs in nomination and professionals find out more about the FDAC operating under the esteemed direction of His Honour Judge Perusko, also responsible for the Pan Bedfordshire FDAC.



The seminar began by hearing from Danny Conway, a retired social worker. By chance he had attended a seminar in London about FDAC and sat with the late Judge Nicholas Crichton CBE who had seen it was possible to disrupt the pattern of removing children over and over again from the same parents by creating part of the construct of support around families to help keep them together. Danny explained that, unlike standard care proceedings, specialist multi-disciplinary resources are deployed to work with families.

His Honour Judge Perusko and FDAC Multidisciplinary Team Manager, Jenny Swift, explained more about the process. The local authority chooses which cases enter FDAC; if suitable, an intervention planning meeting with the team, social worker, guardian and parents will formulate a detailed tailor-made intervention plan. Importantly, parents must agree to seek and maintain abstinence from non-prescription drugs and alcohol and to be honest with the team.

Fortnightly reviews are conducted by the FDAC judge; they are attended by parents without their lawyers, a feature unique to FDACs. Parents regard this as a

Cllr Amanda Marlow (Mayor of the City of Milton Keynes) welcomes attendees. Panel L-R His Honour Judge Perusko, Danny Conway (retired social worker and FDAC champion), Jenny Swift (FDAC Multidisciplinary Team Manager), Si Phillips (Senior Practitioner, partially hidden), His Honour Judge Spinks, His Honour Judge Richard Case

very important part of the process in motivating them to change; it's also where lapses are managed.

Carolyn, a parent who has gone through the FDAC process, attended the seminar to talk about her FDAC journey – all who attended could sense the feeling of trust formed with her judge as she recounted how, as a professional working with children, domestic abuse and subsequent alcoholism had impacted her ability to work and parent; how the process had given her the space to concentrate on the trauma she had suffered and how she had been reunited with her children who were all now doing well. She said giving up alcohol was the easy part; the FDAC process was difficult, but it had changed her life. Carolyn now volunteers as an FDAC mentor.

Jack and Kate bravely explained that they were heroin addicts who had four children removed from their care. Their case was going through standard care proceedings and the care plan was adoption for their two youngest children. It was the suggestion of the CAFCASS guardian to ask the court to give them a chance to go through FDAC.

His Honour Judge Perusko



Both parents found the process tough but they have had three children returned to their care and Kate now works in the school the children attend. They have both abstained from drugs for three years. Jack said that losing the children was what brought the change about; although initially they blamed everyone else, they finally admitted that no one was to blame but themselves. Judge Perusko asked Jack about the changes in their relationship – the answer: ‘we cuddle now’. Kate said without the expense of drugs they now had savings and didn’t need to steal to provide things they needed.

Research has consistently shown that outcomes for both children and parents are far better in FDAC than they are in normal care proceedings. Significantly, more children (at least three times more) are reunited with parents in FDAC compared to non-FDAC proceedings and abstinence is more frequently maintained.

Feedback from attendees included: ‘obstacles to creating FDACS must be overcome; ‘we all came away completely committed to FDAC; ‘I felt so moved and it was evident what an incredible impact is being made’.

In recent years public bodies beyond children’s services have grown to understand the benefits of FDAC: health services, the criminal justice system and beyond. Without formal funding support each FDAC must create its own funding formula which is generally from local authorities, police and crime commissioners and/or philanthropists.

The President of the Family Division, Sir Andrew McFarlane says: *Where a parent is fortunate to have an FDAC in their local area, referral to FDAC may be, and often is, a life-*



Debbie Brock with Dennis Murray QPM (Assistant Chief Constable Thames Valley Police)

changing event both for the parent and their child. In contrast to most other courts, FDAC is a ‘problem-solving court’, which seeks to address the underlying problem of addiction rather than simply permanently removing the child but leaving the addiction unaddressed. It is my ambition to have an FDAC court running in every part of England and Wales and I am most grateful to the Shrievalty for their valuable support in this endeavour.

High Sheriffs are ideally placed to spread the word and encourage other professionals to take an interest. If you are in an area where no FDAC exists perhaps ask – why not?

For more information, visit justiceinnovation.org/areas-of-focus/family-drug-and-alcohol-courts.

NB Names of parents have been changed.



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Child to Parent Abuse

Michelle John

Founding Director of PEGS

For many years, the issue of parents being abused by their own children has remained largely hidden. This type of domestic abuse is thought by experts to impact at least three per cent of UK households and yet it's something which has not traditionally been spoken about – perhaps in part because it defies our societal ideologies around family life and the role of children and parents. When I began to explore the services out there which were directly set up to focus on Child to Parent Abuse (CPA), I was dismayed at the lack of support, and the dearth of understanding among many professionals.

So, I set out to create an organisation which focused on being that source of comfort, empathy and assistance for parents, carers and guardians. One of the founding principles of the social enterprise I created – PEGS – was that anyone could access support, no matter the age of the child, including adult offspring. A second principle was that services would be free for all parents regardless of their financial situation.

Within 18 months, PEGS had been approached for help by 2,000 parents and we now have multiple referrals every single day. It's a sad indictment of how many people out there had been suffering in silence previously – and I'm always torn between being proud that my team are there for so many parents, and heartbroken that the need is so great.

But what exactly is CPA?

Boundary pushing and rule breaking are fairly typical features of most childhoods, but where that behaviour becomes so severe that the family is seriously and

irreversibly impacted – and this pattern continues for months or even years – it's then that we start to use the term Child to Parent Abuse, or CPA.

Much like other forms of abuse, CPA can impact anyone – we support single parents, happily married couples, adoptive families, birth families, kinship carers, step-parents, grandparents, young parents, older parents, many with primary school aged children, and others whose adult offspring are in their 30s, 40s or even older.

Seventy per cent of our parents have had to reduce their hours or leave work altogether as a result of the abuse they are facing – their backgrounds include almost every profession you could think of, even those who'd come into contact with CPA as part of their role such as police officers, teachers and social workers.

How does it manifest itself?

CPA can incorporate many different behaviours, among the most common being physical abuse such as kicking, hitting and strangling, and verbal abuse such as shouting, swearing and insulting. Coercion and control are common traits, and financial abuse is also prevalent – taking out credit cards and running up debt in the parent's name, stealing money, or damaging items which then have to be replaced. Sexual abuse is also occurring in a worrying number of homes.

We often see parents changing routines or avoiding certain activities to try and minimise the chance of an incident, and their physical health, mental health, relationships and social life can all be impacted. Children may refuse to go to school – but equally, there are many who go to school and display completely compliant behaviours, only targeting their abusive behaviours towards their family.



How does PEGS help?

We offer virtual drop-in sessions, a closed peer support group on Facebook, one-to-one support, advocacy and a bespoke programme and workshops centred on empowerment, resilience and coping techniques.

Alongside this, we've developed a range of training for frontline professionals such as police forces, social care teams and schools to help upskill them and enable them to better support families where CPA is suspected or confirmed, alongside an identification model (PRAM) useful in helping determine whether abuse is happening within a household. We work with national and regional organisations across the UK to help them develop and implement CPA policies and frameworks, have launched an Employer Covenant in conjunction with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), work closely with the Home Office on their guidance, and attend and host events as well as raise awareness via traditional and digital media.

We're thankful for the support shown by many former and current High Sheriffs, and would welcome the opportunity to share more information about ourselves – do get in touch via our website www.pegssupport.co.uk or search PEGS Support on social media to find us.

Below: Michelle appeared on a report about CPA on Channel 5 News alongside the Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner (filmed in separate studios)



Partnerships and collaboration

Debbie Brock DL

High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire 2022-23

It is a great honour to have served Buckinghamshire as High Sheriff and impossible to overstate the power of partnerships and collaboration.

The High Sheriff's Justice Dinner provided an opportunity to pick up a tried and tested partnership initiated by my predecessors. Milton Keynes College hosted my dinner, providing the catering and front of house, and Principal Sally Alexander was Master of Ceremonies. The Mansion at Bletchley Park, home of Second World War Allied codebreaking, was a historic and magical setting. I partnered with Thames Valley Police (TVP) on the evening's discussion which focused on TVP's Race Action Plan. Assistant Chief Constable Dennis Murray QPM set out how TVP is an 'icebreaker force' for the national plan to improve outcomes for Black people who work within or interact with policing by tackling systemic barriers, prejudice and discrimination.

Maureen M Dickson, author of the book *Pilots and Soldiers of the Caribbean*, talked about the lives of valiant men and women of the Caribbean who fought for Britain during both world wars, introducing many Black role models, forgotten by time. With Black people – particularly Black Caribbean people – having significantly lower than average rates of confidence

in their police forces, it's important to enable this conversation. Policing also lags behind almost every other public service as an employer of choice for Black people; just 1.3% of police officers are Black compared to 3.5% of the total population and only two Black officers have reached the rank of Chief Constable or Assistant Commissioner in policing history.

In line with the national plan, TVP has established an Independent Oversight and Scrutiny Board, chaired by Black Barrister Mr Calvin Wilson. The Justice Dinner provided great networking opportunities and possibilities for future collaborations and encouraged local people to provide scrutiny of TVP's progress by joining the board or working with it.

The event closed with poet and playwright Yaw Asiyama who wrote, performed and led the poem 'Togetherness', with which we all joined in. Art is of course a great way to connect and public art has been in existence since antiquity. Some of the earliest stone works or statues look down on the public from on high. In the same way, the National Monument against Violence and Aggression – or *Knife Angel* – arrived at Stadium MK in December to communicate powerful messages about the dangers of violent behaviour and knife crime specifically. The sculpture, made from over 100,000 knives collected during police amnesties, is a towering 27 feet tall and was created by the British Ironwork Centre in Shropshire.

The *Angel* gave rise to wide-ranging collaborations in a month of action across Buckinghamshire from its location at Stadium MK. The Safety Centre, a leading safety education charity based in Milton Keynes, was a key partner in the project and delivered 50 early intervention knife crime sessions for Year 5 and 6 primary school pupils, talking about the choices around – and consequences of – carrying a weapon. I had joined a session with Year 6 students in the summer and was impressed with the sensitive way the subject was covered.

On site a rota operated to support visitors to the *Knife Angel* and more than 25,000 conversations took place between members of the public and volunteers or PCSOs. This was made possible only by the generosity of volunteers including magistrates, councillors, Rotary Club members and police cadets, who gave



Attendees of the Justice Dinner



With Sally Alexander MK College Principal, Maureen M Dickson and Assistant Chief Constable Dennis Murray QPM



With catering and front of house students and teaching staff of Milton Keynes College

up more than 700 hours of their time. One volunteer, Jason Fathers, lost his son Jay to knife crime in 2021 and he was at the *Angel* every day to talk about the devastating impact of violence. It was my honour and privilege at the closing ceremony to present Jason with a High Sheriff's Award acknowledging his bravery in speaking about Jay's death. I presented awards throughout my year, and was deeply impressed by the goodness, wisdom and compassion of the many people I encountered.

Joining up with High Sheriffs from other counties allowed for great opportunities to establish friendships and to support one another and through those links to grow in appreciation of the many impressive people and amazing organisations doing so much in support of our communities both in Buckinghamshire and beyond.



The *Knife Angel* during sub zero temperatures at Stadium MK with volunteers, PCSOs and Jason Fathers

Hoping to inspire to aspire

Michael Copestake

High Sheriff of Derbyshire 2022-23

My primary project in my year as High Sheriff of Derbyshire was to talk to children in primary schools about careers and aspiration. The Derby South constituency ranks 532 out of 533 wards in the UK for social mobility according to the House of Commons Social Mobility Index in 2018. There are other districts throughout the county with similar low rankings. I wanted to show children of primary school age in Derbyshire what was available to them if they worked hard at school. I was helped in this by the likes of Rolls-Royce, Toyota, Alstom and Nestle. Rolls-Royce with their Small Modular Nuclear Reactor project and electric and hydrogen fuel cell powered engine projects for aircraft; Toyota with similar projects for cars; Nestle with their new, incredible robot powered Buxton Water factory whose opening I was privileged to attend; and Alstom with their high speed trains. I was also privileged to attend the Rolls-Royce Science prize-giving awards for primary schools at their amazing learning and development centre in Derby. Their Chief Technology Officer, Grazia Vittadini, spoke to children about some of the great projects which they are involved in, such as engines for deep space missions to Mars. What is there not to be inspired by about that!

At my presentations we talked about jobs for the future. Included were not only jobs in science, engineering and coding but also entrepreneurship and jobs as electricians and heating engineers. It is estimated that

we will need 27,000 engineers qualified to install air source and ground source heat pumps in the UK if the government is to hit its target of 600,000 installed by 2028. Currently we have 3,000 qualified.

I delivered my presentation to over 6,500 primary school students in, predominantly, the poorer districts of the county. I managed to get 55 primary schools on to a careers portal for primary schools called 'Our Future Careers' run by a charity in London called Education and Employers. Right at the end of my year the Department of Education announced a pilot to be trialled in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire for their much overdue own careers initiative for primary schools called 'Start Small Dream Big'. I helped to get details of this project out to local academies and education authorities. Finally, I prepared a report on my observations which I presented to local politicians of all political persuasions, the University of Derby, local education authorities and academies. One of my observations was that there are currently no British YouTube videos for primary schools on careers and aspiration.

Back in 2018, Derby Law Society and Enterprise 4 Education started an annual debating competition for Year 7-10 students. I attended this year's final and judged a semi-final. The first competition was won by an incredible team from probably the worst performing secondary school in Derby based in Derby South. Just before this year's final I heard that two of that team made it to Oxford and the other two to Russell Group universities.



At the presentation of National Crimebeat commendations to the organisers of Derbyshire Police Cadets and Derbyshire Mini Police



With the mini police

This was a great example of what can be done to help children from more deprived backgrounds to be the best they can be.

A significant amount of my presentations to schools were organised through Derbyshire Constabulary's brilliant Mini Police. I entered them, the Police Cadets and a charity I admire to this year's Crimebeat Awards. The Mini Police and the Police Cadets both received commendations. My own police cadets are two remarkable individuals who will go far in the police force. I attended a number of police events including police awards. The incredible courage and compassion shown by the police officers who received the awards was amazing. Besides the awards, a memorable event was the *Anti-Violence Bee*. Like the *Knife Angel* this huge bee is made entirely of guns and knives collected by the police.

It has been a privilege to serve as High Sheriff, to carry out my project and to have the opportunity to congratulate and thank so many people for the wonderful things they do. I have had a fantastic working relationship with the Lord-Lieutenant, Liz Fothergill, and with my highly knowledgeable and helpful Under Sheriff, Andrew Cochrane. My successor is Theresa Peltier whose Unity is Community programme has got off to a flying start. I am sure that Theresa will find her year as rewarding as I did.



With Dominic Hughes and Jeremy Copestake in Skegness after a 110-mile cycle ride to raise funds for Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre

It's a volunteering thing!

Richard Youngman

High Sheriff of Devon 2022-23

Being unpaid, High Sheriffs are volunteers and indeed need to dip into their own pockets to fund their shrieval year including, typically, a legal service, garden party and hospitality for visiting High Court Judges, not to mention motoring costs especially in large counties like Devon.

This gives us a natural affinity with the many volunteers who are crucial to the efficient functioning of the services comprising 'law and order broadly expressed' which we as High Sheriffs support and encourage.

This starts with the courts where the charities CASS+ and Victim Support respectively help defendants, and victims and witnesses negotiate the criminal justice system; and magistrates, whose courts deal with 95 per cent of criminal cases, are themselves volunteers.



Community First Responder Geoff Edwards receiving a High Sheriff's Award



With Keith Dare-Williams, HM Coastguard's longest serving officer with 57 years of volunteering for the service, for which he received a Queen's Jubilee Medal from then Prince and now King Charles



With St Petrock's Kitchen volunteers

In my experience, magistrates try to reflect the views of their community in how they dispense local justice by combining both justice and mercy, the two qualities represented by the sharp and blunt swords depicted on a High Sheriff's badge. As well as enforcing the law as they should, they also show considerable compassion to those who appear before them.

Our prisons also rely heavily on volunteers – with vital scrutiny from the members of Independent Monitoring Boards – and much needed support for prisoners and their families from a wide range of charities including Story Book Dads, which enables prisoners to record bedtime stories for their children.

Volunteers play an important role in the probation service and I was delighted to give a High Sheriff's Award to Circles South West, which helps sex offenders address their harmful behaviour and make a safe return to the community.

Important support is also provided to the police through volunteer Special Constables and most High Sheriffs gain, as I did through my excellent cadets Adam Watts and Amelie Hands, a valuable insight into the work undertaken by Police Cadets.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service relies on volunteers to provide its service on Lundy and at Kingston in the South Hams. Crucial support to fire fighters for both physical and, increasingly, mental health issues is given by The Fire Fighters Charity at their Harcombe House residential centre near Chudleigh.

Ambulance services rely heavily on the voluntary work undertaken by Community First Responders and I was delighted to give a High Sheriff's Award to Geoff Edwards who has saved many lives in Barnstaple with his defibrillator as well as providing much needed care and comfort to patients before the ambulance arrives, especially important when, as has happened recently, the service has suffered from significantly delayed arrival times.

Volunteers comprise the vast majority of HM Coastguard Officers enabling those employed to leverage their skills to provide the vital assistance contributed by this the least prominent of the blue light services.

Both of my nominated charities rely heavily on volunteers: Dartington-based LandWorks, which provides a supported route back into employment and the community through developing skills in woodworking, market gardening, landscaping and cooking; and St Petrock's, the Exeter-based charity providing healthy meals and support for the homeless including many ex-offenders to reduce the risk of re-offending and thereby support the emergency services.

So in conclusion, during my year I came to appreciate just how important a role the voluntary sector plays in the broad law and order ecosystem and that High Sheriffs should ensure they support and encourage volunteers as well as more obvious paid members of staff.

Finding a balance



Nicholas Alston CBE DL

High Sheriff of Essex 2022-23

All High Sheriffs in 2022-2023 had the extraordinary privilege and responsibility of helping celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the sharing in the grief and mourning at her death, and then the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty The King. Balancing the many associated special events with the other engagements in the normal round for a High Sheriff was a particular challenge in the late summer.

Finding the right balance of activities for a High Sheriff is, however, a challenge presented afresh to each High Sheriff as they take over the reins in their county. As every new High Sheriff brings their own perspective and enthusiasms to the role, each year and in every county there will be welcome differences, together with some familiar themes.

I approached the year with the simple theme of 'volunteering', trying to balance three main areas of focus: supporting those directly engaged in criminal justice and community safety; the community and voluntary sector more generally; and recognising and supporting those in civic and military roles across the county. To project a little of myself on to the role I also chose to promote amateur music and the role it plays in enriching community life.

Around one third of my engagements were with the traditional area of the courts, the police, the probation and prison services and the many volunteers directly supporting those areas. I could

Inspecting new officers joining Essex Police

easily have given more time to this, but I was able to meet and thank many across Essex and to learn about the issues, many common, faced by all those administering justice after a period of austerity and the disruption caused by Covid. I am hugely grateful to all those who made me welcome and gave me so much time.

All High Sheriffs now focus closely on the community and voluntary sector, and I found it as rewarding as others have done. With around 5,000 charities registered in Essex, and probably a larger number of other community and voluntary organisations, there was no shortage of groups to visit. Trying to get the balance right was tricky: a good geographical spread; well established – or newer; small and large; and a range of areas of activity, though with a bias toward those impacting community safety. I made 133 visits to such organisations during the year and was continually impressed by the commitment and professionalism of staff and volunteers alike.

In a large county, with three top tier authorities and 12 other districts, including three cities, a High Sheriff could spend much time supporting civic events, and avoiding giving offence when unable to do so. With a large garrison and a second military base too, formal events could easily dominate the calendar. This was particularly so in 2022 with the many events associated with the Jubilee, the death of Her Majesty, and the Accession of His Majesty The King. Finding the balance was even more difficult than in a less exceptional year.

Finally, I felt that it would be a missed opportunity not to celebrate the excellent amateur music across the county. During the year I helped promote and attended 17 enjoyable concerts. This gave me the chance to thank those who have kept our choirs and orchestras going through the difficult Covid years and who enrich our community life. By encouraging them to team up with local charities, it also delivered some useful local fundraising and gave me the chance to speak a little about the role of a High Sheriff in well-received interval talks.

I can't be sure if I got the balance 'right', but looking back now I feel I achieved broadly what I set out to do. The delight is that my successor, and others around the country, will approach their year in office with new and different ideas and find the balance that is right for them and their counties.



An interval talk at the Christmas concert of the Hutton and Shenfield Choral Society, raising funds for the Brentwood charity SNAP



Presenting a High Sheriff's Certificate to Amy Owens-Deboo at the Wickford charity, Kool Carers

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Choosing the right chaplain



Left: With Sharman Birtles MBE JP (Vice Lord-Lieutenant), Donna Ludford (Lord Mayor Manchester), and Diane Hawkins JP (Lord-Lieutenant) by Emmeline Pankhurst Statute Manchester



Right: With Stephen Watson QPM (Chief Constable Greater Manchester) at the official opening of the High Sheriff's Garden Room

Photo: Chris Oldham

Photo: Chris Oldham

Lorraine Worsley-Carter MBE DL

High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2022-23

One of the many honours bestowed upon us as incumbent High Sheriffs is to choose our chaplain/s.

I instantly knew who I would choose for the role. My first call was to Revd Michael Roberts, whom I had met at a Remembrance Sunday service some months before, and I had been moved by his prayers. Mike is the Rail Industry and British Transport Police Chaplain for North West England and, as my father had worked 'on the railways' for most of his adult life, I knew Mike was the perfect person for the role.

We were still in lockdown, so our meeting was almost clandestine – not from a health and safety point of view, but because of the requirement to keep the request a secret. In 2020, we stood eight feet apart on Manchester Oxford Road where I invited Mike to be my chaplain, endeavouring not to shout too loudly over the noise of the city traffic. Once Mike had accepted, I then advised him that he couldn't tell anyone until March 2022!

During my first six months as High Sheriff, Mike and I shared much together; we laughed, prayed and cried. Indeed, who would not shed a tear at one of the most poignant moments, when Mike

led the prayers at Manchester Victoria Station, commemorating five years since the bombing at Manchester Arena when 22 people lost their life? Days later I stood with the now Their Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales, alongside the Dean of Manchester and the bereaved families as the Glade of Light was officially opened at Manchester Cathedral.

My second but equally revered chaplain is my dear friend, Elizabeth (Liz) Whimpany. About 20 years ago, Liz, a nurse, was told that one of her patients, 18-year-old Adam, was being moved to a nursing home for the elderly due to his complex health needs and disabilities. Liz applied for a mortgage and opened a young people's home – and Adam was her first resident. Now with three sites, Liz is taking her Ministry in the Making studies.

In addition to me having the opportunity to thank hundreds of volunteers and to meet school pupils as well as community groups of many cultures and faiths, we were fortunate to have had a visit from His Majesty King Charles here in Greater Manchester. It was a privilege to be introduced to him by the Lord-Lieutenant and to offer my welcome.

In what has been, at times, a joyful and landmark civic year, it seemed appropriate that the four women in civic office – the Lord-Lieutenant, Vice Lord-

Lieutenant, High Sheriff and Lord Mayor of Manchester – be photographed together with Emmeline Pankhurst's statue. This was a double honour for me, as I am an ambassador of the Pankhurst Trust.

My final week included a visit to a family centre, to a hospice and to a prison, as well as joining and celebrating at an Iftar. Within hours of completing my role, I was honoured not only to receive an award from the Chief Constable in recognition of my 'outstanding public services' duties during my year, but also to be invited to officially open the 'High Sheriff's Garden Room' within the beautiful Grade II listed building at Greater Manchester Police Sedgley Park. This is a first for the Shrievalty of Greater Manchester and a legacy for all future High Sheriffs.



With my chaplains at my 'Hanging'

Photo: Clive Lawrence

Over in the blink of an eye

The Lady Edwina Grosvenor

High Sheriff of Hampshire 2022-23

Then suddenly it's all over. Twelve months which you have waited for with much anticipation for five years, all over in the blink of an eye.

My year as the High Sheriff of Hampshire had all the emotions drummed up in me. Excitement, amazement, horror, sadness, happiness – it was all there in a kaleidoscope of adventures. Learning about my home county and really getting to know it was a huge benefit from my year in office. Having lived in Hampshire for twelve years after growing up in Cheshire, I now feel like I understand it far more. I have a better knowledge of the county and not just geographically; I also feel that I understand the people a little better, the different cultures a little more. I have peered into some of the gloomier areas that form part of any county's rich tapestry.

As High Sheriff you only really have time to lift the lid on issues, there is no time for 'deep dives'. One could see the end of their High Sheriff year as final, or, perhaps it could be seen as the start of a new relationship. I feel after twelve months of having done so much, learnt so much and having met so many interesting people, that it feels more like a new beginning to be celebrated.

Diversity was my theme, or as I like to say: the lens through which I looked at everything. This stood me in good stead on any visit and allowed an interesting discussion to take place no matter where I was. The discovery of others who are different to us 'in every which way' is something which should be embraced and encouraged at every level. It was this theme that made my year so exciting and fun. I appointed myself a Hindu chaplain at the very start of my year and made sure that I visited the gurdwaras and mosques; just these small acts alone opened many a colourful door to me throughout the year.

I stuck to the theme of law and order quite rigidly in order to try and make the biggest impact possible. It's very easy to say yes to every invite that comes in because it's flattering to be asked. I resisted this and am glad that I did. Time is short and energy supplies need to be monitored carefully! I went into my year with a proactive mindset as opposed to a reactive one. This allowed me to get



With Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE, preacher at October's Law Sunday Service at Winchester Cathedral

in the diary straight away the things that I wanted to do, which in turn made me feel less guilty about saying no to others. Even when it's the right thing to do, it's still hard to say no to deserving people who are doing great things.

So, it's back to the day job which I can give more time to again. I just really hope that Hampshire as a county has benefitted from my year in office as much as I have from holding this ancient office. What an honour it has been.



With Cllr Hugh Mason (Lord Mayor of Portsmouth) and recipients of High Sheriff's Awards at the Great Hall Winchester

A focus on addiction

Sally Burton DL

High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2022-2023

What an amazingly busy, enlightening and rewarding year I have had as High Sheriff. With over 500 events and meetings, wearing my court dress well over 200 times, meeting thousands of people yet avoiding both Covid and any cancellations for the entire year, choosing what to highlight here is challenging indeed.

After the two preceding years being affected by the pandemic, I was determined to get out and about as much as I could, engaging with the police, judges, the University Law School, fire and rescue services, councils and as many charities and voluntary groups across the entire county as possible. My focus on addiction to drugs and alcohol led me towards charities working with rehabilitation,

domestic abuse, homelessness, ex-offenders, those struggling to deal with the chaos in their lives, the vulnerable and those with huge mental health issues.

I had a vision to bring together all the agencies dealing with the impact of drugs and alcohol to provide a platform for raising awareness, stimulating debate, encouraging collaboration and finding a way forward. Thanks to the support of the University of Hertfordshire's Law School, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Herts County Council Public Health, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Probation, commissioned services and a plethora of voluntary support groups, the High Sheriff's Symposium on Substance Misuse became a reality in February 2023 and is to be repeated in 2024.

Fifty of my events involved the Hertfordshire Constabulary and I became a familiar face at HQ and local police



With Chief Constable Charlie Hall, PC Becky Clark and TPD Sheriff (now PD Sheriff)

stations. The Chief Constable accepted my unusual request to co-sponsor a police dog, and TPD Sheriff is now part of the team, excelling in her training with PC Becky Clark. They attended my High Sheriff's Awards in March, with Sheriff happily taking treats from my hand amid gasps from the audience. Police dog handlers are often overlooked and really appreciated my raising their profile.

Moments to remember during the year? Riding in police cars and a police helicopter in pursuit of villains; sitting in courts and tribunals with the judges; presenting awards to police and fire officers; meeting hero community volunteers; a glorious garden party at Knebworth House and the vast numbers of judges at my Justice Service in St Albans Cathedral. Furthermore, the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee, followed so soon after by the death of her late Majesty and my duty to proclaim the Accession to the throne of King Charles III; the High Sheriff's Law Lecture given at the university by Marcus Taverner KC, when I presented three law students with Community Certificates, and the sight of three veteran bikers in their leathers receiving a High Sheriff's Award.

Unexpectedly, I embraced social media, posting nearly every day in an attempt to be current and relevant as High Sheriff. It worked, with an increased following of 30 per cent and people often expressing amazement at the reach and extent of the role. I have loved every minute and have been proud to serve the people of Hertfordshire.



Kaotic Angels, represented by Stitch, Shades and Spectre, receive a High Sheriff's Award



With some of the representatives from the Hertfordshire Symposium on Substance Misuse

“Large opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day”

Sally Koch

Kay Marriott

High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight 2022-23

I have had an incredible year celebrating my theme ‘Inspire to Aspire’, my aim being to highlight the work of people and organisations who dedicate their time to supporting others. After the pandemic years, I also wanted to continue raising the profile of the role of High Sheriff in the community.

I have spent time with the emergency services on land and water; they all made me feel so welcome and I found it very informative observing their front-line work, dedication, quick decision-making and compassion.

I have appreciated sitting in the courts, and a great end to my Crown Court experience was giving an award by order of the Crown Court made under section 28 of the Criminal Law Act 1826 by His Honour Judge Mousley KC, to two gentlemen who showed great courage leading to the apprehension and conviction of a criminal.

I have had the pleasure to visit and learn from a vast range of charities, spending time with a number of young people and their incredible leaders, who ensure young people have a voice.

It was particularly inspiring to visit Vectis Radio 4Ps Project working with young people with additional needs; their project was commended in the National Crimebeat Awards – a credit to them and the Island.



Celebrating Indonesian Independence Day



Presenting the National Crimebeat Commended Award to Vectis Radio



With representatives from the Island's emergency services

I was particularly privileged to be invited to attend citizenship ceremonies for those taking the oath to become UK nationals; to meet the Indonesian community and sample their wonderful food at the Indonesian Independence Day celebrations, a colourful event with dancing and talks about their beautiful country; and also to be asked to open the Diwali Festival of Light – a real treat. I also had great fun with Equals IW when they were preparing to take part in various carnivals – a group whose aim is to support equality and diversity on the Island.

It was also a pleasure to meet our Polish community and to speak with Ukrainians about how their lives had literally been saved by kind Island residents who had thrown open the doors of their homes to them. It was lovely to meet them all and thank them for enriching our culture by sharing theirs.

The list goes on... I have managed to thank many and through social media raise their profile and that of the High Sheriff with really positive feedback, for which I am most grateful.

It was overwhelming to see the residents of the Island's response to other people's needs – the incredible work being done across the Island with warm spaces, food larders and friendship groups popping up in many areas through local organisations, charities and even in people's homes.

One of the things which has really humbled me is the number of volunteers we have on have on the Island. People give up their time freely in all sorts of ways to support others and make the Island a special place to live.

I am not a tin shaker, fundraising isn't my strength; however, through various sources – donations, Legal Service, monies for giving talks – I was able to top up the High Sheriff's Trust and make donations to a number of grassroot charities.

As it is difficult to quantify, I think the role of High Sheriff is sometimes underestimated but it is most definitely respected and needed in the community; it's a role that unites people, facilitating connections from which they will benefit.

I am particularly thankful for the friendship of the South West High Sheriffs whose comradery has inspired me throughout the year.

Moments of serendipity



At the Judges Service with Alan McViety (Cumbria), Lorraine Worsley-Carter (Greater Manchester), Martin Ainscough (Lancashire) and Jeannie France-Hayhurst (Cheshire)

Lesley Martin-Wright JP DL

High Sheriff of Merseyside 2022-23

Shakespeare wrote 'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late'. Never have I been so obsessed by time. Of course, a High Sheriff should not arrive three hours early but arriving late is not the 'done thing'. Therefore, we have become masters at diary management and travel planning.

The variety and diversity of engagements have been extraordinary and wonderful: sitting with family and civil court judges, observing the senior coroner, presenting certificates to magistrates for their long service, attending a joint exercise between Merseyside Police and British Transport Police, Diwali celebrations, citizenship ceremonies, Chinese New Year, Freedom of the Borough for NHS Trusts, Holocaust Memorial Day, Remembrance Sunday, reading one of the nine lessons at the Duchy Carol Service at The King's Chapel of the Savoy, Commonwealth Day, and the High Sheriff's Awards evening (to name just a few). Along the way I have been on national television, radio interviews, appeared in magazines, and now feature in two books.

An important marker in the Merseyside calendar is the start of the legal year. Held in October 2022 at the magnificent Liverpool Cathedral, the Judges Service brought together the Judiciary, Merseyside Police and Fire & Rescue Service, academia, civic society, and various faith representatives. A highlight was the attendance of many youth groups and, of course, the opportunity for the High Sheriffs from

Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, and Cumbria to attend.

My aims for the shrieval year included reaching out to those organisations which help young people achieve their best outcomes; helping organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse; and supporting those who provide health and wellbeing services. There have been countless conversations about the negative impact of Covid-19 on education and young lives. I have met people who need a safe place, somewhere that is welcoming. When tragedy struck it brought into focus the magnificent work that is undertaken by Merseyside Police and grassroot organisations. As High Sheriff I have attended many community cohesion and resilience meetings, and thanked

those who work under the radar. On occasion I have been incredibly moved by the stories, and amazed by the bravery and fortitude that people demonstrate.

Liverpool is a historic city and therefore attending the Freedom of the City ceremonies has been a real highlight. The title is granted to individuals to recognise their exceptional service. Being present for the presentation to Jurgen Klopp, the manager of Liverpool FC, was an interesting evening. He became the second 'non-Scouser' – after Nelson Mandela – to be granted the honour.

For a High Sheriff the value of social media comes into its own. It is an excellent vehicle to help promote the wonderful work of the groups, businesses, and charities you visit. A popular social media post was the visit to the Liverpool Seafarers Centre where Christmas gifts were handed out to the crew of a merchant vessel docked in the Port of Liverpool. Climbing up the 100-foot ladder on a cold and wet day was no mean feat, but the warm welcome received on board made up for it.

There have been many times during the year when moments of serendipity occur, when the connections you have forged during the year are of benefit to others – for example, a group of volunteer knitters from Halewood is now supplying hand-knitted hats to merchant seafarers (men and women) who sail into the River Mersey.

As High Sheriff you have a unique opportunity to see at first hand the vital and valuable work undertaken in your county. It has been an honour and great privilege to serve.



Bearing Christmas gifts



With Jurgen Klopp at the Freedom of the City ceremony

Food poverty initiative

David McLeavy Hill DL

High Sheriff of Norfolk 2022-23

I am sure other High Sheriffs will agree that it is some of the smaller and unexpected visits and meetings that remain most strongly in mind now that the year has ended: the strength of the voluntary sector; the incredible people that work so tirelessly for the smaller charities and voluntary organisations in the county; the time and commitment many of our magistrates give to the justice system; the dedication of our prison officers and colleagues often in very difficult circumstances. The list goes on and it has been a great privilege to meet and thank these wonderful people.

For part of my year the courts were impacted by the barristers' strike. This, following the Covid pandemic, has created a considerable and unacceptable backlog of cases yet to come to trial. I was struck by the patience and professionalism of our judges and all those working to try to manage those delays. It is also particularly difficult for those accused to spend such an extended time remanded in custody.

We are very fortunate in Norfolk to have a strong and growing Community Foundation. My theme during the year was 'food poverty' and all the attendant challenges that brings; I was lucky enough to work closely with the Foundation on their Nourishing Norfolk initiative. It is incredible to think that by June 2023 we will have 25 food hubs open supporting more than 25,000 people across the county.

These hubs have become a real focus for local community initiatives and volunteering, as well as providing a connection with some of the most vulnerable so that other help and support can be introduced before there is a crisis. The engagement with local food producers, supermarkets, estates and charities to make this happen has been a revelation and emphasises that there is a real depth of generosity and kindness in our community. This is hopefully something that can be reproduced in other counties.

Mental health and wellbeing in all parts of our community, but especially in young people, remain a considerable and intractable challenge. The voluntary and charity sector is picking up more and more of this burden but it seems to me we must all engage with opinion-formers and decision-makers to try to increase resources to help those in most need.



With the Breckland mobile food store and team members at a Nourishing Norfolk event



Above: At the Exceptional Policing Awards to present awards for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Volunteer of the Year

Right: With Alex at Pathway Café and Food Hub at the Minster Mission in Great Yarmouth

The death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a moment of great sadness and her close connection with Norfolk at Sandringham meant this was keenly felt. The Norfolk Constabulary did a wonderful job sensitively managing the huge numbers of well-wishers visiting Sandringham to pay their respects. The floral tributes left by so many visitors were very moving. It was a great privilege to participate in the Proclamation of King Charles III in our county and it is something I will remember for the rest of my life.



What a year!



Above: With Ravaun Jones from charity Off the Streets fitting a knife amnesty bin and bleed kit outside Thorplands community hub

Below: The *Knife Angel* at the All Saints' Church plaza, Northampton



Crispin Holborow DL

High Sheriff of Northamptonshire 2022-23

Unlike, I am sure, other High Sheriffs, I hadn't set up much before my year started so it was wonderful to be invited to celebrate the *Knife Angel's* arrival in Northamptonshire in early April. Present were council leaders, senior officers from the emergency services and representatives of many of the great charities involved in crime prevention, so I was able to build relationships and organise meetings that may otherwise have taken many weeks to arrange. The *Knife Angel* is made from over 100,000 blades that have been handed in around the country, some used in actual crimes. Counties now have to bid to host it and its arrival is followed by a month of anti-knife crime action. As it moved around the county to Wellingborough and Corby I was able to meet community members who had been impacted by knife crime and see the catalysing effect it had on new and existing

initiatives. So, a great start and an issue which became a key focus during the year.

From the outset I have benefitted enormously from a close relationship with the Northamptonshire Community Foundation. They have saved hours of time researching groups to visit and support, and have been a great source of guidance for our High Sheriff's Initiative Fund which donates significant sums to specific projects in the area of crime prevention. One joint focus has been to highlight issues facing our rural community. I am excited to be able to represent them in the future and to continue working with volunteer and charity groups across the county.

One of the most enjoyable elements of the year has been engaging with volunteer groups dealing with law and order. The First Responders is one such group – utterly professional and yet very passionate individuals doing a wonderful job at a time never more needed given the issues facing the ambulance service.

The cold spell before Christmas coincided with a late Saturday night visit to another two impressive groups, the Street Pastors and Guardians in Northampton. The Street Pastors have been active in the town for 14 years and are a positive and friendly presence supporting party goers and emergency services alike. The Guardians were celebrating their first anniversary and took over in the small hours with the provision of a 'snow bus', a van located right in the centre close to the night clubs. On the night I visited it was much needed for warmth and refuge and was hardly ever empty, doubling up as a provider of hot drinks to the homeless.

It has been a busy season in the courts and four High Court Judges sat in Northampton. The most action-packed visit was to the Coroner's Court where at one stage we feared for the safety of both one of the witnesses and the coroner herself who showed enormous sangfroid dealing single-handedly with a highly emotional issue.

The cost-of-living crisis has led to charting the increase in food banks and larders in our area, the latter targeting rural communities. They provide not only a vital source of cheap food, but also a community hub and the ability to check on friends and neighbours during the winter months. The volunteers seem to benefit as much as those who use the larder.

In 2023 we have seen the opening of a new prison in Wellingborough and the commencement of a campaign from both our prisons to get prison leavers back into work. The role of High Sheriff can have a positive effect, acting as a convenor and introducer, joining employment boards with local businesses and coordinating the many excellent charities in this area.

Too many experiences to record in a few words but I have learned so much and am so proud of the county and to have met so many amazing volunteers.



With a traditional dance group to celebrate Diwali



The Street Pastors of Northampton and Kettering

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

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In long and lasting memory

James Royds TD

High Sheriff of Northumberland 2022-23

I handed the baton to my successor Diana Barks on Easter Saturday, 8 April 2023, exactly twelve months after it was passed to me. If I had begun by predicting that the shrieval year in Northumberland would start with the death of my father-in-law, conclude with the death of my father and in between we would also mourn the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II (of blessed and glorious memory), I would have been accused of melodrama. But that is precisely what has happened. Notwithstanding, it's been a huge, huge honour to 'bat' for the county in what, by any reasonable measure, has been an extraordinary year and one in which I have had to accommodate the unexpected in ways which I did not fully anticipate nor plan for! Timing in life is everything and I dedicate 'my year' to the long and lasting memory of all three who played a significant part in shaping my shrieval destiny.

As I reflect on my year in office I am struck by two things. First, that without the work of the voluntary sector in Northumberland – especially those responsible for looking after our young people – the social and community fabric of both our rural and urban populations would crumble.

Services for the young which were once funded by the state have been steadily eroded over many years. That the fabric holds is only because caring, committed volunteer (and largely unsung) heroes – often juggling two day jobs and a family – find precious time on a cold winter's night to keep our young engaged, entertained and free from harm's way.

Sadly it doesn't always work and on occasion there are those who slip through



1st Wooler Scout Group on learning they were to be the recipients of £1,000

the net. I sat in court during a trial and listened to shocking evidence in the case of two 'young lads' convicted for murder over a £20 note. The guilty and the victim were 'so stoned' that to my untutored mind they were incapable of rational thought or behaviour at the time of their crime. I was and remain deeply troubled by what I saw and heard in court and this, not unreasonably I believe, leads to my second strike. While I cannot condone the consequences of the defendants' actions I am left thinking there has to be an alternative or different way of solving this problem. Drugs and their shattering consequences are a blight on all our lives and underline a tsunami of crime today. I spent many hours with agencies, charities and organisations responsible for picking up the pieces. They are doing their best but their best is nowhere near what is required. We need a radical rethink in response to the dystopia of drugs.

In happier moments, of which there were many, I was treated to an extraordinary

barrage of goodwill from across the charitable sector. In the course of covering about 35,000 miles (which will prompt an awkward conversation with my car leasing company) I visited all 37 charities on the Northumberland shrieval radar and made financial grants of at least £1,000 to each of them. I ran the first ever HSoN Instagram campaign offering to pay £1,000 to a charity drawn out of a hat at my awards evening, if I reached 1,000 followers. I'm pleased to report I reached 1041 and the winners were the 1st Wooler Scout Group – their picture says it all.

And as I close I reflect on another unexpected development – becoming a radio show host – and I would like to thank Jeff Pattison (Koast Radio 106.6FM) for allowing me to hijack his show on at least three occasions to broadcast the work of our charitable sector in Northumberland.

With grateful thanks to Alan Hughes and Harry Chrisp for helping to keep the shrieval show on the road.



In the studio at Koast Radio 106.6FM with Jeff Pattison



With the Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project

Polish Presidents and Sherwood Oak

Paul Southby

High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2022-23

It has been an honour to have been involved in many of the engagements I attended in my year as High Sheriff. Of course, matters surrounding the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III stand out as matters of great significance.

Also of significance were events surrounding the disinterment and repatriation of the remains of three Polish presidents-in-exile, with which I was involved by the kind invitation of the Polish Ambassador to the UK.

The Presidents of the Second Polish Republic in Exile preserved constitutional continuity and the integrity of the Republic from the September 1939 invasion, through the war and subsequent Soviet occupation until the first free presidential elections in 1990. The first three presidents-in-exile held office from 1939 until 1979 and were buried in the Polish Air Force cemetery in Newark, Nottinghamshire. After a Requiem Mass and ceremonies broadcast live on Polish television, their remains were repatriated to be buried in the new Mausoleum of the Presidents of the Republic of Poland in Warsaw.

Just before my year ended, alongside a county delegation, I visited the residence of the US Ambassador to the UK for a special ceremony. Winfield House was built for the American heiress Barbara Woolworth Hutton, who – for the token price of one dollar – gave the property to the US government to be used as the official residence of the Ambassador of the United States to the Court of St James's. The property stands adjacent to The Regent's Park and has the second largest private garden in London after Buckingham Palace.

To support Nottinghamshire's relationship with the US Embassy and Ambassador, we wished to make an appropriate and lasting gesture of friendship. Nottinghamshire is famous for its forests and trees, so we presented a sapling of a Sherwood Oak grown from an acorn of the Major Oak (Robin Hood's tree), and a sapling of a Bramley apple cloned from the original Bramley seedling, which remains alive (just) in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. The oak was donated by the Sherwood Forest Trust, and the apple by Nottingham Trent University.

At a planting ceremony (using a golden spade with a shaft of wood taken from the White House), the Bramley was placed adjacent to a fruit tree planted by Michelle Obama, and the oak in an open clearing. Later, photographs were taken of me standing in front of a painting of George Washington, as it had been noted that my shrieval uniform was remarkably similar to his 18th-century attire! I was invited to sign the visitor book as High Sheriff and was honoured to leave my mark in the company of The Queen, The King (as Prince of Wales at the time), Presidents George W Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden, and many others of note.

In my last few weeks, the county was privileged to receive its third royal visitor of the year, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, on a visit to Portland College near Mansfield – a specialist college and Centre of Excellence for Autism, and a provider of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. I thought it hugely impressive that amid a busy schedule Prince Edward was able to find time for a friendly word with everyone.

Above right: With Matthew Palmer (Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy London) in front of a painting of President George Washington at Winfield House

Right: The coffins of Polish Presidents-in-Exile Władysław Raczkiewicz, August Zaleski and Stanisław Ostrowski at St Mary Magdalene Church, Newark



With wife Sandi Henson, Dr Patrick Candler (CEO of the Sherwood Forest Trust), Cllr Roger Jackson (Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council), Matthew Palmer (Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy London) and Cynthia Guven (Counselor for Agricultural Affairs at the US Embassy in London) planting a sapling of the Major Oak at Winfield House

Contentment, friendship and lasting impact

Mark Beard

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2022-23

Like many other High Sheriffs my year started with the usual questions: What does a High Sheriff do? How are you appointed? And occasionally: How much are you paid?

The year ended with two very different questions: How do you feel about stepping down as High Sheriff? What are you going to do next?

I have had a varied and an extremely enjoyable year as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. I have thrown myself into as many opportunities as I could, meeting some amazing, committed people and deep down I am content that I have done my best and it is now time for Sally Scott to take on the role.

From the day I committed to the role, I have felt the friendship, support and straightforward guidance from the Lord-Lieutenant, past High Sheriffs and others. After every interaction, I left feeling they wanted me to win. The best advice I received was from my immediate predecessor Imam Monawar Hussain: Mark, just be yourself.

The theme of my year was 'supporting young people from challenged backgrounds' and I held two workshops – at the Wood Centre in Oxford and the town hall in Banbury – where charities and businesses came together to share ideas. I raised just under £200,000 for my three charities: Active Oxfordshire, Children Heard and Seen, and Youth Challenge Oxfordshire, my last event being a wine tasting, coupled with local Oxfordshire produce and an auction led by Charlie Ross at St John's College.



With a group of High Sheriff's Award winners at Sommerville College

A perfect combination to facilitate guests emptying their bank accounts.

I was delighted to hold my High Sheriff's Awards at Somerville College in Oxford. The sole focus of these awards was charities, schools and individuals who had supported young people. I made 21 awards and where possible supplemented the awards with a small financial thank you (from Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner) linked to their own charity.

During the second half of my shrieval year, my initial contact with the police, prison governors and judiciary turned into much stronger relationships. I was very pleased to be on the final interview panel for the new Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Jason Hogg, to give out many awards to our courageous police officers, to extremely committed prison officers and to sit in Oxford Combined Court with His Honour Judge Pringle and others on many occasions.

I was thrilled to bring back the Law Lecture – originally introduced by High

Sheriff Ian Laing – after a two-year lapse due to Covid. The 2022 lecture was delivered by Sir Robert Buckland KBE KC, previous Lord Chancellor. I believe this was the first lecture delivered by a sitting cabinet minister on the same day as attending a cabinet meeting. I am delighted that my successor has also chosen a sitting cabinet minister to deliver the 2023 Law Lecture.

I look forward to working more closely over the coming years with my chosen charities and others that support young people in our county. I am thrilled to have become patron of Activate Rugby Academy.

My selfish hope is that a few of the initiatives that I started will grow and make a lasting impact in our county. My wider and deeper hope is that we move to a society where all young people have a good chance of living a satisfying life.

Thank you to everyone who has made my shrieval year such an enjoyable time in my life.



At the 2023 Varsity Match at Twickenham with boys from Activate Rugby Academy

Michael Payne Obituary

It is with great sadness that I have to advise that the former Under Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Michael Payne, passed away in December of last year after a long illness, and I should like now to say a few words in tribute to him and to the work he has done for the Shrievalty of Oxfordshire.

Michael served for just under four years as Under Sheriff, supporting four High Sheriffs. He was a fount of knowledge and the first to put his hand up if a job needed doing, which he would do promptly and completely.

Michael enjoyed attending shrieval events on behalf of his various High Sheriffs and more than once said to me that being Under Sheriff kept him sharp and more than a match for his fellow retired judges, who were not lucky enough to have this later life opportunity.

Above all Michael was great fun, particularly when he was trying to explain away another defeat of his beloved Manchester United.

Michael is succeeded by his wife Vivienne, always a great supporter of the Shrievalty.

Cross-border collaboration

Geoff Thompson

High Sheriff of Rutland 2022-23

What a year to be High Sheriff. The Platinum Jubilee, the sad loss of Her Majesty The Queen, the Proclamation of a new monarch and the catch-up post Covid have all combined to make 2022-23 an eventful and packed year.

A key aspect of my year was to focus on law and order, but for Rutland our courts and emergency services (as well as hospitals, universities, probation and cathedral) are all based in neighbouring

counties. I knew this meant collaborating with other High Sheriffs and thanks to their support I spent 25 days visiting 14 different courts – including Crown, Magistrates' (Crime, Family and Youth), County Family, and Coroners Courts as well as special educational needs and disability (SEND), employment and asylum tribunals and a day in London at the Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (appeals).

I was welcomed into every court and was impressed by the dedication and professionalism of our judges, magistrates and court staff, all working with limited

resources. Judges and magistrates work hard to ensure that those before them understand the court process and are treated fairly. I saw many examples of the caring nature of our judiciary, looking behind the circumstances to tailor outcomes to the individual. Visiting our courts provided a great opportunity to thank those who deliver our world-class system of justice. Judges and magistrates have been very generous with their time to explain court procedures and answer questions and have provided follow-up information. I recommend to all High Sheriffs that they get to see as many courts and tribunals as they can and thank all those involved.

To help collaboration, it was useful to set up a WhatsApp group for the six High Sheriffs in the East Midlands and to ask if I could join the eastern group of six. Others have done the same and I can recommend it. These groups have helped us all consult with each other and share issues and solutions in an informal way, supplementing the support given by the High Sheriffs' Association.

With a number of services delivered across the East Midlands, we met as a regional group with the ambulance service, visited police forensic services and the Serious Crime Unit (kidnapping, counter-terrorism, extremism, organised crime); and outside the East Midlands, the Military Correction Centre in Colchester and a workshop on FDACs in Milton Keynes (see page 20).

My visits to police, fire and rescue, prisons, probation, courts and tribunals have one thing in common (apart from law and order) – first-hand evidence of the tremendous contribution made by officers and staff to the smooth running of our systems of law and order. We owe them our support and any opportunity to thank them for their work is hugely appreciated.

In the spirit of collaboration, I held an afternoon tea for all the ex-High Sheriffs of Rutland. They had never before come together as a group and I hope this will become a regular event.

Nearing the end of my year, I held a Community Service in Peterborough Cathedral to thank volunteers in our community for their contribution to our society. This was followed by a dinner for High Sheriffs and their consorts by way of saying thank you to them for their support.



Ten of the eleven High Sheriffs attending the Rutland Community Service in Peterborough Cathedral L-R: Nick Alston (Essex), Michael Copestake (Derby), Debbie Brock (Bucks), Geoff Thompson (Rutland), Mehmooda Duke (Leics), Lady Clifford (Beds), Jennifer Crompton (Cams), Sally Burton (Herts), Tim Strawson (Lincs), Paul Southby (Notts)



Rutland High Sheriffs' afternoon tea Back Row L-R: Alastair Haywood (1988), Stuart Paton (2002), Michael Allen (2001), Andrew Brown (2015), Miles Williamson-Noble (2014), David Wood (2021), Richard Cole (2020), Peter Lawson (2011), Richard Chesterfield (in nomination 2024), Craig Mitchell (2017) Front row: Bart Hellyer (2012), Margaret Miles (2019), Miranda Hall (2006), Sue Jarron (2018), Lord-Lieutenant Dr Sarah Furness (2016), Geoff Thompson (2022), Under Sheriff Kate Blank, Elizabeth Mills (2009), Trish Ruddle (2013), Geraldine Feehally (2023)

'Opportuneering'

Selina Graham

Hon Mrs Graham, High Sheriff
of Shropshire 2022-23

One of the two most eye-opening visits for me this year was to Willowdene, a pioneering women's rehabilitation centre, where I was honoured to hand out achievement certificates to some of the graduates – they had all been in prison, but when you listened to their stories, you realise that we may well have ended up there too given their circumstances. They were products of their society – our society – and really we put them there.

The second visit was to HM Prison Long Lartin, a Category A prison for the very worst offenders, and it was the most depressing, oppressively hopeless place I have ever been in. I asked the governor of the prison what he would change if he could and he said without hesitation 'to have glass walls'. He would like us all to be reminded of what is behind those walls, as a lesson about what happens when things go wrong, really wrong with society – our society – and to question whether we could have prevented them ending up there?

My point I suppose is the importance of collective responsibility, and that together we can and need to make a difference.

I have met so many wonderful people who go the extra mile – be they paid or unpaid – and without exception I have been impressed by the people I have met, by the work that they do, the people whose lives they change, and the communities they help to create.

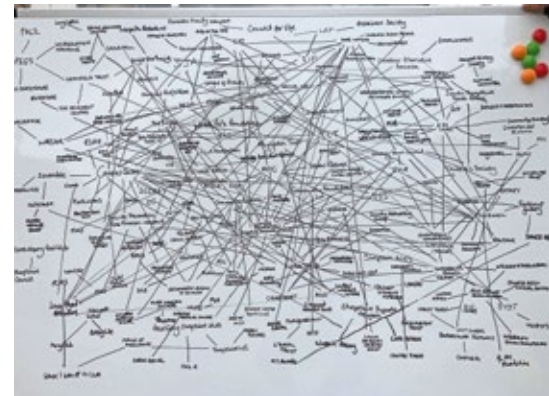


Photo: Telford College

At Telford College for the High Sheriff's Outstanding Young Citizen of the Year Awards

The power of the High Sheriff to enhance this work is unique and immeasurable. The power of those two words 'Thank You' and the importance of recognising what people do to help others (23 High Sheriff's Awards and 53 Outstanding Young Citizens Awards, including award winners in the High Sheriff's Legal Service); the power of collaboration – connecting two or more people or organisations so that they can learn from each other, reach more people, and have a greater impact; the power to reach wide audiences and encourage more people to step up in their community; the power of listening and sharing knowledge and advice gleaned from others. Most of all, for me, the power of the overview – so many people doing amazing things are working in silos; they are so busy doing what they do that they don't step back and consider it, let alone look at it in the context of what others are doing in the county. It has been a huge privilege and pleasure to share some of this context and hopefully, in a myriad of small ways, to have strengthened the impact that some of the kindest and most wonderful people in our county are having on others.

Social media is an incredibly valuable weapon both to showcase and thank, but also to share knowledge. I instigated the High Sheriff Asks campaign (which I am delighted that Mandy Thorn, my successor, intends to continue in some form) to encourage more volunteers by showcasing the variety (there is something for everyone), and make it



A busy year connecting and convening – together we are stronger

clearer what the 'ask' is – what attributes are needed and for how much time, how flexibly that time can be offered.

I have also invented a word! 'Opportuneering'! 'Volunteering' doesn't quite strike the right note, excite young people, or describe the wider benefits – it is the cure for so many of today's problems in society – whether simply because it releases endorphins to make you happy, or because it combats negative thoughts by making you feel good about yourself, or specific issues like stress, or anxiety, by giving access to new skills, new friends and new confidence. 'Opportuneering' is accessing the opportunities that are opened up by helping others. In terms of fulfilment, High Sheriffs are the ultimate 'opportuneers' and I look forward to the day that it is in the Oxford English Dictionary!



At Willowdene with graduates of the residential rehabilitation programme and CEO Dr Matthew Home

Spirit, dedication and commitment

Ben Robinson MBE BEM DL

High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2022-23

My shrieval year came to an end on 4 April when I handed over the reins of this historic office to my successor, Victoria Hawley.

My 12 months started with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a Jubilee and, after the sad loss of Her Majesty The Queen, the commencement of a new era under King Charles III.

During my time in office I have worked with many remarkable organisations – and many inspirational people – councillors and officers in the courts, the fire service, the police and the prisons and I will always remember their amazing spirit and dedication.

I have been extremely fortunate to meet everyday people from all corners of Staffordshire who give up so much of their time and put in tremendous effort day in and day out to work tirelessly to make a real difference to countless lives, striving for the benefit of the communities they serve and seeking nothing in return.

It has been an honour to join the long and venerable line of previous High Sheriffs and I have learnt a lot about the history of the Office and the great traditions associated with it and how it can be traced back more than 1,000 years to the reign of the Saxon King Ethelred 'the Unready' – I have had to explain on many occasions why he was referred to as 'Unready!' But there is also evidence that it goes as far back as 669 to King Egbert of Kent who sent his Reeve Redfrid to Paris to escort Theodore of Tarsus back to Canterbury to take office as Archbishop. It was also interesting to discover that Queen Victoria decided that she did not want her High Sheriffs to be confused with her court

jesters so during her reign she changed the High Sheriff's dress code from bright reds to a more subtle dark and gold.

Staffordshire is home to many treasured landmarks including Lichfield Cathedral – which is the only medieval three-spined cathedral in the UK – and the National Memorial Arboretum, a 150-acre site on the edge of the National Forest. Both welcome thousands of visitors a year and I have been privileged to attend a wide range of joyful, happy, poignant and emotional events at each venue.

There have been many things that stand out during the year but most notable was the depth of feeling for Her Majesty The Queen at the Remembrance Service at Lichfield which came so soon after the lighting of the beacons for her Jubilee.

There are eight prisons in Staffordshire and I have had the opportunity to visit five of them with my chaplain. I have

been inspired by the fantastic work that all the prisons are undertaking and particularly how they work hard to prepare prisoners for the time when they return to society. Werrington Young Offenders Institution houses 57 15- to 18-year-olds and operates a Restart Dog Programme which sees dogs being trained and raised to become autism support dogs; the process trains the young men to become dog handlers. Stafford, Dovegate and Drakenhall all operate successful industrious workshops including cutting plastic lenses for spectacles to be supplied to 80 prisons all over the UK and supplying items for DIY stores.

It has been a humbling and rewarding year engaging with so many amazing and selfless people across the wonderful county of Staffordshire. My heartfelt gratitude and thanks go to everyone I have worked with and met.



Above: Welcoming six new magistrates at Stafford Crown Court with Ian Dudson CBE (Lord-Lieutenant), HH Judge Kristina Montgomery QC and Alan Jones JP (Bench Chair for Staffordshire)

Below: With dignitaries and guests attending an evening of celebration for vaccination volunteers at the Pirelli Stadium; present were Cllr Philip Hudson and Karen Hudson (Mayor and Mayoress of East Staffordshire), Kate Kniveton (MP for Burton), Ian Dudson CBE (Lord-Lieutenant)



Urgent need for reform

The Knife Angel statue in front of Guildford Cathedral

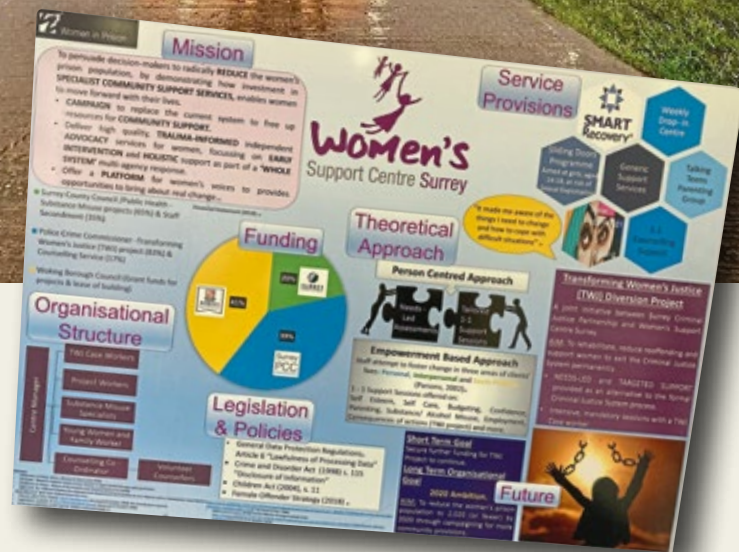


Photo: Nicola Pratt

His Honour Christopher Critchlow DL High Sheriff of Surrey 2022-23

David Kelham, High Sheriff of Warwickshire, and I held two 'Taste Match' events, the first at Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking in October and the second at Warwick Castle in February. Attendees blind tasted wines, beers and gin made in our respective counties. Over £2,000 was raised for my charity, the High Sheriff's Youth Awards, and a similar amount for Crimebeat, David's chosen charity. Artisan stalls sold their products, while Morris dancers and a brass band provided entertainment. The results were close, equitably favouring the host county.

My main theme was support for victims of domestic abuse. I invited Helena Kennedy (Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws) to speak about domestic violence at the University of Surrey on



My main theme was support for victims of domestic abuse – taken at a Woking women's centre

20 October. Her work for women's rights and for justice for victims of abuse is well known. The audience, which included many of those working to help victims of abuse, heard an inspirational talk.

In November I held a Law and Order Conference: 'The Criminal Justice System: what might be done better?' Mike Barton CBE DL (former Chief Constable of Durham), Peter Dawson (Director of the Prison Reform Trust), and Chris Daw KC advocated raising the age of criminal responsibility, legalising

proscribed drugs, reducing the length of prison terms, and furthering restorative justice. All three believe there is an urgent need for reform and say the ever-increasing prison population (doubled since 1991) demonstrates that.

I visited three national headquarters located in Surrey: Crimestoppers, which receives over 600,000 anonymous calls a year, 150,000 of which are passed to police forces and lead to many prosecutions; the Police Federation in Leatherhead; and Police Care UK in Woking.

My wife and I and the High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex, Jane King JP and James Whitmore and their consorts, together visited the operating base of Surrey Air Ambulance, a vital life-saving service, Arundel Cathedral, and Gatwick Airport where we saw the fire and police stations. I also joined Heather Phillips, High Sheriff of Greater London, at her sobering conference on the state of the mental health services, held at the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

After a three-year gap the annual mock trial competition for schools resumed in March 2023. Surrey magistrates organised six schools to compete for the High Sheriff's Shield at Guildford Crown Court which I presented to the winning school's team. The pupils play all the roles: JPs, witnesses, advocates, defendants, ushers and clerks. It's a popular event and helps teach good citizenship.

On 1 March the *Knife Angel*, a 27' high statue made out of c.100,000 sterilised knives handed to the iron works in Oswestry by the police in 2015, was erected outside Guildford Cathedral. Since 2018 it has been erected in 35 cities or towns. Its message is one of peace and it aims to warn young people against violent behaviour. During March, schools brought pupils to see it and to

attend conferences about knife crime and county lines. Dr Neville Lawrence OBE, whose son Stephen was murdered in April 1993, attracted a large audience. Dean Coady OBE, a former paratrooper and police officer in Manchester, spoke forcefully at the cathedral to about 300 schoolchildren, pointing out the dangers posed by knives and drugs.

I arranged a mock sentencing event in the Court of the Future (a replica Crown Court in the School of Law at the University of Surrey). HHJ Robert Fraser MVO DL, resident judge of Guildford Crown Court, sentenced four defendants across the following cases: a one-punch manslaughter case; a two-handed street fight involving a stabbing; and a coercive and controlling behaviour matter. I drafted the cases and law students played all roles. Some 60 people, including teenagers, observed and learnt about the principles of sentencing.

I was a barrister and then a circuit judge until 2016, so I was therefore particularly saddened by what court staff, judges, magistrates, police, prison and probation officers recounted about the pressure they are under, how they are under-resourced and need considerable urgent investment. Covid hugely increased the case backlog, as did the Criminal Bar Association strike. One duty



At Gatwick Airport Fire Station with Jane King (E Sussex), Sara Whitmore, William King, James Whitmore (W Sussex), and Wendy Critchlow

of a High Sheriff is to support the courts and the forces of law and order, and I believe the Shrievalty should give as much recognition as it can to those hard-pressed employees of the justice system.

I met many who give great service to their community. In March, I presented 22 individuals with a High Sheriff's Award Certificate for their unselfish work. The Latin motto of the High Sheriff of Surrey is 'Beatius est dare quam accipere' – it is more blessed to give than to receive. Whatever I may have given during my year, my wife and I received a great deal more from the people of Surrey.



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service dog trainers with their dogs



High street procession for the service for the judiciary

Photo: Andy Newbold

Volunteering for community good

David Bavaird

High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear 2022-23

The end of a very special and quick year and it has been an honour, privilege, and pleasure to be the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear for the shrieval year 2022/23 – a year which will live long in the memory.

My theme for the year was 'volunteering for community good' and I have been lucky enough to have visited dozens of venues and events including community libraries, community gardens, businesses, cadet groups, schools and law courts which all depend on volunteers to make them work. In all these, individuals freely give up their time and skills to help others and to help to make their communities better, and my thanks go to each and every one.

What I have been most pleased about with my year in office has been the engagement with young people and how they volunteer for community good. There are dozens of examples, but I would like to use two groups to help to illustrate my point: Northumbria Police Cadets and West Denton Fire Cadets.

I am delighted to report that the Northumbria Police Cadets with their project Operation Hayness this year won National Crimebeat's the High Sheriffs' Association Award (see pages 14-16) with an innovative plan to reduce the purchase of alcohol from retail premises by underage people. This project led to a measurable reduction in crime in the area and has had a long-lasting effect as to how we manage



Above: Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to cadet leader Karen Soady, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Below: With the West Denton Fire Cadets to present their award



underage alcohol purchase in our region. I have spoken to both senior and local officers of Northumbria Police who have all commented on the significant positive long-term impact of the project.

The West Denton Fire Cadets this year won the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear Fund's top award for the considerable work they do to help others over a long period of time. Every week the cadets learn new skills which help them develop a range of technical and life skills. I set them a challenge – what they could do for community good – and they responded with imagination, determination, and hard work completing challenges, raising funds, and working with a special needs school. A perfect example of young people doing something for community good.

Finally, I would like to wish every 'new' High Sheriff all the best for their year in office and to reassure you that you will be well supported as I have been by your Lord-Lieutenant, previous High Sheriffs and your Under Sheriff. Have a great and memorable year in office.

Barely scratched the surface

Sue Baker MBE JP DL

High Sheriff of West Yorkshire 2022-23

I don't know how I can compress my extraordinary year of office into a short article. Concisely, of course, is the answer! But concisely cannot possibly do justice to all the wonderful experiences I have had, the people I have met or the places I have visited across the county.

From the joyous events of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, celebrating an unparalleled lifetime of service to the nation, to her sad passing only a few months later and the Proclamation of the Accession of the new King.

I knew a year would not be all that long and I had decided from the outset to narrow my focus and concentrate on small voluntary groups working with vulnerable young people at risk of being drawn into crime. I have spent much of my year visiting them to find out the impressive work they do but realise I have barely scratched the surface of all these groups who contribute so much to this county; and that is without even taking into account others providing essential services such as food banks, health charities, etc. – the list is endless!

I have been struck by the fact that all these groups are classed as 'The Third Sector' and yet they are the first place many turn to in this cost-of-living crisis. It is their ability to adapt so quickly to the changing needs of the community that makes their work so vital.

In order to help me identify which groups fitted my criteria, I used the contacts I had made at the local authorities, the police, the emergency services and the



At my High Sheriff's Awards event held at Walker Morris LLP with the winning groups (CATCH; e:merge; iSpace5; Kumon Y'all; Project Challenge; The Zone). Also attending: Kate Hainsworth (CEO, Leeds Community Foundation), Ed Anderson CBE (Lord-Lieutenant), John Robins QPM DL (Chief Constable), Chris Brown OBE DL (2016-17), Zulfi Karim (in nomination 2023-24), Richard Jackson MBE DL (2018-19), David Barraclough (Under Sheriff) and Sue Harris (Senior Director, Walker Morris)

community foundations. If, during my visit, it became apparent that a particular member of staff or volunteer had made an outstanding contribution, I later returned to present them with a framed High Sheriff's certificate. This was always met with great delight and appreciation from the organisation itself as well as the recipient and all were keen to have a photo taken of the event! Despite my initial reservations about using Twitter and social media, posting these photos did help to publicise and promote the organisations, as well as my visits during the year.

There have been so many highlights for me and so many interesting invitations that I am struggling to pick out just a few to mention. One particularly personal event was to be asked as High Sheriff to open the new Citizens Advice office in Leeds, where I have been a volunteer for the past 45 years.

For me, however, the greatest highlight of the year has been meeting people from so many different communities across this wonderfully diverse county, learning about their work and being able to thank them for all they do; those who have little themselves yet do so much for the community around them; those involved in the hospices, the universities, the prisons, the police and other emergency services – fire and rescue, ambulance and air ambulance. The impact they make is significant, but often little recognised and I have sought throughout my year to use my position as High Sheriff to acknowledge their contribution.

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve the County of West Yorkshire. I have made many new contacts and friends along the way, in particular my successor, Zulfi Karim DL. I wish him every success for his year ahead.



Left: At the official opening of the new Citizens Advice Leeds office with Chief Executive Dianne Lyons

Right: With Holocaust survivors, Liesel Carter, Arek Hersh MBE, Jean Hersh and Dr Martin Capel (seated) at a Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association event



High Sheriffs of England and Wales for 2023–24

England

Bedfordshire	R A Beard Esq
Berkshire	S H Muir Esq
Buckinghamshire	Dame Ann Geraldine Limb DBE DL
Cambridgeshire	Dr B N Khetani
Cheshire	D Dunn Esq MBE JP DL
City of Bristol	Miss S R Foster
Cornwall	T G H Ashworth Esq
Cumbria	Mrs S Scott
Derbyshire	Miss T M Peltier
Devon	The Rt Revd N H P McKinnel
Dorset	C W G Weston Esq MBE JP
Durham	Mrs A E Elliott
East Riding of Yorkshire	Miss C Cerutti
East Sussex	E R Bickersteth Esq
Essex	C R M Bishop Esq
Gloucestershire	H C W Robinson Esq DL
Greater London	Mrs I De
Greater Manchester	Mrs M Walker JP DL
Hampshire	Mrs A S Riviere JP DL
Herefordshire	R C C Robinson Esq
Hertfordshire	Mrs M E Green
Isle of Wight	Mrs D K Haig-Thomas
Kent	Mrs N Ahmed CBE DL
Lancashire	D W Taylor Esq CBE DL
Leicestershire	Mrs H J Chubb JP
Lincolnshire	R J Lake Esq OBE
Merseyside	Dr R M Hussey CB CBE DL
Norfolk	Professor K K Sethia
Northamptonshire	M N Shah Esq
Northumberland	Mrs D M A Bakes
North Yorkshire	Mrs C D Granger
Nottinghamshire	Professor V M Pickering DL
Oxfordshire	Mrs S P Scott
Rutland	Mrs G M E Feehally
Shropshire	Mrs A J Thorn MBE DL
Somerset	R N F Drewett Esq DL
South Yorkshire	Professor J Ray DL
Staffordshire	Mrs V L Hawley
Suffolk	J M Pendlington Esq DL
Surrey	T A de B Wates Esq DL
Tyne and Wear	Dame Irene Lucas-Hays DBE DL
Warwickshire	Mrs S Hilleary
West Midlands	W C Lyn Esq CBE
West Sussex	A G Bliss Esq QPM
West Yorkshire	Z A Karim Esq DL
Wiltshire	P Bhardwaj Esq
Worcestershire	Mrs L C Hewett DL

Wales

Clwyd	Hon Mrs Hill-Trevor
Dyfed	M D Raymond Esq CBE DL
Gwent	Prof S J Gibson CBE DL
Gwynedd	Mrs J Phillips
Mid Glamorgan	Professor J White CBE
Powys	R Cawthorne Esq
South Glamorgan	D R H James Esq
West Glamorgan	A Brayley Esq DL

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

New Members

Name	County	Year of Office
E J Attenborough Esq DL	Nottinghamshire	2025
Mrs H C Bowden	Herefordshire	2025
Mrs A D Brown	East Sussex	2025
N F Buxton Esq	Hertfordshire	2025
D C Chambers Esq DL	Lincolnshire	2025
Colonel R T Chesterfield	Rutland	2025
Ms S I Dixon	Mid Glamorgan	2025
G N Farr Esq	Northumberland	2025
Sir Richard FitzHerbert Bt	Derbyshire	2025
J T J Gillow Esq	Staffordshire	2025
Lt Colonel R R D Griffin	Gwent	2025
Mrs C A Harlow	Devon	2025
C N C Holmes Esq DL	Cumbria	2024
Mrs J E Howell	South Glamorgan	2024
M Hurrell Esq DL	Gloucestershire	2025
Mrs M J James JP	West Glamorgan	2024
Dr G C Jolliffe	Cumbria	2025
Mrs A M Jones	Dyfed	2025
Mrs C A King	Bedfordshire	2025
Mrs P J Kirkbride	Buckinghamshire	2025
P S Lines Esq	Norfolk	2025
Her Honour Judge Mifflin DL	Gwent	2024
Mrs J Montgomery	Somerset	2025
J B Neame Esq DL	Kent	2025
M J Nye Esq	Wiltshire	2025
J M Poole Esq JP DL	Durham	2025
Mrs S Roberts	Powys	2025
I J C Smith Esq	Worcestershire	2025
The Hon F Stanley DL	Cambridgeshire	2025
H M Swan Esq	Durham	2024
S Z Taylor Esq DL	Berkshire	2025
Mrs J M Trowbridge	Shropshire	2025
D R Wright Esq MBE DL	West Midlands	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.

Nomination of High Sheriffs of England

County

Bedfordshire
Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Cambridgeshire
Cheshire
City of Bristol
Cumbria
Derbyshire
Devon
Dorset
Durham
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Essex
Gloucestershire
Greater London
Hampshire
Herefordshire
Hertfordshire
Isle of Wight
Kent
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
North Yorkshire
Nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire
Rutland
Shropshire
Somerset
South Yorkshire
Staffordshire
Suffolk
Surrey
Tyne and Wear
Warwickshire
West Midlands
West Sussex
West Yorkshire
Wiltshire
Worcestershire

2024/2025

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

2025/2026

Mrs C A King
S Z Taylor Esq DL
Mrs P J Kirkbride
The Hon F Stanley DL
Mrs J S Warren MBE DL
Mrs K K Woolf
Dr G C Jolliffe
Sir Richard FitzHerbert Bt
Mrs C A Harlow
C Bremner Esq JP
J M Poole Esq JP DL
M Rice Esq
Mrs A D Brown
Mrs J A Fosh Rogers DL
TBC
Alderman J Garbutt JP
Mrs S P Elton
Mrs H C Bowden
N F Buxton Esq
A M Wake Esq
J B Neame Esq DL
Dr N R Kotecha Esq OBE DL
D C Chambers Esq DL
P S Lines Esq
Mrs P J Chauhan-Birdi
G N Farr Esq
Sir Andrew P Lawson-Tancred Bt
E J Attenborough Esq DL
TBC
Colonel R T Chesterfield
Mrs J M Trowbridge
Mrs J Montgomery
Mrs J C Allen
J T J Gillow Esq
Mrs G K Kayembe
P C Cluff Esq
Ms J J Curry MBE
Mrs K J Lynch
Dr J L Brooke-Smith OBE
Dr T J C Fooks
Mrs N J Chance-Thompson DL
M J Nye Esq
I J C Smith Esq

Deaths

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

C S Barker Esq DL

Date of death: 14-Feb-23
Age: 90
County: South Yorkshire
Year of office: 1993

Dr N W Brown OBE

Date of death: 10-Jan-23
Age: 77
County: Cambridgeshire
Year of office: 2010

C R Ferens Esq MBE DL

Date of death: 29-Jan-23
Age: 86
County: Lincolnshire
Year of office: 2002

J H Harris Esq JP DL

Date of death: 01-Feb-23
Age: 90
County: Cumbria
Year of office: 1976

D Lowsley-Williams Esq TD JP DL

Date of death: 08-Apr-23
Age: 89
County: Gloucestershire
Year of office: 1974

N G McNair Scott Esq

Date of death: 07-Apr-23
Age: 77
County: Hampshire
Year of office: 2011

M J Payne Esq

Date of death: 29-Dec-22
Age: 72
County: Oxfordshire
Under Sheriff

C J Prideaux Esq

Date of death: 31-Mar-23
Age: 86
County: Buckinghamshire
Year of office: 1991

J M Rowen Esq

Date of death: 15-Mar-23
Age: 79
County: Nottinghamshire
Year of office: 2009

Sir Samuel C Whitbread JP DL

Date of death: 17-Jan-23
Age: 85
County: Bedfordshire
Year of office: 1973

K McAlpine Esq OBE DL

Date of death: 08-Apr-23
Age: 102
County: Kent
Year of office: 1973

A O Golley Esq

Date of death: 02-Oct-22
Age: 89
County: South Glamorgan
Year of office: 1992

Lt Col G E Vere-Laurie

Date of death: 22-May-23
Age: 87
County: Nottinghamshire
Year of office: 1991

Nomination of High Sheriffs of Wales

County

Clwyd
Dyfed
Gwent
Gwynedd
Mid Glamorgan
Powys
South Glamorgan
West Glamorgan

2024/2025

Mrs K A Farrell-Thornley
Mrs H Jones
Her Honour Judge Mifflin DL
Ms S J Foskett JP
Dr R J P Lewis MBE DL
Lady Silk JP
Mrs J E Howell
Mrs M J James JP

2025/2026

Mrs J A Gillbanks
Mrs A M Jones
Lt Colonel R R D Griffin
R M Davies Esq
Ms S I Dixon
Mrs S Roberts
Mrs J Davies
Mrs D S Stroia

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

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



The High Sheriff's Badge

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



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



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

Enamel and gilt cufflinks

available with a chain or T-Bar fitting.

Each pair comes in its own presentation box **£40.50**

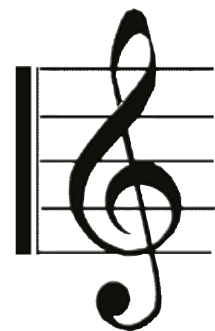


Ladies' Pure Silk Scarf

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 113/4")
£35.00



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



High Sheriff's March

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

The Association reserves the right to vary prices at any time.

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

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

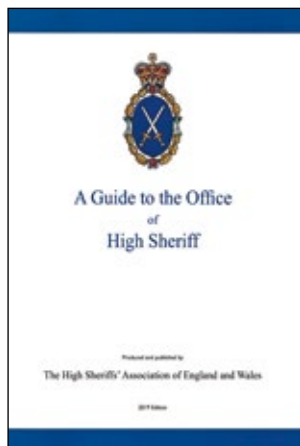
CCA 2: 50 for £20

Example CCA 1*



Publications

The Association reserves the right to vary prices at any time. *Available in Welsh



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

In the news

Congratulations to Council member Amanda Parker who will become the first female Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire in almost 500 years when she takes up the role later in the year. Amanda has been appointed by King Charles III to replace Lord Shuttleworth when he retires on 2 August after 26 years in the role. Amanda was the county's High Sheriff and is currently a Deputy Lieutenant.



Amanda Parker speaking at Burghley 2022

Congratulations also go to Council member Robina Shah who was appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire for services to patient care earlier this year. Additionally, in 2018 when High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Dame Robina was one of only 25 women in England and Wales to have a 3D statue of her created as part of the *put her forward* initiative.

A couple of the statues were selected to go 'on tour' but February this year marked the welcome return of the statue by its formal unveiling to the people of Greater Manchester by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and the Mayor of Stockport. Following the exhibition at Manchester Central Library, the statue will become a permanent part of the Town Hall Collection, where it will be exhibited when it opens.

In the UK there are 925 public statues, 158 of these are women, and of these only 25 are of non-mythical, non-royal women. To address this imbalance *put her forward*, an artwork campaign by non-zero one, was commissioned by Heritage Open Days and the National Trust to recognise living women who have positively impacted the people around them.

Between June to July 2018, the put her forward team travelled England and Wales asking the public to nominate women they found inspirational. Hundreds of nominations were gathered through workshops, online nominations, and live interviews.

Dame Robina was 3D scanned and printed on to a 18-inch statue made from sandstone. A consistent theme running through her nomination was recognition for her personal and professional achievements and her ability to compassionately engage with people from all walks of life.



Robina Shah with her 3D *put her forward* image

Next issue

The Editor welcomes articles and news stories from High Sheriffs concerning their year in office. The next edition of *The High Sheriff* will be published in December 2023. Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be Friday 6 October 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.

CONSORTS' CORNER

CONSORTS' MOTTO

Sir

Revd John Wall, my wife's Chaplain, suggested to me an excellent motto for we consorts; it is the motto adopted by Bishops' Chaplains, and comes from that fine hymn 'For All the Saints': *We feebly struggle; they in glory shine!*

It brought to mind the supposed motto of professional golfers' caddies: Turn up; keep up; shut up.

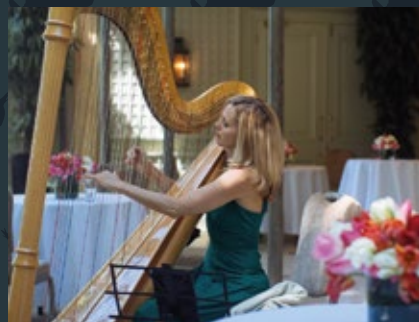
Yours etc.

William King
Husband of Jane King
(East Sussex 2022-23)



WILLIAM BARTHOLOMEW

PARTY ORGANISING

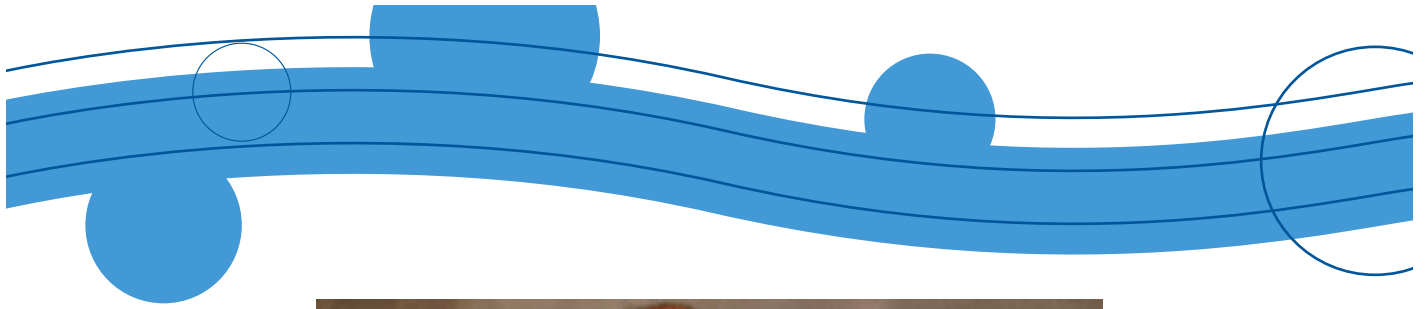


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MR GOLDING MVO HAS RETIRED OR PERHAPS HE HASN'T

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