



SUMMER
2025

The High Sheriff

Magazine of the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales



NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT AWARDS 2025

Trauma-Informed Practice // When Justice Fails Children in Care // Multi-Faith Chaplaincy



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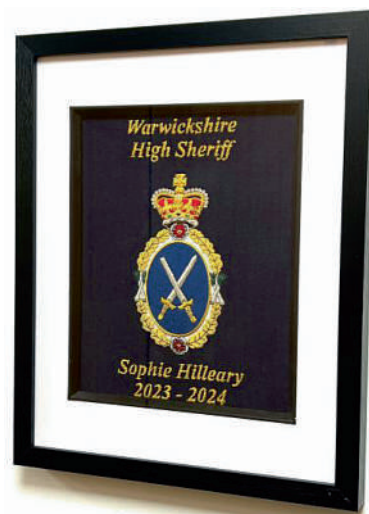
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Front Cover: Annie Brewster (Herts) at a primary school near Hertford

Contents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 From the Chairman;
From the Editor | 13 Focus on... When
Justice Fails
Children in Care |
| 5 Diary | 14 News – from and
about members |
| 6 National Crimebeat
Awards | 42 High Sheriffs of
England and Wales
2025-26; new
members; deaths;
nominations |
| 9 Staffordshire Secretary
to the Shrievalty | 44 Association regalia
and publications |
| 10 Focus on... Multi-
Faith Chaplaincy | 46 The Final Word |
| 12 Focus on... Trauma-
Informed Practice | |



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represents the Council's views.

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

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From the Chairman



On behalf of the Association, I thank all the High Sheriffs 2024 for the dedication, enthusiasm and service they gave during their very busy year of office and, as they start their year of service to the Crown in this the oldest of civic appointments, we wish the new High Sheriffs 2025 a hugely enjoyable and impactful year.

I am keen to share with members some of the work that your Council is undertaking to support, enhance and strengthen the Shrievalty. I begin by welcoming the new independent member of Council to the Association.

Richard Tilbrook accepted my invitation to join Council and attended his first Council meeting in April. Richard is the current Clerk to the Privy Council. His advice, experience and wisdom will be invaluable.

The Shrievalty is diverse and inclusive. The voluntary unpaid work of High Sheriffs supporting the judiciary, courts, police, prison and probation services, and communities in their bailiwicks by recognising and thanking individuals and groups with High Sheriff's awards and certificates is greatly appreciated. Therefore, it was comforting to learn of the continuing support and admiration for the work of the Shrievalty and the Lieutenancy by the government during a recent House of Lords debate on English devolution.

The voluntary County Nomination Panels, independently chaired and comprising people from across the bailiwick, clerked and supported by the continuity of hard-working Under Sheriffs, provide a rigorous process of due diligence from which the serving High Sheriff submits names of potential High Sheriffs in nomination to the Privy Council. The Association provides guidelines for the panels and an annual online briefing for panel chairs and the Under Sheriffs.

Much work is being done to ensure that the important regional briefings for High Sheriffs in nomination follow a standard format and programme, and that they encourage the very best engagement of the 55 county shrieval families in supporting and sharing experiences for individuals as

they prepare for office. Becoming a High Sheriff can be daunting. It is good when the shrieval families rally round.

We anticipate mirroring the valued support available to High Sheriffs in nomination from the Speakers' Trust by sourcing similar support in the use of social media. Also, to ensure that we can monitor and improve the wider support the Association provides, we are considering asking outgoing High Sheriffs to provide a short two-page reflection on their year.

On Tuesday 24 June, the annual briefing seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination and their spouses/partners will take place in London for the first time. We are grateful to the Drapers' Company for providing their wonderful hall for the seminar, which will conclude with a reception in the Old Bailey hosted generously by the City Sheriffs.

I am pleased to report the continuing engagement between your Association and the new High Sheriffs of Northern Ireland Association, now in its second year. Our Hon Secretary Deborah Hutchinson and I attended HSA NI's AGM at the Law Society in Belfast on Thursday 1 May, after which we had the pleasure of meeting the Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, the Right Honourable Dame Siobhan Keegan, at a reception in the Royal Courts of Justice. There are eight High Sheriffs in Northern Ireland and no Under Sheriffs. The shrieval year is the calendar year and incoming High Sheriffs have three months' notice of the appointment.

Your Council works hard on your behalf. I am extremely grateful to all my fellow Council members and thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm. We are a good team.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Association's AGM at Drapers' Hall on Wednesday 29 October.

**Andrew Tuggey,
Chairman, Gwent 2015**

From the Hon Editor



I must first thank all those who have contributed articles for this issue of *The High Sheriff* and more importantly thank all outgoing High Sheriffs for their enormous commitment over the last year. These pages demonstrate some extraordinary initiatives from across the country, making a real difference to individuals' lives. Whether increasing life chances in Worcestershire, encouraging volunteering in Somerset or supporting care leavers in Suffolk you can see the difference that High Sheriffs make within their communities; and all this is in addition to supporting the forces of law and order. There are lessons for current High Sheriffs and those in nomination ranging from the practical to the personal – and always the power of a 'thank you'.

This issue also carries informative articles on trauma-informed practice from Jane Donohoe and on supporting vulnerable children in care from Katharine Sacks-Jones. All High Sheriffs in nomination need to understand the importance of trauma, especially in children. I commend them to you.

I also recommend that you read the thoughtful and moving article from chaplains of seven different faiths and what supporting the High Sheriff meant to each of them individually – 'interfaith work isn't about diluting beliefs' but recognising that each has its own voice. For High Sheriffs, who need to work across all faiths, this is particularly instructive.

Community is a powerful word. This issue demonstrates the power of community at its best.

Michael Gurney, Hon Editor, Norfolk 2021

From the Editor



'Thank you' to the 2024 cohort who responded to my request for county articles – I appreciate that the timing is not always great after a busy year in office when you are trying to tie everything up and perhaps escape for a well-earned break.

'Thank you' too to current High Sheriffs – barely in office – who have already sent images of their county's VE Day 80 celebrations. If you would like to put a tick against your to-do list and/or clear out some files, please do send them (with brief description) through to me at editor@highsheriffs.com – you don't need to wait for the request to submit an article for the winter edition, which you will receive in September. In the meantime, I wish you an enjoyable and productive summer and look forward to hearing from you come the autumn.

Jayne Lewis, Editor



Diary of Forthcoming Events

JUNE 2025

SEMINAR FOR HIGH SHERIFFS IN NOMINATION FOR THE YEARS 2026 AND 2027

TUESDAY 24 JUNE

The 2025 Seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination will be held at Drapers' Hall, London. Details of the programme and speakers together with an application form will have been sent in April 2025 to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2026 and 2027.

SEPTEMBER 2025

ZOOM FOR CURRENT HIGH SHERIFFS

MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

To discuss matters of interest for High Sheriffs at 5.30 pm for about an hour.

OCTOBER 2025

THE RED MASS

WEDNESDAY 1 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. The TMS traditionally asks for an offering towards the increasing costs of running the ceremony, which will be included in the formal invitation from the Hon Secretary of the Society.

THE LADIES' LUNCH

EARLY OCTOBER

The annual Ladies' Lunch will be held in London. Details will be sent in the summer to those ladies who are in nomination.

54TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER

The Association's 54th 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 September 2025.

NOVEMBER 2025

NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

This is the opening date for submissions for the 2026 awards. See pages 6-8 for more details on National Crimebeat.

THE NOMINATION OF FUTURE HIGH SHERIFFS

WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER

The ceremony will take place in Court 4 (the Lady Chief Justice's Court) at 2.00 pm at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. At the ceremony the names of those nominated for the Office of High Sheriff for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028 will be read out in court. The Secretary will write in September to all High Sheriffs in nomination for 2026 and 2027 inviting them to attend. It may be possible for a few 2028 nominees to attend as well but space in court is limited. The Association will not know the names of the 2028 nominees so it will be

up to such nominees or their proposers to contact the Secretary should they wish to attend. After the ceremony, there will be a tea party at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand. This event provides a good opportunity for those in nomination to meet each other.

DECEMBER 2025

ZOOM FOR HIGH SHERIFFS IN NOMINATION FOR 2026

MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

To discuss matters of interest for High Sheriffs in nomination for 2026 at 5.30 pm for about an hour.

MARCH 2026

NATIONAL CRIMEBEAT

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

The awards ceremony will take place in London. All projects to be entered must be endorsed by a High Sheriff and submitted by 19 January 2026. Finalists will be announced shortly after that.

IN THE NEWS...

For news updates
on members
see page 46

National Crimebeat Awards

National Crimebeat is the High Sheriffs' Association's own charity, celebrating young people who co-produce and deliver youth crime prevention or victim support projects within their local communities. All but one of the trustees are former High Sheriffs – the exception is Tranai Todd, a previous finalist; the Chair of the HSA is an ex-officio member of the board. The HSA generously provides some sponsorship towards the awards; National Crimebeat relies on its sponsors and supporters to be able to operate and, most importantly, provide cash prizes for the winning projects each year.

The charity fulfills its role by organising a nationwide competition each year for youth crime prevention or victim support projects which are co-produced and delivered by young people under the age of 25. The competition opens for entries in the autumn each year and the awards ceremony is held in London in the third week of March.

The judging of the awards is one of those heartwarming but oh so difficult tasks as each entry is carefully scrutinised against the broad criteria of being a project that must prevent or reduce the incidence of crime or assist

victims of crime and, most importantly, the initiative must be delivered and managed to some extent by the young people (under the age of 25).

March 18 was a beautiful early spring day and London was looking rather wonderful as we greeted our seven teams of finalists – 86 young people in total plus their supporters and their High Sheriffs who had endorsed their entries as well as a number of High Sheriffs in nomination. In all, almost 150 people attended the ceremony, hosted by the Royal National Hotel in Bedford Way, London – a venue provided through the incredible



Jo Hilditch,
Trustee National
Crimebeat;
Herefordshire
2020-21

generosity of the Walduck family, long-term supporters of National Crimebeat.

This year saw the inaugural awarding of the Richard Walduck Award to Cheshire's Kingsmead Mini Police – this award is for an outstanding project that, in the view of the judges, demonstrated real benefit to the local community. Richard Walduck OBE KStJ DL, who sadly died in 2021, was a previous High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and a huge supporter of National Crimebeat. We are fortunate to have the ongoing support of the Walduck family and to have had Richard's son, Alex, as one of our judges.



Overall winners Youth Shedz Cymru (Clwyd), here with Mandy Thorn (far left), PCSO Beverley Owen (second left) and Dan Scott (far right) from sponsors the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers



Kingsmead Mini Police (Cheshire) were winners of the inaugural Richard Walduck Award



Each of our seven finalists presented their projects to the audience and to a small panel of judges consisting of the Chair of the High Sheriffs' Association, Andrew Tuggey, ably supported by Association President, Elizabeth Hunter, together with Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Matthew Ward, Dan Scott from the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers and Alex Walduck.

Her Honour Judge Dean, a huge supporter of the awards, gave a fascinating and thought-provoking speech describing her role as a circuit judge and the importance of supporting young people to make the right choices.

After her speech she then announced the three highly commended projects which were: Bay Youth Project from the Isle of Wight; Merseyside's Youth Safe Space Programme and Heddlu Bach (Mini Police) from South Glamorgan. Presented by Mandy Thorn, Chair of National Crimebeat, each of these projects was awarded £1,000.

Bay Youth Project challenges antisocial behaviour and has developed an outreach in arts and sports, challenging trending themes, helping to reduce ASB by nearly 50 per cent.

Youth Safe Space Programme is a team of young people led by two trained youth staff, who together have developed a framework ensuring that an inclusive and non-judgemental environment was available to the Merseyside community preventing ASB.

Heddlu Bach is a Mini Police project which has brought tangible benefits to an area where there

Start your search for your crime prevention youth groups as early as you can! Entries open 3 November.



were tensions following the deaths of two young e-scooter riders. This has greatly reduced ASB and strengthened community ties.

Then the three winners were announced and presented their award by, respectively, Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Matthew Ward and Dan Scott from the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers; East Sussex's Project 16 came third, winning £1,500; Lancashire's ICE POP were runners-up winning £2,000; and the overall winning project was Youth Shedz Cymru from Clwyd who won £3,000.

The winning project, Youth Shedz Cymru, operates across North

In third place and winners of the High Sheriffs' Association Award presented by Andrew Tuggey (far right) were Wealden Police Cadets (East Sussex)

Mandy Thorn (far left) and Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean (third from right) with members of Isle of Wight's Bay Youth Project (highly commended)

Wales providing a safe space for young people facing social isolation and personal challenges; they work closely with local police, schools, youth services, town councils, parents and, most importantly, young people. Check out their Facebook page to see their range of projects.

Andrew Tuggey presented the High Sheriffs' Association's Award to Project 16, East Sussex's hard-hitting and successful project developed by the Wealden Police Cadets. Their project is an educational and informative programme for Year 11 students in their local schools to help combat harmful attitudes and behaviour around violence against women and girls.





Left: Runners-up Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadets (Lancashire) were also winners of the Burnett Presentation Award presented by trustee and past winner Tranai Todd

Below: Mandy Thorn and Her Honour Judge Rosa Dean with Merseyside's Youth Safe Space Project (highly commended)

The last award of the morning, the Burnett Presentation Award, was presented by trustee and past winner Tranai Todd to the Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadets who developed their ICE POP project to help with the recurring issue of a group of 10- to 11-year-olds who were on the cusp of criminality, causing anti-social behaviour, being excluded from school and refusing to engage with the authorities. The Police Cadets worked alongside the neighbourhood police to target hot spots where youngsters



Right: The trustees of National Crimebeat: (standing) Theresa Peltier DL (Derbyshire 2023), Grania Phillips DL (Devon 2018), Lt Col Andrew Tuggey CBE DL, (HSA Chairman, Gwent 2015), Clive Lloyd (W Yorks 2021), Tranai Todd; (seated) Joanna Hilditch DL (Herefordshire 2020), Mandy Thorn DL MBE, Chair (Shropshire 2023), Margaret Miles (Rutland 2019)



Left: Heddlu Bach were highly commended; the Mini Police here with Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Met Police, Matt Ward, and Janey Howell (High Sheriff of South Glamorgan)

would gather and engaged them in a series of fun activities.

Do check out the National Crimebeat website for more information on each of our seven finalists: www.national-crimebeat.org.uk.

After the awards we had an excellent short speech by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Matt Ward; we have enjoyed such excellent support from the Metropolitan Police. We were then treated to a delicious lunch by the Royal National Hotel, after which the finalists all boarded the Big Bus for their tour of London finishing up at the London Eye for an amazing bird's eye view of our capital city. We are very grateful to have the continuing support of the Big Bus Company and Merlin Entertainment's London Eye.

Our 2026 awards are opening for entries on the 3 November with the closing date being 19 January 2026. All projects to be entered must be endorsed by a High Sheriff. The awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday 17 March 2026. Please do look out for suitable projects involving young people in your area and encourage them to enter!

Overall winner –
Clwyd: Youth Shedz Cymru

Runners-up and winners of the Burnett Presentation Award –
Lancashire: Blackpool and Fylde Police Cadets (ICE POP)

Third place and winners of the High Sheriffs' Association Award –
East Sussex: Wealden Police Cadets (Project 16)

Highly Commended –
Isle of Wight: Bay Youth Project;
Merseyside: Youth Safe Space Project;
South Glamorgan: Heddlu Bach (Mini Police)

Richard Walduck Award –
Cheshire: Kingsmead Mini Police

Staffordshire Secretary to the Shrievalty

Tim Gillow

High Sheriff of Staffordshire 2025-26

My Declaration day photograph records the conferral of my first High Sheriff's Award on Miss Pat Chilton, Secretary to the Shrievalty. The award was given for outstanding commitment and achievement, and nobody could question Pat's dedication and tolerance. Pat is flanked by her first and fiftieth High Sheriffs.

I suspect that Pat is the only person who could cope with working under fifty successive High Sheriffs. Is this a record?



High Sheriff's Police Cadets (2024-25) Rebecca Butcher and Summer Shaw, Sir James Hawley KCVO TD (former High Sheriff and former Lord-Lieutenant), Pat Chilton, Tim Gillow (newly declared High Sheriff), Sir Ian Dudson KCVO CBE (Lord-Lieutenant and also a former High Sheriff under Pat!), and High Sheriff's Police Cadets (2025-26) Felicity Broome and Jess Cantrell



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Multi-Faith Chaplaincy

Walking in Step: A year of faith, service and fellowship in Buckinghamshire

Frances Gordon

Jewish Chaplain to Kurshida Mirza,
High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire
2024-25

When Kurshida Mirza BEM stepped into the role of High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, she became the first Muslim woman to hold the position in the county's history. Her shrieval year was guided by the Islamic values of peace, justice and love for humanity. Determined to reflect the diversity of Buckinghamshire and to give space to these values across religious traditions, Kurshida chose to be supported by a multi-faith chaplaincy drawn from her Islamic faith and the Christian, Jewish, Bahá'í, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths. The chaplains accompanied her throughout the year, visiting prisons, courts, civic organisations, community events and one another's places of worship.

This article gives a few highlights from the written reflections of each of the chaplains who served alongside High Sheriff Kurshida Mirza BEM during her term of office.

For Imam Shehzad Hussain of HMP Woodhill and Central Jamia Mosque in Wolverton, serving as the Muslim chaplain alongside the first Muslim High Sheriff carried a special weight.



He noted that aside from the duties of her office, she carried the hopes and pride of many who, for the first time, saw someone who looked like them and shared their background represented in civic leadership. He recalled the High Sheriff's presence at the Grand Iftar at MK Dons Stadium, where her words captured the spirit of Ramadan: generosity, unity and shared purpose. Just as meaningful was her visit to the prison community, where she thanked volunteers and participants in restorative justice programmes. In doing so, she acknowledged people often forgotten and affirmed their journeys of reflection, healing and transformation. 'This year has shown us that representation matters, that leadership rooted in values can

Five of the chaplains at Christ the Cornerstone with Countess Elizabeth Howe (HM Lord Lieutenant), Kurshida Mirza (High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire) and Cllr Marie Bradburn (Mayor of Milton Keynes)

create real change, and that when faith walks hand-in-hand with public service, it lights the way forward.'

Suresh Nesaratnam of the Milton Keynes Murugan Temple reflected on the knowledge he gained about different religions (for example, that the Peace Pagoda enshrines sacred relics of Lord Buddha) and the relationships he formed. This is an essential part of chaplaincy: the ability to know who to contact about the issues that face us as communities. He was reminded of his early years in Kuala Lumpur and his experience of how people of different religions moved through life in harmony. The diversity within the chaplaincy stirred that same sense of belonging. 'It was like family, being in the Chaplaincy Team of our High Sheriff.'

Reverend George Mwaura, URC Minister at Church of Christ the Cornerstone, observed that each faith tradition holds pieces of the same human story: the story of seeking meaning, finding belonging and serving others. He also noted the ease with which the chaplains worked together. 'There were no grand theological debates, no attempts to convert one another. Instead, we found common ground in the simple acts of service – sharing a cup of tea or lunch at Camphill. I've learnt that interfaith work isn't about diluting our beliefs or finding the lowest common denominator. It's about recognising that our different



Five of the chaplains at the mosque with (centre three) Imam Mohsin (Central Jamia Mosque Wolverton), Cllr Marie Bradburn (Mayor of Milton Keynes) and Kurshida Mirza (High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire)

traditions can be like instruments in an orchestra – each with its unique voice, but capable of creating something beautiful together.’

Frances Gordon of Milton Keynes & District Reform Synagogue spoke of the importance of listening. Her year was shaped by hearing the stories and struggles of others, including a visit to the prison system where she witnessed the quiet, determined work being done to support people at their most vulnerable. Learning that some are released into homelessness left a lasting impact. Frances also reflected on the visits to places of worship, where space was given to hear different views and practices. In these moments of deep listening, she came to understand more fully the challenges and resilience that sustain this city and all of Buckinghamshire. ‘In times of challenge, the act of listening is healing and restorative.’ Through this programme, Frances has forged lasting friendships and relationships that she is committed to nurturing and building upon in the years to come.

Tarsem Singh Ubhi of Ramgarhia Sabha Sikh Temple, Kiln Farm Gurdwara and Milton Keynes Sikhs, saw the year as a tapestry of insights. From visiting Thames Valley Police and witnessing the courage and professionalism of its officers, to joining in community events at the Gurdwara where Langar – a traditional vegetarian meal – was shared with guests of many faiths, every encounter demonstrated how faith communities and civic structures work together to serve society. He highlighted some visits to the other chaplains’ places of worship; for example, the mosque in Wolverton offered a profound learning experience, showcasing its role in religious observance and its provision of Urdu language and religious education to hundreds of young children. A visit to the synagogue allowed everyone to view a historic Torah and learn about the origins of the synagogue building, including its funding and construction. ‘For peace and justice to flourish in our multi-ethnic and multicultural society, it is essential that individuals respect one another as equals. This can only be achieved through opportunities for interaction and mutual learning.’

Roya Azordegan of the Bahá’í Faith shared a reflection: ‘It’s not



The visit to the Hindu temple

that what I do will change the world, but if I don’t do what I can, change for the better will never come.’ To her, this captured what Kurshida has accomplished. By establishing a multi-faith chaplaincy, she may not have changed the world, but she made it more inclusive and more tolerant. Roya wrote about the difference between religion and tradition. While traditions may divide, the core of religion – its message of love, unity, and spiritual nobility – connects us. She called for a renewed commitment to seeing religion as something we share, a truth that can help us work together for the common good.

Glen O’Halloran of the Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda, representing the Buddhist faith, contributed a quiet, thoughtful presence that grounded the group’s journey in mindfulness and peace. As well as attending many events, he hosted a morning at the Peace Pagoda, where guests were educated about

At the Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda



the pagoda and about Buddhism, and took part in a meditation. His involvement throughout the year added a reflective depth to the chaplaincy’s shared work.

As the year drew to a close, Revd George Mwaura offered words that captured the spirit of the entire journey. ‘Milton Keynes was born from a vision of what could be – a place where modern innovation meets community spirit, where concrete and gardens dance together in harmony. Today, we gathered here not just as residents of a city but as keepers of a dream that continues to unfold. In these challenging times, let us remember that Milton Keynes has always been a place of welcome, of new beginnings, of diverse communities coming together to write their shared story.’

The chaplains offer heartfelt thanks to High Sheriff Kurshida Mirza for inviting us to walk alongside her during this remarkable year. She gave us all the opportunity to deepen our own callings, to meet across differences and to serve together. It has been a privilege, an honour and a joy.

Kurshida wrote: ‘I never in a million years imagined to be the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire arriving as a little Indian girl to the UK.’ And yet, she not only became High Sheriff, she reimagined what that role could be.

May her year not be seen as a culmination but as a beginning, a blueprint for what civic life rooted in shared faith, deep listening and radical hospitality can look like. May the bridges built this year hold strong, and may many more cross them in peace.

Trauma-Informed Practice: A Pathway to Better Outcomes

Jane Donohoe

Jane Donohoe Training & Consultancy

Understanding Trauma and Its Impact

Childhood trauma is a significant public health issue with lasting mental and physical health consequences. It is critical for professionals across all sectors, particularly those in human services, to develop the skills necessary to identify and respond to trauma effectively. Decades of research have consistently shown that the impact of trauma is profound, far-reaching and costly.

Trauma can stem from harmful experiences such as violence, neglect, war and abuse, affecting individuals regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status or ethnicity. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, one of the most influential pieces of research on the subject, highlighted the widespread nature of childhood trauma. Key findings include:

- 30% of respondents reported substance use in their household
- 27% had experienced physical abuse
- 25% reported sexual abuse
- 17% faced emotional neglect
- 14% witnessed domestic violence

These early adversities significantly increase the likelihood of mental health challenges, substance use disorders and chronic physical conditions later in life.

What is Trauma-Informed Practice?

Trauma-Informed Practice (TIP) emerged in the United States through the groundbreaking work of Maxine Harris, Roger Fallot and Sandra Bloom. It is now widely recognised as a framework that



Jane delivering talk at Greater Manchester Police

understands how trauma exposure impacts an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development.

Importantly, TIP is not about directly treating trauma; rather, it ensures that services are delivered in ways that avoid re-traumatising individuals. This approach involves recognising the prevalence of trauma, integrating this knowledge into policies and practices, and creating environments that are safe and supportive for those affected by trauma.

The Importance of Trauma-Informed Training

The evidence supporting trauma-informed practice is compelling. It has shown that adopting a trauma-informed approach can significantly benefit both trauma survivors and service providers. For those affected by trauma, these services can offer hope, empowerment and support in ways that do not re-traumatise.

A trauma-informed approach can also help bridge the gap between service providers and users. By shifting from disciplinary responses to empathetic, informed interactions, organisations can create safer, more supportive environments. The benefits include:

- Preventing evictions and abandonment from supported accommodation
- Reducing service disengagement
- Improving long-term outcomes for service users

Key Trauma-Informed Training Objectives

Trauma-informed training equips organisations with the knowledge and tools to implement lasting change. The primary objectives of the training are to:

- Understand trauma, with a particular focus on complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (c-PTSD)
- Recognise how trauma can result from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Foster environments that support trauma recovery through Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE)
- Integrate trauma-informed principles throughout the organisation

Tackling Trauma Together



- Develop strategies to measure and sustain progress in trauma-informed care
- Promote workforce well-being and prevent vicarious trauma and burnout

Core Principles of Trauma-Informed Practice

Trauma-informed organisations operate based on foundational principles that shape all interactions and policies. These principles include:

- Safety – Ensuring physical and emotional safety for both service users and staff
- Trust – Building relationships rooted in transparency and reliability
- Voice & Choice – Providing individuals with autonomy and control over their care
- Collaboration – Promoting shared decision-making and teamwork
- Empowerment – Supporting resilience and self-determination

By embedding these principles, organisations can create an environment conducive to healing and growth, ensuring that individuals feel respected, heard and safe.

Let's Tackle Trauma Together

Trauma-informed care is not just a framework; it represents a collective movement towards more compassionate, effective and equitable service delivery. When organisations work together, they can create environments that foster recovery, prevent re-traumatisation and ultimately improve the lives of those affected by trauma.

For more information on trauma-informed care training and implementation, please contact Jane Donohoe (jane@janedonohoe.co.uk; 07388 033 649).

When Justice Fails Children in Care: The Case for Optimism

By Katharine Sacks-Jones

In England, 84,000 children – enough to fill Wembley Stadium – are growing up in care. Among their many challenges, their disproportionate involvement with the justice system is alarming. Children in care are nine times more likely to get a prison sentence than other children. This isn't coincidence but the result of systemic failures that Become is working to address.

Police are often called to care homes for behaviour that would be handled differently in family homes. Teenage frustration that might lead to a conversation in most households can result in criminal charges for a young person in care. This criminalisation of normal adolescent behaviour creates a pipeline from care to custody that destroys futures.

At Become, the national charity for children in care and care leavers, we witness these injustices daily. Our Care Advice Service guides young people through complex systems, while our workshops help them understand and advocate for their rights.

Our Propel programme breaks cycles of disadvantage by supporting care-experienced young people into education and employment. One young person we helped had never had a job and felt overwhelmed by applications. With our support, they built confidence, improved their CV, practised interviews and secured their first job – creating stability for a better future.

Care-experienced young people face persistent stigma from professionals, including teachers, mental health services, police and courts. They're often underestimated, given limited opportunities and scrutinised more closely. This leads to over-



criminalisation and a profound distrust of systems meant to protect them.

This distrust is justified. Young people in care are frequently moved far from their communities. In Suffolk, four out of ten children in care are placed more than 20 miles from home. These moves, more often than not driven by a lack of suitable local homes rather than children's needs, create isolation – a significant risk factor for justice system involvement.

Then comes the 'care cliff' at age 18, when nearly 40 per cent of young people leave care overnight. They move from foster homes or residential care into hostels or temporary accommodation, suddenly facing adult responsibilities like paying bills and budgeting while trying to maintain education or employment. Without secure housing, money or guidance, one in three become homeless within two years of leaving care.

Despite these challenges, I remain

BECOME IN CARE. LEAVING CARE. WE CARE.

hopeful. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill now in Parliament extends 'corporate parenting' duties to more public bodies, including the justice system. This could transform how police, courts and prisons treat care-experienced young people.

Imagine police and court officials trained in trauma-informed approaches. Picture a justice system that asks: 'Would this be fair treatment if this was my child?'

My greatest source of hope comes from young people themselves. We work alongside children in care and young care leavers to campaign for change based on their own experiences. Together, we bring these issues to public attention and push for reform at local and national levels.

As High Sheriffs, you are uniquely placed to help us build a care system which supports, not punishes, vulnerable children. By raising our profile and opening your networks, you can help amplify care-experienced voices in policy discussions and drive legislative change to prevent criminalisation.

One powerful way to do this is by becoming a Champion in our new initiative uniting supporters to drive real lasting change for young people in and leaving care.

Will you join our network shaping a better future? Call us on 020 3007 9439 or visit becomecharity.org.uk/support-our-work/become-champions to learn more and take action today. Together, we can ensure that being in care doesn't mean ending up in custody.

Investing in young people



Kurshida Mirza BEM

High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire and the City of Milton Keynes 2024-25

The Office of High Sheriff, as we know, dates back to Saxon times, when the 'Shire Reeve' was responsible to the King for the maintenance of law and order within the shire, or county, and for the collection and return of taxes due to the Crown. While the duties of the role have evolved over time, supporting the Crown and the judiciary remain central elements of the role today.

This overarching responsibility offers High Sheriffs a unique opportunity to provide a platform to engage those in the justice system with key issues for our communities and county. I wanted to shine a light on the importance of social inclusion, building partnerships and collaboration.

It was a privilege to host a symposium in February 2025 to open a conversation on school exclusion and its relationship to criminality. We know – and research shows – that young people excluded from school are more likely to end up in the criminal justice system.

Early in my year, with the support of Milton Keynes Community Foundation, I facilitated a number of workshops with a wide range of stakeholders to hear the challenges around the issue of school

With contributors to the High Sheriff's Symposium on School Inclusion and Crime Prevention: Simon Sims (Head of School Service, MK City Council), Amy Langford (Group Director – Inclusion, MK College Group), Mac Heath (Director of Children Services, MK City Council), Her Honour Judge MacLachlan (MK Family and Civil Court Centre), Dr Claire Hodgskiss (Project Director, Sieve MK Gateway), Jade Barnett (Power2Prevail) and Matthew Barbar (Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner)



Kurshida Mirza with her multi-faith chaplaincy: (back row) Imam Shehzad Hussain (Muslim chaplain), Revd George Mwaura (Christian chaplain), Glen O'Halloran (Buddhist chaplain) (front row) Frances Gordon (Jewish chaplain), Tarsem Singh Ubhi (Sikh chaplain), Suresh Nesaratnam (Hindu chaplain) and Roya Azordegan (Bahá'í chaplain)

inclusion/exclusion for our city and county. Subsequently, I was able to bring together a planning group to work with me to host a School Inclusion and Crime Prevention Symposium. The planning

group comprised both unitary councils in my county along with Thames Valley Police (TVP), MK College, MK Community Foundation, Sieve MK Gateway, the Safety Centre and Bletchley Park.

Chaired by Her Honour Judge Maclachlan of the Milton Keynes County Court and Family Court, the symposium provided an opportunity to raise awareness, share the experience of young people, celebrate good practice and recognise the importance of partnership and collaboration for future dialogue and a call for action so that no child is left behind.

The Directors of Children Services at Milton Keynes City Council and Buckinghamshire Council provided a high-level overview of the rising national issues and challenges in relation to school inclusion. They talked of the increasing pressures and expectations on local authorities and schools – including funding and workforce pressures – reflecting on the risk factors that can lead to exclusions and exploitation.

Jade Barnett, co-founder of Power2Prevail, used video testimonies of personal stories from young people across our county to share the lived experience of the difference culturally appropriate, collaborative and sensitive interventions can make in creating positive outcomes for young people on the edge of exclusion.

The symposium finished with a focus on learning and sharing of good practice. This included: the Milton Keynes Inclusion Partnership which brings schools to work together to keep young people within the school system; the School Navigator – an innovative project by TVP; Youth Justice Service; the Virtual School; and Restore Hope.

A key message going forwards is how the community and voluntary sectors can support schools, colleges and the justice system by providing valuable respite and activities to divert young people from criminality.

To quote our two Directors of Children Services, Mac Heath and John Macilwraith: 'The question of responsibility for these children is a collective one, requiring a coordinated effort from all stakeholders.'

This symposium was more than a networking opportunity – it was a call to action. It was about saying, 'I don't have all the solutions, no one size fits all, but I make the intention to learn, share and work to bring positive change to create a better future for our young people.' Our collaboration will continue as part of the new Youth Inclusion and Crime Prevention Collaborative.

My Justice Dinner in February provided a further platform to continue the

dialogue. Young people from MK YMCA shared their powerful lived experience. His Honour Judge Perusko and His Honour Judge Jonathan Cooper spoke profoundly about how both the criminal and family courts have evolved over the years to better empower young people and involve them in the justice process, so giving them agency.

It was important to me to not only give voice to young people by inviting them to speak at the Justice Dinner, but also to include other young people seldom heard or seen in the guest list of 50. They were sitting in the Bletchley Park Mansion ballroom alongside influencers and policy makers as equals. The meal was cooked and served by MK College Catering and Hospitality students who worked with me to fulfil my culturally and faith specific menu.

I had appointed High Sheriff's College Champions for my year in keeping with my passion to include, inspire

and empower young people. Eight students from the Buckinghamshire College Group and MK College worked with me throughout my shrieval year accompanying me to numerous visits and engagements. They were also able to benefit from the experience of meeting and talking with the judiciary as well as working with TVP on their projects to tackle crime focusing on violence against women and girls and domestic abuse. I was especially proud to nominate my Bucks College Group for a National Crimebeat Award, as we have not had an entry from Buckinghamshire for some time now.

It is a credit to the Office of High Sheriff how it opens doors and gives High Sheriffs a unique platform to focus on key issues, shining a light to readdress imbalances within their county. I am indebted to that office to be able to do this in my year. It has been an honour and privilege.



With the planning group of the High Sheriff's Symposium on School Inclusion and Crime Prevention: (top row) Zion Johnson (Philanthropy Officer, MK Community Foundation), James Fowler (Education Entitlement Manager, Buckinghamshire Council), Simon Sims (Head of School Service, Milton Keynes City Council), (centre) Amber Wright (Philanthropy Manager, MK Community Foundation), Amy Langford (Group Director – Inclusion, MK College Group), (bottom row) Maya Joseph-Hussain (CEO, Safety Centre) and Dr Claire Hodgskiss (Project Director, Sieve MK Gateway)

A life lived for others

Clare Hayward MBE DL

High Sheriff of Cheshire 2024-25

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile

Albert Einstein

I have met hundreds of people this year who dedicate time and energy to our communities. Negative global news can be overwhelming; however, I have been overwhelmed by the positivity emanating from our volunteers – people whose words have positive consequences. People who recognise a need, identify a solution and take action by creating, joining or accelerating something to make it better for others. They shape destinies. All these volunteers are heroes in my book.

I learnt about our legal system way beyond what's in the books *The Secret Barrister* and *Unlawful Killings*. Globally, corruption and lawlessness destroy countries, communities and lives and I am so grateful for our legal system and the values of democracy, rule of law, respect and tolerance, and individual liberty, which enable our society to flourish.

A glimpse into the courts to witness their ability to analyse, interpret the complex, deal with legal issues impartially, with limited resources under constant public scrutiny, is an honour. Seven cases were heard in one day, the last being the most challenging. His Honour Judge Everett determined what was right, while I was in awe at the court's professionalism and reeling from observing the angst, disbelief and distraught expressions on the faces of the two mothers in court as they watched their sons receive custodial prison

sentences and leave through the back door.

Our magistrates are volunteers and dedicated to maintaining standards, promoting respect and encouraging offenders to recognise the impact of their actions on our community. They need recognition and thanks for their contributions. Ninety-six per cent of criminal matters end up in a Magistrates' Court and only take four per cent of the legal budget. There are other amazing Cheshire people changing our justice system: Lady Edwina Grosvenor is leading the transformation of the prison system and James Timpson OBE DL is Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Reoffending.

Having insight into the police service is a privilege. Being a police officer is challenging as there is a growing complexity and diversity of issues, from violent crime to mental health crises, drug addiction, homelessness and social unrest. The police made time to take me with them on underwater searches and invited me to attend their awards. I supported Crimebeat and their wonderful projects, including the Mini Police. This is an engagement programme aimed at primary school pupils that creates a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity to build positive, trusting relationships between the police and young people, as well as their families and communities.

How do we create a society of inclusivity, kindness and respect? How do we reduce the likelihood of another two sons being in court? I met a young man – homeless and addicted – who had been on the brink of ending his life. He was saved by one person who held out their hand, asked him



At Creating Adventures, a Warrington based charity which seeks to bring laughter, stimulation and personal fulfilment to adults with autism and learning disabilities

if he was OK and supported him to go to a hostel. This changed his trajectory; he is clean, working and forever grateful. One person, one hand.

It's been an amazing year. I have learnt a lot about our society and our incredible communities; and I had the 'once in a life time opportunity' of declaring the general election result. A note for new High Sheriffs: have spare shoes, umbrellas, pens, certificates, chocolates and a speech in the car. Arrive around the corner early; get your hat and feather ready, because people are waiting to greet you with enthusiasm. All in all, what a lot of miles and smiles, sandwiches and parishes, volunteers and cheers... and what an honour.



A game of table football at the YMCA Crewe



With the mini police at Cheshire Constabulary headquarters in Winsford for a flag raising ceremony

Flying the flag for Cumbria

Christopher Holmes DL

High Sheriff of Cumbria 2024-25

My installation was presided over by His Honour Judge Barker in the Fraternity, Carlisle Cathedral. Almost a year later, I was so pleased that, together with the Honourable Mr Justice Goose, with whom I sat on the bench for a murder trial, we successfully played a part in the appointment of His Honour as the Honorary Recorder for Carlisle.

The ceremony was the start of an amazing year during which I visited hundreds of people from charities and other third sector organisations; visited schools to explain the history and role of the High Sheriff today; cut the ribbons on new charity facilities; presented the awards to winning entrants at the Dales World Marmalade Awards and Festival; was Honorary President for my year of office for Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch; declared the general election result for Carlisle; attended the Chief Constable's awards ceremonies; and hosted the North West High Sheriffs' conference at Naworth Castle – also attended by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria, the Chair of the High Sheriffs' Association and the Chair of Trustees of National Crimebeat.

During the summer I walked with c.150 others under the guidance of the King's Guide to the Sands across Morecambe Bay which raised money for the High Sheriff's Charity Fund and had the honour of being introduced to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on her visit to Cumbria.

In March this year, the Lord-Lieutenant and I – with support from Cumberland Council, Westmorland and Furness Council, Carlisle Cathedral, the University of Cumbria and the Flag Institute – launched a competition to create Cumbria's first community flag (Cumbria being England's third largest ceremonial county). The competition was open to the whole of Cumbria enabling every school, community group or organisation – or indeed individual – in the county to enter a design for the panel's consideration. The panel includes Deputy Lieutenants, former High Sheriffs and those in nomination, an Under Sheriff, representatives from the University of Cumbria and the Diocese of Carlisle, and Philip Tibbetts, the expert communities vexillologist from the Flag Institute. The winning design can be flown



With recipients of shields and certificates from 21 organisations at the High Sheriff's Awards ceremony



On a visit to Anti Racist Cumbria with CEO and co-founder Janett Walker and my wife Sue

with the existing historic county flags of Cumberland, and Westmorland and Furness.

Summing up my year, I am extremely grateful to have had the privilege and opportunity to thank so many people working and volunteering in the third sector – including those in the Guiding, Scouting, and Cadet movements and the Young Farmers Clubs – for their incredible and selfless service helping people in so many ways, including saving lives.

As High Sheriff it is so evident how the role can raise awareness of the work being carried out by charities and organisations, and how grateful the teams and volunteers are for your visit and recognition for what they have and are doing to help their communities. Seeing the visible appreciation when thanking and recognising people for the work that they individually and/or their charity or organisation are doing is so touching, inspiring and rewarding.



With Under Sheriff Timothy Cartmell, who retired having served 12 High Sheriffs, Dr Geoff Jolliffe (Cumbria 2025-26) and incoming Under Sheriff Dr Caroline Redhead

It's been an amazing year, meeting so many incredible people doing so much for Cumbria and visiting parts of this beautiful county I would otherwise not have seen.

Settling into a rhythm

David Hurst DL

High Sheriff of Essex 2024-25

I started my year with a map of my county being framed and hung on my office wall. I bought some red dots and with each visit I marked where I had been. As Essex has 500 miles of coast the sea gave me the opportunity to jot down some totals of my adventures.

By the time my tenure finishes I will have clocked up 300 engagements across the county. I have settled into a rhythm – after an event I make an entry in my diary and this copy I then use along with a photo (or logo if photo not appropriate) on social media to inform where I have been and to promote the organisation I've visited. I start with X (Twitter) as it provides a news feed for the High Sheriff of Essex website and visitors can see details of all my visits as well a monthly post. Then comes Instagram where I will use more photos if I have them, additional description and links. Next up is Facebook with slightly different wording, photos and links and then I finish off with LinkedIn – a photo, tweaked words and links.

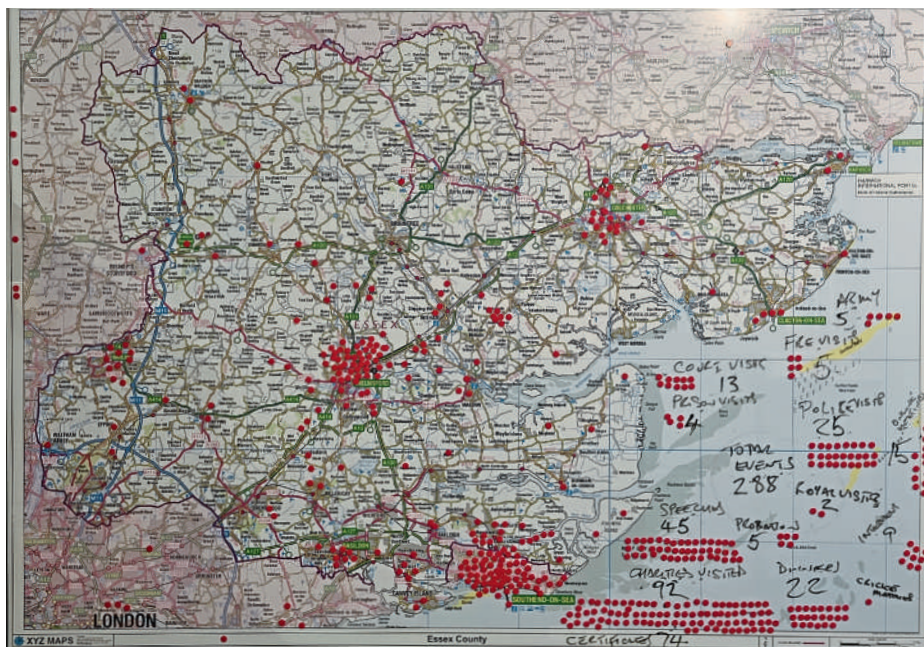
The whole process is done in less than 10 minutes. I saved photos to a file and every two months have had a book printed as a personal record of my year.

'Is social media worth it?' I hear you cry. Well, I will give you just one example. *The Knife Angel* visited the city of Southend and I participated in the welcoming ceremony. I posted photos on social media together with a comment on its powerful positive presence. Just on LinkedIn that post was viewed by 8,000 people.

I have one success I am particularly proud of. When visiting Southend Magistrates' Court I was shown round by the head of the Southern Bench and we sat for a while in Court 4. I wrote in my diary afterwards that the fabric of the building wasn't worthy of the people who worked and volunteered there. The seats had foam bursting out of them where they were so worn; a blind high up in a large window had a massive hole in it that I could have put my head through. I asked who was responsible for the upkeep and the clerk of the court shrugged their shoulders – 'It's always been like this.' So I sent a letter to the Ministry of Justice and – cutting a long story short – two months later I received a text from friend who is a magistrate: 'Blimey, Dave, they've fixed the chairs in Court 4!'



With Colin Ansell (CEO Southend Council), Clive Knowles (CEO of the British Ironwork Centre), Cllr Ron Woodley (Mayor of Southend) and Ben-Julian Harrington QPM (Chief Constable of Essex Police) in front of *The Knife Angel* in Southend



My year has included two royal visits, 25 police events, 13 court visits, four prison visits, 92 charities visited, 45 speeches and, thankfully, just one parking ticket.

The highlights: distributing £162,000 to 30 charities at the High Sheriff's Awards; hearing 'Jerusalem' sung by a full choir and 350 guests at my Justice Service in Chelmsford Cathedral; and presenting a High Sheriff's

Award to a lady for diligently supporting asylum seekers and refugees, who was, I think, determined not to like me due to her politics and views on the monarchy but who afterwards said she wouldn't mind me as a neighbour.

No doubt, like all High Sheriffs, I have anecdotes for dinner parties to last a lifetime. It has been an honour and a privilege.

A reminder how lucky we are

Mark Hurrell DL

High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 2024-25

How do you assess your year as High Sheriff? It's not like school when someone writes a report on how you have done. So the questions are – what did I hope to achieve and did I manage to do it? I was keen to be active in all three key areas of the role – with the police, the judiciary and volunteers. As I think back over the year I feel confident that I've achieved that.

The role covers the old County of Gloucestershire (including what is now South Gloucestershire) and I've had the pleasure of meeting officers, staff and cadets from both the Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset constabularies. They do so much for us, often with little thanks and appreciation. It has been an honour to be present at their passing out parades, as well as their long service awards, recognising the contribution of both the new and the experienced staff. We're lucky to have a large cadre of cadets and to hear the reasons why they signed up is heart-warming.

I was particularly pleased that the Gloucestershire cadets received a Commendation in the National Crimebeat Awards – the first time they've submitted a project for some years.

As explained in previous editions of this magazine the 'Getting Court' initiative started in Gloucestershire and over many years teenagers have visited Gloucester Crown Court to see justice in action. I took the initiative to go to secondary schools and talk about citizenship and the roles of the Lord-



With Senior Cadet Piero Naselli and Deputy Section Officer Sophie Fudge of Gloucestershire Police Cadets

Lieutenant and the High Sheriff. My wife, Julia, who has been a magistrate for over 30 years, spoke to them about what magistrates do and the consequences of actions. We have spoken to hundreds of students and hope this will provide them with a greater understanding of our justice system.

It's virtually impossible to recall all the things that I have done and the places I've been to. However, it's amazing that, although I've lived here for 35 years, I've been to parts of the county for the first time and met loads of committed people who make Gloucestershire a wonderful county to live in. We have over 100,000 volunteers in a county with a population of approximately 630,000! As far as volunteers are concerned I'd pick out one – let's call her Kathy – who has been a volunteer at the Samaritans

for 54 years. Amazing... her dedication is typical of so many people who put 'service before self'. It's been a very reassuring element of my year – that things aren't quite as bad as some would have us believe.

I cannot miss out one of the most important events for volunteers of my year as High Sheriff. The cathedral staff agreed to our idea – I have to include my wife Julia in this as she played a crucial role in the planning – of a 'Celebration of Gloucestershire' during the February half-term. We organised a unique photographic exhibition of Gloucestershire in the cloisters with eight local camera clubs. On the Friday night, there was a big free concert with over 150 performers from across the county. All these performers had been supported, taught and encouraged by volunteers. It was a way of bringing people together to remember all the positives in our lives and to have fun. And what a fun night it was with over 600 people in the cathedral.

My memories include the Chipping Camden Morris Men dancing and the faces of the youngsters from the Cheltenham Children's Choir – loving every second and singing their hearts out with the Stroud Symphony Orchestra and the Lydney Town Brass Band. We all had such fun and the joy reminded all of us how lucky we are to live in this wonderful county. It was truly memorable.

It has been a real privilege and an enduring honour that the Gloucestershire Shrieval Committee thought I had the qualities to carry out the role with dignity and enthusiasm – I hope they agree as the curtain falls on my year!



The Chipping Camden Morris Men in Gloucester Cathedral for the 'Celebration of Gloucestershire'

Inclusion and social mobility



Performers at Love Not Hate: Young Stars of London 2025

Millicent Grant KC

High Sheriff of Greater London 2024-25

My declaration ceremony took place in the Royal Courts of Justice in front of Dame Sue Carr, the Lady Chief Justice, the King's Remembrancer and two High Court Appeal Justices, followed by a reception.

The year has been marked by visits to prisons with charities (PACT and Prison Reform Trust in particular) as well as to courts and community events. I have been impressed by the work carried out by charities and volunteers in prisons and to support court services, for example, witnesses support teams. Staff in both the prison and court services are often under pressure, especially when there have been proposed changes in the law and movement of the prison population.

Justice Awards, which were followed by a reception, were held at the Inner London Crown Court in July and the Supreme Court in February. I took the opportunity to give a High Sheriff's special recognition certificate to young people who have done well, overcoming personal or circumstantial challenges. Some were voluntary police cadets and others were nominated by charities that work with young people in London.

In pursuance of the theme for my year – Young people: inclusion and social mobility – I have attended a number of youth events, held the borough youth awards and spoken at school assemblies. I have been joined on a few occasions by Tom Hartley, who has an interest in sharing his experiences to inspire young people; these experiences illustrate my theme. Tom, now a luxury car dealer, came from what could be described as a 'non-traditional' background, became a millionaire in his teens, lost it all before 20 and built his business back up again. One of the notable youth events I spoke at was Croydon's Love Not Hate Young Stars of London 2025 which had performances by groups of



With Cllr Colleen Sullivan (Mayor of Hillingdon), His Honour Judge Rupert Mayo (Recorder of Northampton) and Amy Crawford (High Sheriff of Northamptonshire)

young people from many of 32 boroughs that constitute Greater London.

In April the inaugural High Sheriff of London Borough Youth Awards were held at Hackney Town Hall, organised with the cooperation of the Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge. Fifteen awards were made to young people aged 11 to 19, nominated by seven organisations working with young people in Hackney. The London Borough Youth Awards is an opportunity to showcase the good work of organisations within the boroughs and to celebrate the achievements of young people, over and above academic ones. It is an event that can be held in boroughs across Greater London by future High Sheriffs.

I have also attended events with other High Sheriffs – notably with Bav Shah (Bedfordshire), attending an Indian Independence day event in Hillingdon. I also attended an event in the surviving wing of Treaty House (now the Crown and Treaty Pub in Uxbridge, Hillingdon) celebrating the 380th anniversary of the unsuccessful peace treaty negotiations in 1645 which aimed to end the civil war between King Charles I and Parliament. For historical reasons there are strong connections with Northampton so the event was attended by the Cllr Colleen Sullivan (Mayor of Hillingdon),

Amy Crawford (High Sheriff of Northamptonshire), Danny Beales (MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip) and His Honour Judge Rupert Mayo (Recorder of Northampton).

I have attended some of the Justice Services held by other High Sheriffs and many High Sheriffs attended the Greater London Justice Service held at Southwark Cathedral where the London Community Gospel Choir sang 'Total Praise', readings were delivered by members of the judiciary and the Revd Steve Chalke delivered the sermon.

I have visited a number of community kitchens, awards ceremonies, religious services at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, and joined in celebrations of other faith communities. I have visited charities including LEYF (London Early Years Foundation), DIVERT (a custody-based intervention programme which supports young people and aimed at reducing reoffending, which was awarded second place in the 2024 National Crimebeat Awards) and ThinkForward (providing long-term coaching that gets young people ready for the world of work).

All in all it's been an enjoyable year and I've attempted to further embed and raise the profile of the Office of High Sheriff in Greater London.

Illustrating a point

Emonn O'Neal OBE DL

High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2024-25

A new initiative emerged from a partnership I brokered with the Manchester United Foundation. This is the charity associated with the famous club, which uses football to engage and inspire young people to build a better life for themselves and to unite the communities in which they live. Together we created the High Sheriff's Football Tournament. There have been two tournaments so far, played during school half-term weeks. The games are played with mixed teams and every participant receives a medal, with the winning team lifting the brand-new High Sheriff's Trophy.

In a further attempt to spread the word about the work of the High Sheriff while capturing imaginations, I appointed a 'Cartoonist in Residence' which, I am guessing, has not been done before. Salford artist Brian Travis created whimsical cartoons based on photographs I sent him following some of my visits across the communities. Clearly not all engagements are appropriate and protecting the integrity of the Office of High Sheriff was paramount. However, there were some events that did lend themselves to an illustration. I was delighted with how many people reacted to the cartoons on social media and the interest it generated in the role of High Sheriff.

As is to be expected, I spent a great deal of time with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) during my shrieval year. I was present at the attestations of new recruits, both regular and special constables. The passing out parades for each cohort added appropriate celebrations as the new recruits headed out across the county. My chaplain,



At the Young Citizen of the Year Awards Photo: Paul Moore Photography



With participants at the High Sheriff's Football Tournament

Father Barry Lomax, is also the lead chaplain at GMP so together we were able to contribute to all the ceremonies, which has been very much appreciated by the Chief Constable and his staff.

I was also delighted to present a High Sheriff's Special Recognition Award to Chris Oldham who has been GMP's force photographer for 40 years. Additionally, Mike Walmsley MBE DL steps aside as GMP Special Constabulary Chief Officer. Mike has dedicated 22 years of voluntary service to the Specials, half of that time as Chief Officer. He was most deserving of a High Sheriff's Award for his remarkable public

service.

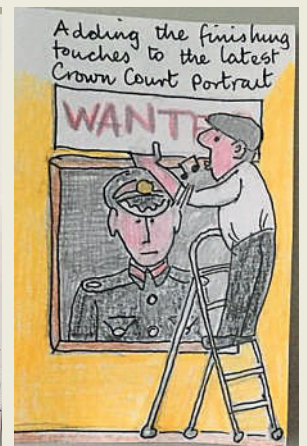
High Sheriffs know that there are many young people who make huge contributions to our society, but their achievements do not always get the airtime or column inches they deserve. Consequently, my final project, of which I am very proud, was to present the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester's Young Citizen of the Year Awards. The awards were generously supported by the jewellers Beaverbrooks, whose chairman is Mark Adlestone OBE, a former High Sheriff of Greater Manchester (2019).

Nominations were invited at the end of November and the presentation evening was held at the end of March. The panel of judges appointed a winner in each of Greater Manchester's ten boroughs with runners-up and others who were highly commended. I was delighted with the response and it was a joy to meet everyone. The youngsters were incredibly impressive and we heard some phenomenal stories of their altruism.

The future of Greater Manchester is in good hands.



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to GMP Special Constabulary Chief Officer Mike Walmsley MBE DL Photo: Eddie Garvey



Brian Travis, Cartoonist in Residence, sees things a little differently...

A privilege to serve

Jon Whitaker JP DL

High Sheriff of Hampshire 2024-25

Well, what a year... my predecessors said that it would be busy but rewarding. How true that proved to be! It has been a privilege to serve in the role and to attend events and meetings across our wonderful county.

I had the opportunity to spend time with many people: in the courts with High Court and Crown Court judges, magistrates, tribunal chairs, coroner, Verderers (the Court of Verderers is an ancient corporate body in the New Forest), court staff and volunteers; and also, of course, with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, the police, fire and ambulance services; with search and rescue and lifeboat organisations as well as a whole host of community groups.

To attend civic and religious services, award ceremonies and presentation evenings, and to spend time with our Navy, Army and RAF has been – to quote my nephew – ‘simply awesome’!

My theme for the year has been ‘youth and service’ – supporting key youth organisations – and, in addition, to champion the work of the brilliant Hampshire Police, who do the toughest of jobs under much scrutiny.

Youth organisations have always featured in my voluntary life and, to be honest, I don't think I'd have been in this role without the amazing adventures, opportunities and development I had as a youth in the sea scouts and cadets.

It is my firm belief that the youth organisations I have been supporting this year – including Police Cadets, Fire Service



With recipients of High Sheriff's Awards at the Wessex Centre, Winchester Cathedral Photo: Joe Low

Cadets, St John Ambulance, Scouts and Guides, as well as the youth commission and youth clubs – all offer huge personal development opportunities and fun. However, they also help prepare our young people for their futures as community-minded and public service citizens. I acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the adult leaders of these organisations, both volunteer and professional. I was delighted that these youth organisations were able to take part in the Law Service at Winchester Cathedral in October.

Wherever I have been, I have been honoured to meet fantastic people in our county who tirelessly serve their organisations and community. If anything it has inspired me to continue to do as much as I can and I am pleased the Lord-Lieutenant, who has been a brilliant supporter and mentor, has asked me to chair the Hampshire Youth Network so that we can share good practice across all youth organisations in the county.



At Fairisle School for one of many talks in schools – with school prefects and the youth mayor of Southampton

My thanks to all who have supported me, it has been a privilege to serve.



With representatives from St John Ambulance, Fire Service Cadets, Police Cadets, Scouts and Guides, who took part in the Law Service at Winchester Cathedral



Toasting marshmallows in the Scouts' community garden, opened with Cllr Dave Pragnell (Mayor of Eastleigh)

Sport for Good initiatives throughout Hertfordshire



With winners of Sport for Good High Sheriff's Awards at the University of Hertfordshire

Annie Brewster JP

High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2024-25

I had a simple ambition: to raise awareness of this historic and invariably unknown role; to celebrate the outstanding individuals and organisations making a difference in our communities; and to inspire future generations to become High Sheriffs.

Having previously served as the Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council, I had a helpful head start in receiving invitations to visit all our towns and villages. My answer, 'I will if I can.' I was privileged to attend almost 640 engagements, made possible with the help of my exceptional PA who masterfully controlled my diary and, when not on a horse, those all-important plum parking spaces.

Engagements split almost equally into thirds: our traditional shrieval duties (involving the judiciary, police, citizenship ceremonies, civic events, etc.); engagement with the county's vast number of charitable organisations; and, my chosen theme, Sport

for Good.

My theme highlighted remarkable initiatives across Hertfordshire which use sport and physical activity as vehicles for social transformation, be it through crime reduction, educational achievement, community cohesion, improved mental health or tackling social isolation.

Again and again, I heard how many struggles, including addiction, so often stem from childhood trauma and then saw how structured, active pursuits had changed lives. I have loved offering my support to help break down barriers to participation by connecting people, suggesting funding avenues and amplifying great projects through various High Sheriff's social media platforms.

The support I have received has been truly wonderful. Oaklands College, one of the UK's leading sports colleges, hosted my garden party, where students shared powerful personal stories of how sport was shaping their lives and futures.

With help from the Herts Sports &

Physical Activity Partnership, I visited all our 35 parkruns, an excellent opportunity to speak directly to thousands of Lycra-clad residents about the role of the High Sheriff.

I also visited Hertfordshire County Council's extensive Health Walks network, together with other community organisations, presenting nearly 100 High Sheriff's Recognition Awards to dedicated volunteers whose tireless work is allowing huge participation.

The Partnership also supported my High Sheriff's Awards ceremony at the University of Hertfordshire where all Recognition Award recipients were invited and further competing groups received a financial award with some additional personal awards made for outstanding service.

The awards ceremony showcased an eclectic mix of projects from prison-based triathlons and boxing programmes building teen resilience, to initiatives distributing preloved sports shoes, providing exercise-based cancer rehabilitation, promoting inclusive disability sports and offering daily activity-led rehabilitation for ex-offenders. One former offender has qualified as an LTA tennis coach and another has launched a fishing business.

The university's School of Law also hosted my High Sheriff's Lecture, where Murray Rosen KC, a renowned barrister and sports arbitrator, delivered a compelling address titled 'Is Sport Worth Regulating?'. His insights left the audience with a new understanding of the role law plays in sport and its broader societal implications.

In terms of inspiring the next generation, I was heartened to hear from young girls who, upon hearing from a female High Sheriff with a ceremonial sword, decided they would like to take on the role themselves one day. My sword was mentioned in *The Telegraph's* Peterborough Diary.

This year has taught me the immense power of recognition. In a time when so many voluntary organisations are calling out for more hands and hearts, a simple 'thank you' has never been more powerful, or more necessary, and demonstrated how vital our role is.

My favourite moment arose when, coming out of an ancient alleyway in St Albans, a young man strode past me, touched his cap and simply said, 'Sheriff.' The Shrievalty felt seen!



At the opening of new blue running track made from old training shoes at a primary school near Hertford



On a visit to GRIT (Growing Resilience in Teens) in Hitchin which supports young people to improve their mental health through group boxing programmes, workshops and one-to-one coaching

The new Mary Poppins?



With the Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs (Bishop of Rochester) and the Lady Colgrain (Lord-Lieutenant of Kent) at the service of thanks and celebration for the volunteers of Kent at Rochester Cathedral
Photo: Russell Harper Photography

Dr Gill Fargher

High Sheriff of Kent 2024-25

The second half of my shrieval year started with my Justice Service for the County of Kent in the magnificent surroundings of Rochester Cathedral, on 4 October. I was honoured to welcome Lord Justice Males from the Court of Appeal as well as Mr Justice Murray, Mr Justice Johnson, David Hurst DL, Lucinda Fraser DL (High Sheriffs of Essex and East Sussex respectively) and members of the judiciary of Kent. The service reflected justice in different faiths. Baritone Patrick Keefe delivered 'Go Down, Moses' from Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* with the choir. Textus Roffensis ('the Rochester book'), which predates Magna Carta by almost a century and contains the laws of the time, was carried to the altar by Lord Justice Males.

At the end of October I was privileged to be invited to the installation of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Admiral Sir George Zambellas was duly installed following on from predecessors Lord Boyce, Her Majesty The Queen Mother and Sir Winston Churchill – a historic and special day.

November brought the 40th anniversary of Maidstone Crown Court. The court building was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The celebration was attended

by the Lady Chief Justice in addition to other senior members of the judiciary and was celebrated with a service at All Saints, Maidstone and a reception at the Crown Court.

My diary was very full with a variety of events as Christmas approached. The 80th anniversary of HMS *Cavalier's* launch and first commission in Chatham Historic Dockyard, University of Kent graduations, visits to charities, Kent Bar Mess dinner, citizenship ceremonies and visits to Crown Court ensured I was fully occupied.

I attended 12 carol concerts across Kent. Several were in Rochester and Canterbury cathedrals, three were in prisons and the remainder were in other Kent churches. They were all very different and equally moving and beautiful.

My first engagement of the new year



Commemorative plaque at HMP Rochester

was in Margate at the 60th anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Blessing of the Seas ceremony.

I have had the privilege of seeing many different aspects of the work of Kent Police. These have included walking the beat, meeting senior officers, serving a warrant with CID, visiting the police at the Channel Tunnel, joining a shift with the armed response officers and the joint police paramedic vehicle, observing the Kent Police National Negotiator Course, the Kent Network of Women conference and police recruits' training on gangs, to name a large variety of work. There is much more besides.

Charity visits included those working in domestic abuse, dementia, therapy for abused children, stalking and those impacted by gangs. The work is extraordinarily challenging but vitally important. It is truly humbling to hear about this work at first hand.

I joined Mr Justice Kerr in Canterbury Crown Court on the bench for part of a trial in February and was also able to offer him hospitality in the form of dinner with his clerk. Kent no longer has judges' lodgings.

I was honoured to be present at the visit of Her Majesty Queen Camilla to Canterbury to unveil the Aphra Behn statue.

The Lord-Lieutenant and I jointly hosted a service to celebrate and thank the volunteers of Kent in late March in Rochester Cathedral. We welcomed almost 700 volunteers from 180 organisations to what was a joyous and uplifting service.

There is much joy and humour in this role. I visited a primary school in March and asked the children who they thought I was. 'The Queen' was the first reply; 'a town crier' the second. I wasn't prepared for the next one: 'You're Mary Poppins!' I wish!



On a visit to Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance

A county of opportunity for all

Helen Bingley OBE JP DL

High Sheriff of Lancashire 2024-2025

I was surprised to find myself in the role of High Sheriff. I grew up in Lancaster in a working-class family and as a child I looked out of my bedroom window each day at Lancaster Castle towering on the hill, never imagining that I would one day hang my shield there.

I have set out to inspire people across the county to aim high; I am living proof that Lancashire is a place of opportunity for everyone. I live by my motto's coat of arms, Carpe Diem. From humble beginnings, to senior manager in the NHS, the private and charity sectors, and... the High Sheriff of Lancashire!

Three years before my appointment, I was asked by the Lord-Lieutenant if he could nominate me for the role. I did not hesitate! I then discovered that I couldn't tell anyone until the monarch pricked my name on the Lites, just two weeks before I would be installed in the role.

Most High Sheriffs are nominated by a High Sheriff and there is a ceremony in the Royal Courts of Justice when three names for each county are put forward; in March, the monarch pricks the first name on each list.

This ancient procedure does not apply to the appointment of High Sheriffs of the County Palatine of Lancaster; in 1714 under George I, they were excluded from the general list and have since been appointed by the monarch in their right as Duke of the Lancaster. Each year the Lord-Lieutenant recommends a name to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and in March the Chancellor places the Lites (parchment bearing the names of nine selected persons, three for each of the counties in the Duchy) before His Majesty. His Majesty then pricks the names of the three High Sheriffs at the top of each list with a bodkin.

At a ceremony each year, the Constable of the Castle receives the Lancashire High Sheriff's shield, which is hung in the Shire Hall. Mine reflects my life, half of which I devote to community and voluntary work in Lancashire and the other half to extremely poor people living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in northwest Pakistan.

It has been a year full of opportunities, including involvement with law and order: setting up a Lancashire and South Cumbria regional pro bono legal committee attached



to the Attorney General's; sitting in court observing cases with High Court judges and the coroner; teaching police students and cadets; and spending time in prisons.

Additionally, I was pleased to act as returning officer at the general election and be present at royal visits from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent; to have attended the Legal Service and to have had the opportunity to speak on International Women's Day and in numerous schools; to bring together mayors from across the county for afternoon tea at Lancaster Castle (the description for a gathering of mayors is 'chain gang'!).

The highlight of my year has been shining a light on many of the unsung heroes working in voluntary and community groups across the county and individuals who are doing amazing things for many people. So I was delighted in my final week to invite 17 people and organisations to receive a High Sheriff's Award in the Shire Hall to recognise the significant positive impact they are having on people in the county. I have had the pleasure to get to know these people and to witness first-hand the wonderful work they are doing, often without reward or recognition. This made my year exceptional.

I am looking forward to joining the club of former High Sheriffs. A tradition in



My High Sheriff's Awards ceremony was held in the Shire Hall



With the 'chain gang' at Lancaster Castle

Lancashire is for the High Sheriff to convene a gathering of former High Sheriffs. We gathered in the Shire Hall to enjoy our shields followed by dinner in A Wing of the old prison.

Some believe that the role of High Sheriff has no power, but in my experience, you can have a great deal of influence that can galvanise people to act for good and I will continue the following three projects that I have started in my year:

1. Developing 'The Vision for Morecambe' – needed because, first, the people of Morecambe deserve a better place to live and a healthier, happier future and, second, developing Morecambe is likely to greatly increase the chances of success of the proposed Eden Project.

2. The regional pro bono committee to facilitate the provision of free legal advice and support for people who have little or no money.

3. Chair the charity Escape2Make which works creatively with young people who have become disconnected from society and are at risk of being enticed into crime in Lancaster and Morecambe.

Having these three projects in my life is an unexpected bonus of being High Sheriff.

Finally, I wish my successor Jim Carter all the very best for a wonderful year as High Sheriff.



The Sheriff's Shindig and the Melton Proms

John Chatfeild-Roberts

High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2024-25

As for others, the last year has been an honour; fascinating, extraordinary, rewarding, joyous and humbling are words that spring to mind. What a privilege. At my Declaration, I promised to create a two-day music event centred on children – a tall order since it was only the germ of idea. Nothing like a public promise to concentrate the mind! STEM subjects are obviously very important, but for healthy minds – directly related to behaviour in society and High Sheriff territory – finding joy in performing and listening to music takes a lot of beating.

I put it on in the market town of Melton Mowbray – known for Stilton, pork pies and hunting – in collaboration with Water City Music and the Melton Mowbray Town Estate. It was an incredible two days! For advance publicity, *Melton Times* covered it, we leafleted the locality, social media was on song, Petroc Trelawny mentioned it on Radio 3 Breakfast and I was interviewed on both BBC Radio Leicester and local station 103 The Eye. On the second Sunday in March the sun shone down from clear blue skies on the covered stage in Melton Market Place in a balmy 17 degrees (Napoleon said, 'Give me lucky generals') for the 'Sheriff's Shindig' as the teenage Leicester based Cosmopolitan Arts led off a troupe of performers with a brilliant rendition of 'I Shot the Sheriff'! A wicked sense of humour and great performances of well-known songs. Other acts included fabulous local 'Vintage singer of vintage songs' from the 1940s, Lili Redman, the 24-piece Belvoir Big Band (which practises in the village hall of Harby, where I live), the vibrant Leicester based Sambando, a Samba band who certainly let the audience know they were in town, and the excellent Musical Village Community Choir (Leicester Forest East), who included several singalong numbers. The shindig ran from 11 am to 4 pm with a regularly changing audience of never less than 100 folk in the Market Place watching and listening all day – a vibrant and successful prelude to the main event.

This was an evening concert, the 'Melton Proms' in St Mary's Church, involving over 120 nine- and ten-year-old children from ten different primary schools in the Melton and Vale of Belvoir area, with a sell-out audience of 500. The children, who had been rehearsing all term in their individual



Cosmopolitan Arts (top), Lili Redman (bottom) and Sambando performing at the Sheriff's Shindig with 'guest appearance' by High Sheriff John Chatfeild-Roberts (centre left)

schools instructed by Pete Leonard (teacher, musician and polymath, who visited every school on multiple occasions), sang in a massed choir. They had their first and final combined rehearsal with the professional chamber orchestra, Orchestra Pro Anima, that afternoon. Directed by Michael Bochmann MBE from the violin, the first 40 minutes comprised three orchestral pieces by Vivaldi, Bach and Bartok. The rapt attention on those children's faces was a joy to behold as they absorbed Bach's Double Violin Concerto being performed live, literally right in front of their noses. I'm sure few

would have been to a classical concert and it was surely a lightbulb moment for many – the excitement was palpable. Following a short interval for the children to form up on stage, there was then the delight on their and the audience's faces as they performed Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', 'Shenandoah', 'Fire' by Jonathan Dove and 'Jerusalem'. We ended with the national anthem. My hope is that this formative experience will stay with the children for the rest of their lives and that some will have caught the music bug. My intention is that this will, with outside sponsorship, become an annual event.



The massed choirs with Orchestra Pro Anima at the first Melton Proms with Michael Bochmann MBE (front second from left) and Pete Leonard (standing far right)

Uplifting, inspiring and very worthwhile

Professor John Mohin OBE DL

High Sheriff of Merseyside 2024-25

I was extremely fortunate to be installed as High Sheriff in the year in which the County of Merseyside celebrated its 50th anniversary. The county embraces the Liverpool City Region and the City of Liverpool, where I was born and brought up.

Of perhaps greatest significance to me as High Sheriff, Merseyside Police also celebrated its 50th anniversary and this provided a platform upon which to celebrate the contribution they have made in 'Putting our Community First' as they have proved so often.

The tragic events that took place in Southport last year were horrific; what was a major tragedy for everyone ultimately served to exemplify the role of Merseyside Police working closely with all of the emergency services, the judiciary, solicitors, barristers, magistrates and the prison service – all coming together to administer justice with exemplary skill and professional discipline.

As a corollary to all this, I have presided at police commendation ceremonies to recognise the outstanding work of detectives, the courage of police officers and the achievements of police colleagues. Bringing all these strands together, I work alongside Merseyside Police Heritage and Archives Board and we have ambitious plans to create two new museum initiatives which capture the history of policing and celebrate all of our blue light services. This is work in progress.

A key mission for my year was to stimulate and encourage enterprise. As a direct result, the Centre for Enterprise was established under the auspices of the University of Liverpool to incubate business ideas, inventions, designs, pharmaceutical innovation and, at the same time, accommodate local entrepreneurs.

During my shrieval year, we welcomed HMS *Prince of Wales*, the aircraft carrier and flagship of the Royal Navy which was granted the Freedom of Liverpool by the Lord Mayor and invited to stage a march past in front of Liverpool Town Hall. On board ship, certain thoroughfares and gangways now carry Liverpool street names, including 'Penny Lane'.

It's so incredibly gratifying that the region has proved such an exciting place



With George Tickle and Alicia Ludgate, Merseyside Police Cadets, Crispin Pailing DL and Garth Dallas (Chair of Liverpool Commonwealth Association) on Remembrance Sunday at St George's Hall Cenotaph, Liverpool

to serve as His Majesty's High Sheriff. Addressing schools and, in particular, sixth-form students on the issue of substance abuse and the misuse of drugs has been enlightening.

The High Sheriff's Fund and Merseyside Police Charitable Fund have long worked closely with the Community Foundation for Merseyside, ensuring that valuable financial assistance is directed toward projects that prevent crime, improve community safety and create diversionary activities for young people. On behalf of the fund, we have made site visits, met with social groups and families and found a means to contribute sensitively.

In attending the passing out ceremonies of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, I have been continually impressed by the professionalism of the Training and Development Academy which helps shape first-class operational firefighters. The firefighter recruit course is demanding in that it prepares the new recruits for the varied and challenging role of a firefighter – a set of skills that far and away exceed the task of putting out fires.

Visiting the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital proved inspirational and I was pleased to lend my support for their fundraising campaign. LHCH has developed the only purpose-built medical simulation centre in the United Kingdom dedicated to the training of medical staff and students;

their aim is nothing less than treating and caring for people living with complex heart and lung conditions, a very worthy cause.

When the 80th anniversary of D-Day took place in June 2024, I was honoured and delighted to meet D-Day veterans and their families; this was a poignant occasion and one that gave me the chance as High Sheriff to express my thanks for their service to our country.

Liverpool is considered the spiritual home of Cunard, founded in 1859, and so it was with some historical significance that the naming ceremony of their latest ship, *Queen Anne*, took place on our world-famous waterfront.

During the course of the past year, we have been pleased to welcome His Majesty The King, Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales, and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, a regular and most welcome visitor to Merseyside. Her Royal Highness spoke at the Racing Welfare charity lunch held at Aintree at the beginning of the Grand National Festival to address her concern about mental health within the racing fraternity.

I have touched upon only a fraction of the many events that I have attended during what has proved a year of such edifying significance – uplifting, inspiring and very worthwhile.

First and second things



Amy Crawford JP

High Sheriff of Northamptonshire 2024-25

How can we, as a community, stop the cycle of violence and better support young people? This was the theme for my year. As a magistrate I knew it was going to be focused on the criminal justice system, particularly youth justice, having sat in youth courts for fifteen years or so. This was the thoughtful debate at my shrieval lecture at the University of Northampton, delivered by John Sutherland, a retired senior police officer in the Met. He focused on knife crime and the importance of prioritising fundamental social values over reactive measures such as harsher punishments and building more prisons. We simply cannot sentence our way out of the problems facing us as a society, so we need to go back upstream and peel away the layers of 'why?' What comes first and what comes second?

Early in my tenure, I worked with Jane Deamer from the Crysalys Foundation, which has pioneered a youth court initiative in Northamptonshire for around the last three years. The Youth Court Solutions project provides immediate 'trauma-informed' support to young offenders, their families and victims

At the Northamptonshire Courts Service with (back row) Nick Rubins (Notts), Richard Coles (Rutland), Ian Morgan (Derbyshire), Alex Barfield (Berks), Kurshida Mirza (Bucks), and (front row) James Macnamara (Oxon), John Chatfeild-Roberts (Leics), James Saunders Watson (Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire; High Sheriff 2018), Raji Gill (Warks) and Bav Shah (Beds) Photo: Ketan Photography



At the launch of the Belonging Charter and Protocol for Decriminalisation of Children in Care with Dominic Goble JP DL, Danielle Stone (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner), Charlotte Franks (head teacher of the virtual school supporting children in care in North Northamptonshire), Colin Foster (Chief Executive Northamptonshire Children's Trust), Cllr Fiona Baker (Children's Services portfolio holder for West Northamptonshire Council) and Emma James (Assistant Chief Constable)

upon arrival at the courthouse. The results have been significant in driving down re-offending alongside two other problem-solving initiatives that involve

youth magistrates. To expand this approach, I invited my fellow High Sheriffs to a symposium to explore implementing it in their counties. Jane has also



In Towcester for a trek around the county – a High Sheriff and Northamptonshire Community Foundation joint initiative raising awareness of local youth charities and organised by Northamptonshire Walks

presented at the Midlands region High Sheriffs' Association conference and will speak at the seminar for High Sheriffs in nomination later this year to spread the word and upscale this successful model.

Why do a disproportionate number of children in care end up in youth courts? To address this question, I convened the Northamptonshire Children's Trust, our two unitary councils, the police and two outstanding care home providers. Together they have developed a children's Belonging Charter setting minimum standards for care homes and improving support for staff and, most importantly, vulnerable children.

Alongside this, the police have drawn up a new code of practice to help prevent children in care from being unnecessarily criminalised and have given guidance for providers regarding callouts. My visits to care homes and the police child exploitation hub reinforced how our children in care should be treated as well as the need for collaboration to raise

standards and protect at-risk youth. All agencies have worked incredibly hard and I hope this piece of work will have a lasting impact on what should be a given for all children in care.

Otherwise, it has been a busy year where I have been allowed to be 'politely curious'. There are so many occasions and events I savoured, but here are a few:

- Hosting ten High Sheriffs to support the Courts Service
- Sitting with Crown Court and High Court judges on their trials
- Visiting prisons and probation services
- Walking across the county on my High Sheriff's treks with the Northamptonshire Community Foundation and Northamptonshire Walks, meeting many charities with young people at the core of their activities
- Rough sleeping under tarpaulin to raise

awareness for homelessness on the coldest and wettest night imaginable

- Presenting three High Sheriff's Awards to individuals for their outstanding contributions to the Independent Monitoring Board at our local prison, a Referral Order panellist at the Youth Justice Service and a lady running two outstanding children's care homes while providing voluntary advice to the police around trauma-informed practice
- Providing a broadcast on the role of High Sheriff on a local radio station at Christmas

As I return to the Bench, I do so with a deeper understanding of the justice system and with immense respect for those dedicated to maintaining law and order. This year has been an extraordinary privilege, and I will always be grateful for the inspiring people I have met throughout my year.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

High Sheriffs intending to lay wreaths during the Armistice period can order these with the High Sheriffs' badge in the centre from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Orders should be placed (quoting stock code H0018) by calling the Poppy Appeal on **01622 717172** and speaking to a Regional Organiser.

Please order in good time.



What a High Sheriff does

Lucia Bridgeman

High Sheriff of Northumberland 2024-25

The inevitable question 'What does a High Sheriff do?' still remains a difficult one to answer. At the beginning of the year it was difficult because I really wasn't quite sure; and now at the end of the year it's because I have too much to say about it. I try to explain how the connections have built up over the year to draw the whole county together. The vast collection of organisations and places, activities and initiatives, volunteers and long-term workers I have encountered has been breath-taking. The interrelations spring up all the time – the Scout leader also volunteers with the Mountain Rescue team; the lead gardener of a charity green space also sings in the inclusive folk group; the volunteer chef at Escape, the drug and alcohol abuse support network, trains at the award-winning boxing club; and the magistrate is a trustee of the charity which provides day-care services for people with complex mental health needs and learning difficulties.

Meeting our Police and Crime Commissioner at theatre groups, knife crime meetings, the domestic abuse services charity and at various other moments has built a relationship where the High Sheriff's knowledge has proved useful. I have had time to head to the more remote areas across Northumberland and visit the smaller groups. I have also had the 'grass roots experience' of going out, for example, on exercise with the search and rescue team, hearing how they are so often called upon to look for vulnerable people under extreme stress. And I have spent time with prison charities supporting ex-offenders and also prisoners out on ROTL at the bike repair shop or Newcastle Cathedral café. 'I like you for your contacts' was my last interaction with the Police and Crime



Youth club 'Hexham Youth Initiative' at the High Sheriff's Awards evening, with Northumbrian born Alexander Armstrong



Awarding certificates at the Kokoro Karate competition

Commissioner and that was when I knew that High Sheriffs do play a valuable role.

The contacts within one particular category, youth groups, have led to one of the most exciting proposals to emerge from this year. The Northumberland Challenge, an initiative organised through a network of youth clubs, is a simple, affordable, achievable version of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which may encourage children to take up the DofE or other activities in the future. I have met over 10 youth groups throughout Northumberland and in learning about their interconnected aims it has been a logical step to combine the 'authority' of the High Sheriff with this project – to engage young people in volunteering, getting out in their county, experiencing new things and challenging themselves. The Challenge booklet, with its six missions, will also contain a short history of High Sheriffs, showing young people that their efforts are valued and will be supported. The four future High Sheriffs in nomination and our Under Sheriff, plus the Community Foundation, all collaborated on this scheme with the youth clubs, and the very satisfying conclusion is that the successful completion of the Northumberland Challenge will be acknowledged with a special High Sheriff's certificate.

On the legal side of the High Sheriff coin I sat with High Court judges four times in the Crown Court in Newcastle, had three dinners at home with four judges and was invited three times to their lodgings, witnessed the swearing-in ceremony of

new magistrates and visited both the Magistrates' and Business and Property Courts.

Every week in my diary has been different, with a mix of formal events and then those requiring waterproofs and walking boots, or just jeans. Changing on the side of the road into the coat, lace and hat has become standard practice and made me appreciate all those whose position requires them to wear some form of uniform. Ironically, these accoutrements bring an anonymity to the role, which allows us each year to meld into the role of High Sheriff.

I recently received an email from a Turkish refugee I have got to know very well, who works in Northumberland for the national Dialogue Society. He explained that it is important for him to work with the High Sheriff because 'you are covering everyone in our county, representing everyone and working for everyone'. His sentiment might answer some questions about what a High Sheriff does.



Visiting the Woodfuel Centre near Blyth, a social day-care centre, supporting people living with complex mental health needs and learning disabilities

Doing it differently (again)

Richard Cole TD

High Sheriff of Rutland 2024-25

I am in a 'fairly' unique position having served as High Sheriff during the Covid pandemic and back then titled my magazine article 'Doing it differently' as circumstances forced us to engage via Zoom, letter-writing and occasional socially-distanced meetings in car parks when conditions allowed.

I was honoured to be nominated to serve again but would my previous experience make me better prepared second time around? In terms of how I planned and prepared, I do not think so, but regarding how I communicated, I knew that social media would be key to extending my reach across the county.

Many of my fellow High Sheriffs choose a theme or focus for their year but I decided not to. I wanted to be open to everyone in Rutland as these remain tough times for many in our community and the traditions of our role can offer reassurance.

A key aim for me was to engage, listen to people's stories and thank them for what they contribute to make the lives of those around them better, to know that their acts of kindness are recognised and valued.

Wherever I went, I used social media to cast a light on the good things that the people I met are doing. I also used it and the volunteer network of Citizens Advice Rutland to invite people to identify their own local heroes; this enabled me to recognise more people than I would otherwise have been able to do. I was



Walking the beat with officers from the Rutland beat team

delighted to present several High Sheriff's Awards on their behalf.

I was fortunate to visit our local police force on many occasions and was always in awe of their commitment to serving our communities. A personal highlight was walking the beat with a number of local officers which gave me a real insight into the challenges that they face daily but, equally, the huge rewards they get from what they do and the impact that they have. An extra special bonus is to have the support of a police cadet; my cadet has been a fantastic ambassador for young people throughout.

In fulfilling our traditional role of supporting the maintenance of law and order, encouraging public sector agencies and voluntary sector organisations – especially those involved in crime reduction and social cohesion – I am hugely grateful

for the time they so generously gave me to get a real understanding of their work.

It has been great fun to celebrate the success some of our brilliant young people whether on school visits, presentation evenings, art, drama or sports events. I joined all our local primary schools when they went to Warning Zone in Leicester where they experienced the learning zones that teach key life skills and safeguarding messages to 10- to 11-year-olds. The zones help them make safe decisions and choices in their everyday lives and online.

I have been humbled by the generosity of so many selfless, good and caring people. I hope I have listened well to their stories and positively encouraged them; I hope they feel that I have taken the time to show interest, recognise, empower and thank them for whatever they do.

I would offer the following advice to future High Sheriffs: be careful in the selection of your theme to be sure that it will resonate with the most people possible in your county rather than a niche personal interest; be open to everything that comes your way; take what you do seriously but never yourself and always do it with a smile.



Joining the Honda Goldwing Owners Club at their national gathering in Oakham



With members of the school council at Catmose College, Oakham



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Matt Basey of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service

Daunting, fascinating, rewarding



At Midlands Air Ambulance headquarters on the occasion of their volunteers' party with Charles Moyle (Worcs), Julia Mitchell (Staffs) and Patricia Churchward (Herefordshire)

Brian Welti JP

High Sheriff of Shropshire

Serving as the custodian of this historic role in a modern world has been daunting, fascinating, rewarding and, of course, an absolute privilege and honour.

I look back with great pleasure on the many engagements that I have made throughout the ceremonial County of Shropshire, getting to thank the representatives of our legal system, where I have observed the Crown, Family, Coroners' and Magistrates' Courts, as well as the probation and prison services. I have patrolled with the police, attended the attestation of our new Chief Constable and 20 new recruits, and witnessed the swearing in of the PCC.

I was able to fulfil the High Sheriff's role as returning officer for the county, resulting in a 38-hour shift without sleep due to pre-booked engagements on the Friday after. Nevertheless, an unforgettable experience.

A busy military year with the 80th

D-Day celebrations and my visit to RAF Shawbury to fly in the helicopter simulator, experience the air traffic and tactical weapons training simulators as well taking the salute at local town march pasts.

I have been humbled by the kindness and generosity of my many hosts and when meeting some of the 74,000 volunteers we know about in the county, who are involved in such an incredible variety of organisations, celebrations, anniversaries and groups all generously sparing the time to share with me what they do. I had the opportunity to thank many of them by staging a high tea event at Telford Fire Station hosting 300 guests representing many of the charities I visited.

Of particular note was the 2025 High Sheriff of Shropshire's Young Citizen Awards at Telford College where I presented special awards to 64 inspiring young people who had achieved amazing things in their young lives – that was in addition to the 70 or so High Sheriff's Recognition Awards made throughout the year.

I have recently launched the High Sheriff's Fund for 2024-25, inviting applications from charities and organisations to help young people improve their lives and help to give them clear direction.

A visit to the new headquarters of the Midlands Air Ambulance in Shropshire, saw the High Sheriffs of Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire all presenting awards at the same event to recipients from our respective counties – a wonderful day all working together.

It has been a joy to visit many more such organisations and groups, and I hope I have been able to impart a wider understanding of the Shrievalty. I have thanked a great many people for the incredible work and service they give as volunteers both individually and within charitable organisations; our county and society would not survive without them.

I have been humbled by the efforts that have gone into making my visits memorable.

I have supported our Lord-Lieutenant at three royal visits and presented certificates at the citizenship ceremony.

I have been privileged to be a part of the West Midlands region or posse (as we called it) of High Sheriffs. Posse did seem to be the appropriate collective noun. We gelled very early on in our journey through nomination, regularly chatting, meeting up and exchanging ideas.

My chosen theme for the year was to raise the profile of all the issues affecting farming and rural communities – which has taken on even more meaning during my year of office – supporting the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Shropshire Rural Support which are both busier than ever.



In the company of mayors, magistrates, visiting High Sheriffs, High Court judges and members of the police leaving from Oswestry School to process to the legal service Photo: Russell Davies Photography



Presenting a High Sheriff's Award to Martin Wood, Town Crier of Shrewsbury, marking his 40 years of service

On a mission for volunteering

Rob Beckley QPM

High Sheriff of Somerset 2024-25

Somerset has had a long tradition of combining the annual Legal Service with the Declaration of the new High Sheriff, held in the majestic Wells Cathedral. This took place in late March and, with the talented Wells Cathedral School choristers and the spine-tingling fanfares of their brass ensemble, the service was spectacular and atmospheric. Of course, it isn't a competition but there can be few such magnificent shrieval events in the country.

During the Legal Service, I chose to read an extract from a speech by Archbishop Tutu. The great man's words are so relevant in such unsettled and binary times. It is important to reflect on the importance of restorative justice and our interdependencies as human beings. As High Sheriffs we will have all seen the challenges faced by people in the justice and prison systems and I recommend Archbishop Tutu's philosophy of Ubuntu and thoughtful forgiveness.

We, as High Sheriffs, will also have witnessed at first hand the remarkable impact and extent of volunteering in our communities. In my shrieval year, I have organised discussions and initiatives to promote and encourage greater voluntary participation in Somerset, especially by



Collage of photos, including Deborah Meaden top right, taken by Dom Chambers at the High Sheriff's Charitable Trust Volunteering Conference on 7 February in North Cadbury Court



Avon and Somerset Police chaplains, along with Deputy Chief Constable Jon Reilly, the force volunteer coordinator, Kate Masters, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Revd Michael Beasley, at the Wells Legal Service Photo Mark Pickthall

younger people. I ran a busy and well-received volunteering fair in our county town Taunton and, as the year concluded, I organised, with the active support of the High Sheriff of Somerset Charitable Trust, a Somerset-wide conference to explore ways to encourage more sustained voluntary engagement.

The conference was informative and inspiring. There was an introduction by Deborah Meaden (Somerset entrepreneur and BBC *Dragons' Den* star), presentations from a number of participants and lively table discussions. Deborah described how volunteering is a life-affirming and healthy tonic for you and your community, and how small practical steps and incentives can make a big difference.

The discussions were engaging and challenging. Some local FE college representatives made an impassioned plea for greater engagement with their students and we heard from young people who have found it really difficult finding volunteer groups which can include them.

Solutions and novel ideas were generated and discussed by the delegates.



With Detective Constable Karla Miranda, winner of an Avon and Somerset Outstanding Policing Award, accompanied by her supervisor and Chief Constable Sarah Crew Photo: Sue Beckley

These included better engagement with businesses and colleges; a toolkit for towns and parish councils to support volunteering at a local level; reward and support for young people including accreditation of skills; better evidence-based practice in vetting and safe-guarding processes; and many more practical and innovative proposals. The local volunteer support groups (there are three in Somerset as they cover different unitary authorities) have all picked up this agenda for action.

My year was bookended by policing. I started the year as a police officer, the only known High Sheriff to be both a serving police officer and a High Sheriff simultaneously, albeit only for two weeks. Given my policing pedigree, I made sure that during the year I paid attention to the less visible and less visited parts of policing and the criminal justice system. In my final week as High Sheriff, I went out with the Yeovil Crime Reduction team and ended up chasing and detaining a shoplifter who was running away from a store detective across the town. The shrieval powers of 'hue and cry' might have been abolished in 1827 but they weren't anticipating an ex-police officer becoming High Sheriff in Somerset.



With the young members and volunteer coaches of Crewkerne Boxing Club

Support for our care leavers



Yvonne Gilchrist-Mason OBE DL

High Sheriff of Suffolk 2024-25

The role of High Sheriff is a great honour and, importantly, an opportunity to help others. I underestimated the full implications of carrying out the role and its duties, particularly when doing so alongside a full-time role in our business, running The Mason Trust and chairing the industry partner group at University Technical College Norfolk. Four am starts and very late finishes were not unusual and I relied heavily on family and colleagues to provide the extra support needed to make it all work.

In 18 years of running a charitable trust we had supported and helped many thousands of young people, principally in helping them achieve their ambitions. In all those years we had never knowingly worked with young people in the care system and quite simply had not had visibility of and did not understand their plight or needs. The then High Sheriff of Norfolk brought this to my attention as I

At the groundbreaking ceremony of the expansion of HMP Highpoint – set to become the UK's largest prison – with Sachia Thompson (Deputy Director, Prison Supply), Cllr Liz Harsant (Chair of Suffolk County Council), Tony Hampson (Head of Projects, HMP Highpoint), Cllr Donna Higgins (Families & Communities Portfolio, West Suffolk Council), Linda Kennedy (Executive Director, Prison Supply) and Cllr Nick Clarke (West Suffolk Council)

prepared for the role and I felt compelled to try and help our Suffolk young people who found themselves, through no fault of their own, in that situation. Recognising that the problems came when the young people were in the 'care leaver' category, this became my focus and the research and 'nemawashi' began!

In talking with our Chief Constable, Rachel Kearton, and trying to understand the current issues within the county it was shocking to hear of the prevalence of domestic abuse, which in turn very often propelled children into the care system for their own safety. Conversations with our police colleagues 'on the beat' and in their operational briefings showed that young people from the care system featured high on their daily activities and gave continual cause for concern. Visits to the prisons soon found many care leavers.

With the permission and support of

'the corporate parent' I began the quest to help and along the way have found and worked with many wonderful people, working hard and doing their very best for the care leavers. However, with heads down and their own key focus and



With members of the National Coastwatch Institution at Woodbridge (National Coastwatch is a charity staffed and managed by volunteers whose mission is to help save lives at sea and around the UK coastline)



With Cllr David Smith (Town Mayor) and High Sheriff's cadet Lewis Fox at *The Knife Angel* in Haverhill

targets, broader conversations with other colleagues and agencies were not being had and there seemed to be a particular 'gap' when it came to supporting young care leavers in their career choices, training needs and work opportunities. While the process to meet the need existed, the wider knowledge of opportunity created by economic development, our extensive infrastructure projects and the tiered supply chains that they naturally created was a whole new language to most that I met. Finding contacts in these companies was also a challenge, particularly in our current world of online communication. This is where my background in industry

and previous work on the Local Enterprise Partnership came into its own and many a phone call was made to old friends.

'How can I help?' is a daily mantra and has been for many of my 65 years. I hope to have brought a global outlook and positive energy to every meeting held and given others the confidence to ask more questions, break down barriers, work together and see what is possible and achievable. Knowing what is possible and seeing the need for vision, open and frank conversations, collaboration and cooperation has driven me throughout the year.

Our care leavers group was born and

over the months expanded to encompass all the organisations and agencies which touch their lives. As High Sheriff we have a very privileged 'helicopter view' born of the many visits and meetings from education to public sector to all elements of the criminal justice system. It became clear where the issues and blockers were and by simply introducing people and supporting conversations we have broken down many barriers and opened up opportunities which will benefit our care leavers.

Working alongside The Family Business, Suffolk County Council's wonderful initiative – hugely supported by Julia Nix, our regional DWP manager – and using our own ICANBEA system, we are finding futures and generating significant goodwill and support for our care leavers. From infrastructure projects to local plumbers, doors are being opened.

Accommodation is a fundamental issue; quite simply there is not enough and affordability of what is available when the care leavers are on entry-level packages makes the journey into the workplace particularly difficult. We are working to bring accommodation combined with training into the county, effectively removing barriers and providing a skills pipeline of untapped talent into the workplace all while providing a supported environment to live, learn and be guided into work.

We have many success stories and buoyed by this – and with support from our wonderful Lord-Lieutenant, Clare, Countess of Euston, to continue this work as DL post my year in office – we are setting up The Suffolk Care Leavers Alliance. As our county councils approach devolution we are already in open communication with our friends in Norfolk and what is piloted and learned in Suffolk will be shared.



Celebrating Suffolk Day in Haverhill

The importance of coming together as one community

Rajvinder Kaur Gill JP

High Sheriff of Warwickshire 2024-25

As my year as High Sheriff comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible experiences, the people I've met and the causes that have left a lasting impact. It has been a year of service, of learning and, above all, of listening – to communities, to those who work tirelessly to make a difference and, most importantly, to our youth.

One of the most humbling experiences was supporting the OurJay Foundation. Born out of tragedy, this foundation has turned grief into a powerful force for change. After Jamie Rees's passing in 2022, his family set out to raise £1,500 for a defibrillator accessible 24/7 at his school. The response was overwhelming and that single goal quickly became a countywide mission. To date, the foundation has raised over £250,000, installed over 215 publicly accessible defibrillators and has more ready to be placed across Warwickshire. These lifesaving devices serve as a lasting tribute to Jamie, ensuring his name continues to make a difference.



With this year's winner of the Young High Sheriff competition, Sophia Wilk from Rugby High School, together with Simon Miesegaes DL (Council, 2019-20) David Kelham DL (2022-23), Clare Sawdon JP DL and Eric Wood OBE

Another proud moment was the success of the Young High Sheriff competition, which gave young people a voice on the issues that matter to them. After

announcing the winner, we went further, delivering workshops where young people shared their concerns about crime and safety. Their message was clear: they want safer streets, better education on crime prevention and real conversations about the challenges they face. It reinforced my passion for educating young people about crime and personal safety – empowering them with knowledge to protect themselves.

A personal highlight was celebrating International Women's Week. I was honoured to be invited to deliver speeches aimed at empowering and supporting women today. Each event reminded me of the importance of lifting one another up, whether in leadership, community work or personal growth. There is so much strength in unity and I hope my words encouraged others to push forward, support one another and continue breaking down barriers.

As High Sheriff one of my most significant responsibilities was to mark the start of the legal year. This year, I had the honour of hosting two very special legal services, each reflective of our shared values of inclusivity, justice and community.

The first service was held at St Mary's Church in Warwick, a tradition that has



With diplomats from China, Penny and Tim Cox (Lord-Lieutenant) and Lord-Lieutenant's cadets for the 460th anniversary celebrations of William Shakespeare's birthday in 2024



At the Old Shire Hall in Warwick for my Declaration with, among others, Sophie Hilleary (2023-24), Giani Surjit Singh (High Sheriff's chaplain), the Honourable Mr Justice Saini (in red), Jagtar Singh Gill OBE (husband), Tim Cox (Lord-Lieutenant), John Rouse (Under Sheriff) and His Honour Judge Lockhart

continued for the past 20 years. It was a truly special occasion with speakers and readings from multiple faiths, as well as music that echoed the diverse cultures within our county. What made this service particularly meaningful was the inclusion of 'Langar', a Sikh tradition of serving free food to all, which was offered to everyone in attendance. This act of hospitality and unity was a reminder of the importance of coming together as one community, regardless of our differences.

The second service was held at the Sikh Gurdwara of Leamington Spa & Warwick, marking a historic moment as it was the first legal service to be held within the Gurdwara. This service was attended by judges, civic leaders, magistrates and members of the wider community, symbolising the unity and respect we have for all members of society. It was an incredibly moving event, reinforcing the

vital role of our diverse communities in shaping the legal landscape and promoting justice for all.

This year has been a privilege, but my journey doesn't end here. Crime prevention and awareness remain my passion and with the connections I have built, I will continue working to educate, engage and drive action. There is still so much work to be done and I remain committed to making a difference – ensuring young people feel safe, that communities are supported and that those in need know they are not alone.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this role has been meeting so many incredible people: from those working behind the scenes in our justice system to community leaders and volunteers who give so much of their time and energy. We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers who carry out vital work to support and uplift our communities. Their selflessness and commitment remind me that change happens when people come together with a shared purpose.

To everyone who has supported me on this journey – thank you. It has been an honour to serve Warwickshire in this historical role. I have witnessed first-hand the dedication and the strength of community spirit. Your encouragement, collaboration and belief in the work we've done together have made this role an unforgettable experience and truly special. Warwickshire will always hold a special place in my heart and I look forward to continuing this work alongside all the remarkable individuals who make this county so strong.



At Chesford Grange Hotel, Leamington Spa, for a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship passing out ceremony

Volunteering is vital

Melanie James JP

High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2024-25

Like many I have volunteered in various organisations since I was a child. From charity shops and fundraising fayres to helping at the Guides as a young leader and, as an adult, a school governor, chair of the PTA and a long serving magistrate. My commitment and interest in giving back has been an important part of my life and I value enormously the contribution that volunteers selflessly make to our society.

The year in office allows you to immerse yourself in the voluntary sector. We constantly hear that volunteers provide the bedrock to our communities and ask where we would be without them. As High Sheriffs we too are volunteers and our aim is to make a significant difference to our community.

I decided that I wanted to recognise the wonderful volunteers in West Glamorgan and to raise as much awareness for the often unsung heroes in our community; so, I set myself a challenge. Namely, to volunteer in as many organisations as possible during Volunteers' Week across the two counties [The City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough]; to stand side by side with the indispensable people within our vital third sector and to roll my sleeves up.

I contacted both Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service and asked them to fill the week commencing 3 June 2024 for me – and they did not disappoint! Six placements and two recognition ceremonies in one week. Here goes!

The mother and toddler group



With young people from the Resolven Youth Forum

at Swansea EYST (an organisation supporting ethnic minority people across Wales) was where I met parents and their babies and toddlers helping to serve refreshments and also taking on rhyme and story time.

At Cwtch Mawr in Swansea I picked and packed orders. Cwtch Mawr is an amazing multibank; supported by businesses like Amazon and run by the Faith in Families charity it provides surplus essentials to those in need.

I played bingo with the ladies at Gwynfi Miners Community Hall in Blaengwynfi, where they hold a long-running coffee morning to combat isolation.

In Neath I packed food boxes at F.A.N. (Friends and Neighbours) Community Alliance and delivered them to those in need.

I helped pupils from Tairgwaith Primary School in Canolfan Maerdy in the Upper Amman Valley to pack food boxes and distributed them to families.

In Resolven I helped restock the food bank at the Building Blocks Family Centre and attended the Youth Forum, an incredible group of young people who



With other volunteers at Canolfan Maerdy food bank

volunteer in their community.

The week also included two fantastic volunteer awards ceremonies where I was delighted to give an address and present certificates.

Volunteers' week was wonderful and insightful. Needless to say, following on from this week I have continued to volunteer in as many places as possible. 'Don't just invite me to shake hands, give me a job instead' is very much my ethos and my past 11 months have been filled with wonderful experiences.

Volunteering is vital and encompasses so many things: empathy, teamwork, kindness, contribution, worth, confidence building, friendship and so much more – and all while making life for others easier. A gift!

Volunteers' Week this year is Monday 2 June through to Sunday 8 June – go for it!



At the Cwtch Mawr multibank – a clothes bank, bedding bank, baby bank, hygiene bank and furniture bank all rolled into one



With parents and their babies and toddlers at the EYST parent and toddler group in Swansea

Showcasing the county's rich cultural heritage

Douglas Wright MBD DL

High Sheriff of the West Midlands 2024-2025

As my term as High Sheriff of the West Midlands comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on a year filled with extraordinary experiences, meaningful engagements and the privilege of serving our community. It has truly been a fascinating and rewarding journey, allowing me to witness first-hand the dedication and resilience of volunteers and individuals committed to making a difference.

Over the past year, I have completed 165 engagements, each providing a unique opportunity to connect with the diverse voices of our community. From civic visits to local organisations and schools, these engagements have reinforced my belief in the power of social cohesion and community spirit.

One of the highlights of my year was hosting High Court judges from the Midlands Circuit at various events, including a local Champions League football game, a cricket match at Edgbaston, a ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome and a dinner. These occasions not only celebrated the arts and sport but also fostered connections between the judiciary and our vibrant community. It was a privilege to bring together such distinguished guests in settings that showcased the rich cultural heritage of our region.

In addition to these events, I had the honour of recognising the remarkable contributions of individuals across the West Midlands. I proudly handed out 40 High Sheriff's Awards to court staff who have gone above and beyond in their duties, acknowledging their dedication to justice and service. Furthermore, I presented 66 High Sheriff's Awards to community members who have made



At Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College with St John Ambulance Cadets

significant contributions in various fields, celebrating their exceptional commitment to volunteerism and mentorship. Hearing their inspiring stories reinforced my belief in the positive impact we can all have on our community.

Throughout my year, I also had the pleasure of attending several civic services which provided a platform to celebrate our shared values and commitment to community service. These occasions served as important reminders of our collective responsibility to support and uplift one another.

A particularly memorable experience was my day spent at Birmingham Law Court as part of the Intensive Supervision Court (ISC) pilot programme. Observing the judicial process and engaging with the dedicated professionals working within the system deepened my appreciation for the rule of law and the vital role that our courts play in ensuring justice.

My visits to community organisations allowed me to witness the incredible work being done to support vulnerable populations. From food banks to youth mentorship programmes, these organisations are essential in addressing



At the opening of Coventry Law Courts with Dame Sue Carr, the Lady Chief Justice

the challenges faced by many in our communities. It was inspiring to see the passion and commitment of those involved and I was honoured to lend my support to their efforts.

Following the implementation of my High Sheriff's Magistrates Recruitment Programme I had the pleasure of speaking at Joseph Leckie School alongside two magistrates, promoting the important work of magistrates and encouraging students to consider careers in law and public service. Similarly, my visit to Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College provided an opportunity for my High Sheriff's cadets to share their experiences and highlight the importance of volunteering. Their enthusiasm and dedication to volunteering roles were truly commendable.

As my term as High Sheriff comes to an end, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported me throughout this journey. It has been an incredible honour to serve as High Sheriff of the West Midlands and I look forward to seeing how future High Sheriffs will build upon the foundations laid this year.



Presenting High Sheriff's Awards to the court staff at the ISC pilot at Birmingham Magistrates' Court

Connecting people with nature

Dr Olivia Chapple OBE

High Sheriff of Wiltshire 2024-25

Through the charity I founded called Horatio's Garden, I have developed a special interest in gardens and health, so during the course of my shrieval year I tried to visit as many charities as possible across the county which use nature as therapy in many different ways – many of these are connected to long-term crime prevention.

I've been so pleased to get to know many of the charities both small and large working in this sector and my abiding memory is that every visit to an outdoor project brought me in contact with happy people – beneficiaries, staff and volunteers – even when the weather was dire!

Wiltshire's prison, Erlestoke, has an incredible horticulture programme run by Mike Angell. Mike leads a thriving prison garden – every spare meter of ground around the site is beautifully planted and tended by prisoners who develop life-long hobbies or skills they can use to find employment on release. I was delighted to present Mike with a High Sheriff's Award.

Another highlight visit was to a forest school on the wettest, muddiest day imaginable and seeing children with complex neurodivergent traits happy and engaged while leaping about in the mud. The facility of the forest school enables this group of children to attend mainstream school thus improving their life opportunities.

I have been so excited to see nature being harnessed brilliantly in Wiltshire. This year Coronation Orchards have been planted in 29 communities around the county; I've seen schools creating calming gardens; churches reimagining their graveyards into community sanctuary gardens; young people not in education finding new purpose; and elderly care settings where residents are getting involved with growing.

I hosted a Connecting People with Nature seminar in June and invited people working and volunteering in the sector across the county to attend. We listened to inspiring speakers, shared ideas and practices and even did a group garden-based Qigong session!

The evidence that nature is good for us all is overwhelming and in these cash-strapped times, the health, economic



At my summer party in Horatio's Garden, Salisbury with Mohammed Makram Ali DL and police cadets

and crime prevention arguments are compelling – I hope the seeds of change are here to stay in Wiltshire and I have been grateful to be able to connect the many people who are driving the nature-based initiatives forwards across the county. I hope these connections will continue and will be pursuing this year's foundations going forwards. One of these initiatives is working with Wiltshire Police to create a garden for their workforce to support and prevent mental health difficulties.

The year also gave me the opportunity to hear from many of the smaller diverse charity chairs and I was struck by how many spoke of the loneliness of facing countless operational and governance challenges and their worries about succession. As a result, I formed Wiltshire Charity Chairs Network as an inclusive group to facilitate more contact with peers, to create networking opportunities, learning and mutual support. We've had three face-to-face meetings and already have a membership of 80 chairs from across the county... and growing. I will be ensuring that this is a sustainable group beyond my year in office with the intention of supporting and encouraging charity



At Salisbury park run



At a dance celebration in the Hindu temple, Swindon

chairs who are so vital to our communities.

The year has given me a small insight into the goodness of people in our county. There are so many unsung heroes who work and volunteer for the good of others whether supporting people directly or indirectly. We are so fortunate to have such dedication and our communities thrive because of them.

Engage with your local 'chain gang'

Charles Moyle JP

High Sheriff of Worcestershire 2024-25

In addition to the fundamental roles that come with being a High Sheriff I had two key objectives for my year. The first was to examine as many iterations of my 'Life Chances' theme as possible and the second was to get as close as I could to the grassroots charities operating throughout the county.

First, Life Chances: using county-wide rugby clubs as both the base and metaphor for what a team and family look and feel like, we invited 100 educationally excluded young men to join a weekly course. These courses focused variously on debt management; what it feels like and means to be part of a team; how to treat girls; and the dangers of county lines. The final course was hosted by the playing members of the club where they showcased and encouraged the boys to consider work experience as builders, electricians, cooks and plumbers. Will it work? Who knows... time will tell but if you can offer young people the opportunity to work they will quickly understand the benefits of the three Ss – structure, salary and self-respect.

Another iteration of Life Chances came from working with the police cadets in North Worcestershire. The cohort of 25 16- to 18-year-old boys and girls were so proud to wear the uniform and I wanted



With Harriett Baldwin MP inspecting the North Worcestershire Police Cadets before giving her 'VIP Journeys In Life' talk

to give them a range of experiences they wouldn't normally take part in. Each month they attended a talk from an inspirational Worcestershire high achiever. From the Lord-Lieutenant to an army general, from the director of nursing to a local MP, from a senior police officer to a local entrepreneur – each individual explained how they got to where they are today, the challenges they faced and the 'golden nuggets' of life advice they could offer within their 'VIP Journeys In Life' talk.

There are so many ways of bringing Life Chances alive – it's a wonderful theme to explore for any High Sheriffs in nomination to consider.

Second, county causes – the volunteer sector has never played a bigger part in picking up the roles which historically have been funded and delivered by local councils and government departments. But how does one discover just what is going on in the county and who is delivering often lifesaving services?

I approached all 11 mayors and district council chairs and requested that they give me one day of their time to introduce

me to all the extraordinary causes in their towns. The results were amazing. Each civic leader created a wonderful programme of visits of between six and eight charities and community organisations. We booked the local press to join us and asked each charity to invite their volunteers, staff, donors and trustees to meet with the mayor and myself.

I have learnt such a huge amount from each organisation I've visited and in many cases have had the greatest of pleasure in helping them – whether by developing their marketing strategy, assisting with funding applications or by introducing and signposting other useful organisations and, finally, returning in full 'kit' to recognise these community heroes by presenting High Sheriff's Awards and medals. It has been the most worthwhile and rewarding part of my year and I'd encourage all High Sheriffs in nomination to engage as quickly as possible with their local 'chain gang' – these men and women are your gate keepers to what is going on right under our noses.



Presenting awards to Polish community leaders at Hartlebury Castle in recognition of their commitment to participating and integrating the wider community into charitable service in Worcestershire



'Life Chances' Awards given in recognition of both great personal development having overcome significant challenges and for their contributions to our county



High Sheriffs of England and Wales for 2025–26

England

Bedfordshire	Camilla King
Berkshire	Sean Taylor DL
Buckinghamshire	Philippa Kirkbride
Cambridgeshire	The Hon Frances Stanley DL
Cheshire	Joëlle Warren MBE DL
City of Bristol	Kalpna Woolf
Cornwall	Geraint Richards
Cumbria	Dr Geoffrey Jolliffe
Derbyshire	Sir Richard FitzHerbert Bt
Devon	Caroline Harlow
Dorset	Callum Bremner JP
Durham	Mike Poole JP DL
East Riding of Yorkshire	Mike Rice
East Sussex	Annie Brown
Essex	Julie Fosh Rogers DL
Gloucestershire	Julie Kent MBE
Greater London	Alderman John Garbutt JP
Greater Manchester	Martin Ainscough CBE DL
Hampshire	Susan Elton
Herefordshire	Helen Bowden
Hertfordshire	Nicholas Buxton
Isle of Wight	Jacqueline Gazzard
Kent	Jonathan Neame DL
Lancashire	James Carter DL
Leicestershire	Stephen Bryan JP
Lincolnshire	David Chambers DL
Merseyside	Billy Hui
Norfolk	Patrick Lines
Northamptonshire	Jeremy Sharman
Northumberland	George Farr
North Yorkshire	Sir Andrew Lawson-Tancred Bt
Nottinghamshire	Edward Attenborough DL
Oxfordshire	John May OBE DL
Rutland	Colonel Richard Chesterfield
Shropshire	Jane Trowbridge
Somerset	Janet Montgomery
South Yorkshire	Giuseppe Di'Iasio
Staffordshire	Timothy Gillow
Suffolk	Gulshanbir Kayembe DL
Surrey	Peter Cluff
Tyne and Wear	Joanne Curry MBE DL
Warwickshire	Karen Lynch MBE
West Midlands	Mark Smith
West Sussex	Dr Timothy Fooks
West Yorkshire	Christopher Brown
Wiltshire	Martin Nye
Worcestershire	Ian Smith

Wales

Clwyd	Julie Gillbanks
Dyfed	Ann Jones DL
Gwent	Lt Colonel Ralph Griffin
Gwynedd	Rhys Davies
Mid Glamorgan	Sharon Dixon
Powys	Sally Roberts
South Glamorgan	Janet Davies
West Glamorgan	Diana Stroia

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

New Members

Name	County	Year of Office
Julia Aisbitt JP DL	West Sussex	2027
Sue Ball	Rutland	2027
Sandra Barnett-Pollock OBE	Leicestershire	2027
Spiro Borg	South Glamorgan	2027
Ian Brown DL	Cumbria	2027
Jeffrey Brown	Tyne and Wear	2027
Roger Butler	Northamptonshire	2027
Lady Ila Campbell Fuller	Wiltshire	2027
Camilla Carlborn Flinn DL	Lincolnshire	2027
Fiona Charny JP DL	Worcestershire	2027
Lucinda Copeman	Bedfordshire	2027
Patricia Dalby	East Riding of Yorkshire	2027
Moirá Darlington DL	Oxfordshire	2027
Katie Davies	Isle of Wight	2027
His Honour Judge Steven Everett	Cheshire	2027
Alexia Fetherstonhaugh JP	Greater London	2027
James Grierson	North Yorkshire	2027
Johanna Hamilton DL	Surrey	2027
Susan Hughes DL	Suffolk	2027
Mark Langshaw MBE	Gwent	2027
Samantha Mackintosh	Norfolk	2027
Jane Marshall DL	South Yorkshire	2027
Ann Mathias	Powys	2027
Dr Julie Mills OBE	Buckinghamshire	2027
Sally Newstead	Staffordshire	2027
Cleeves Palmer DL	Dorset	2027
Lynn Pegler DL	Cheshire	2026
Susan Rawbone	Warwickshire	2027
Amrik Sandhu	Essex	2027
Gillian Sewell	Derbyshire	2027
Elizabeth Storey	Berkshire	2027
Hugh Strickland	Shropshire	2027
Dr David Walker	East Sussex	2027

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

2026/2027

Ismail Anilmis DL
Renu Kapur MBE
Nicola Ross
Francis Burkitt
Lynn Pegler DL
Anne Nisbet DL
Shirley Fawcett
Syed Iftikhar
Mark Ansell
Helena Conibear DL
Dr Arnab Basu MBE
Neil Sanderson
Michael Bedingfield DL
Susannah Dutton
Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE
Dhruv Patel OBE
William Maltby
Tamsin Clive DL
Anna Rankin
Nigel Hartley MBE
Martin Lukehurst
Meldin Thomas QPM
Sue Liburd MBE DL
Jonathan Pearson
Miranda Wixon DL
Dr Anna Charlton
Nigel Corner DL
Hon Alderwoman Merlita Bryan-Hilton
Jawaid Malik JP
Susannah Fish OBE QPM
Katherine Tanner DL
Peter Dixon
TBC
Pritpal Nagi MBE DL
Oliver Paul DL
Neelam Dharni-Devesher DL
Ammar Mirza CBE
Susan Rasmussen
Carmen Watson
Gary Shipton DL
Dr Ruby Bhatti OBE
Dr Alex Goodwin
Maynard Burton

2027/2028

Lucinda Copeman
Elizabeth Storey
Dr Julie Mills OBE
Dr Jaspal Singh DL
His Honour Judge Steven Everett
Mohammed Elsharif
Ian Brown DL
Gillian Sewell
Richard Stevens MBE
Cleeves Palmer DL
Andrew Hayday
Patricia Dalby
Dr David Walker
Amrik Sandhu
Rupert Walters
Alexia Fetherstonhaugh JP
Stephanie Illsley
Peter Clay
Meenal Sachdev
Katie Davies
Lars Lemonius
Sandra Barnett-Pollock OBE
Camilla Carlbon Flinn DL
Samantha Mackintosh
Roger Butler
Charles Renwick
James Grierson
Craig Chettle MBE
Moiria Darlington DL
Susan Ball
Hugh Strickland
Nina Coad
Jane Marshall DL
Sally Newstead
Susan Hughes DL
Johanna Hamilton DL
Jeffrey Brown
Susan Rawbone
Dr Ahmed Awan MBE DL
Julia Aisbitt JP DL
Nicola Chance-Thompson MBE DL
Lady Ila Campbell Fuller
Fiona Charny JP DL

Deaths

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

Lt Colonel M C Bagshawe TD

Date of death: 21-May-24
Age: 97
County: Staffordshire
Year of office: 1986

Lt Colonel Anthony Drake DL

Date of death: 02-Apr-25
Age: 91
County: Devon
Year of office: 2001

Sir M E Evans-Bevan

Date of death: 05-Nov-24
Age: 92
County: Breconshire
Year of office: 1967

Major John Eyre JP DL

Date of death: 11-Mar-25
Age: 88
County: Gloucestershire
Year of office: 2000

Richard Hickmet

Date of death: 10-Sep-24
Age: 76
County: Somerset
Year of office: 2017

Geordie Hutchison

Date of death: 11-Dec-24
Age: 90
County: Lincolnshire
Year of office: 1998

David Lewis

Date of death: 03-Nov-24
Age: 80
County: Former Under Sheriff of Wiltshire
Year of office: –

Nomination of High Sheriffs of Wales

County

Clwyd
Dyfed
Gwent
Gwynedd
Mid Glamorgan
Powys
South Glamorgan
West Glamorgan

2026/2027

David Jones OBE
Andrew Phillips
Shereen Williams MBE
Llinos Owen
John Charles TD DL
William Watkins
Jane John
Emrys Elias OBE

2027/2028

Rachel Clacher CBE
Jayne Picouto JP DL
Mark Langshaw MBE
Sean Taylor
Dr Dale Cartwright
Ann Mathias
Spiro Borg
Lara Capel

*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

Available in two designs:
Style 1 for wearing around
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 High Sheriff's Badge

Available in two designs:
Style 2 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. 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**



Umbrella

Blue and white
umbrella **£39.50**

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

All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.
Payment details can be found on the Regalia Order Form or call/email to confirm.
Enquiries and orders 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.

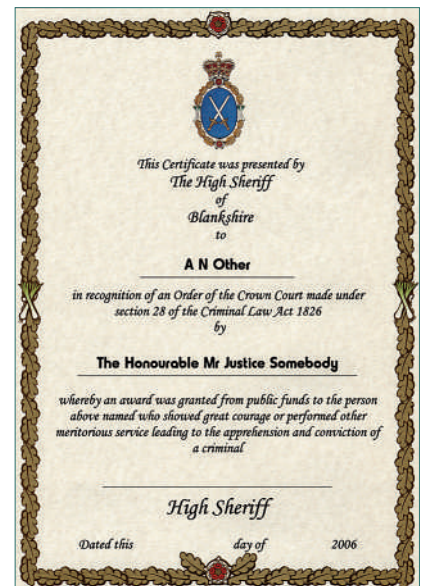
CCA 2 is a blank certificate. This can be overprinted using the recommended text, again found on the Association's website in the members' section under Resource Library for Information and Advice.

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

CCA 1: 50 for £25

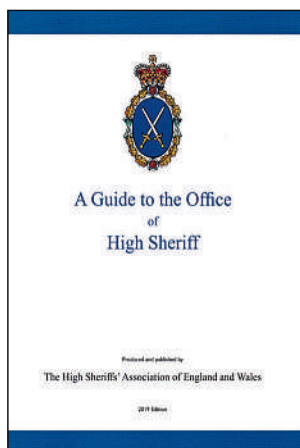
CCA 2: 50 for £20

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)* **£10.00**

In the news

Congratulations go to two High Sheriffs, who were honoured during their term of office. If you have been in the news or honoured, either locally or nationally, I would love to hear from you. Ed.

Dr Olivia Chapple OBE (Wiltshire) writes: 'I was delighted to have been awarded an OBE in The King's Birthday Honours and attended Windsor Castle in December 2024 with my family to be presented with the honour by His Majesty King Charles III.' Olivia was recognised for her exceptional services to charity. [Visit horatiogarden.org.uk. Ed.]

Eamonn O'Neal OBE DL (Greater Manchester): 'I was delighted to be awarded an

OBE in the recent New Year's Honours List for services to charitable causes and people with disabilities.' Eamonn received his award from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at Windsor Castle.



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 2025. Closing date for receipt of editorial items will be Friday 10 October 2025. 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

THE CONSORT CAN GET INVOLVED TOO...

It has been a real pleasure to be Mark's wife and partner for his year as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and to be with him at so many great events.

It has also been an honour to accompany him on several royal visits with both Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and the Duchess of Gloucester. Of course, it is the Lord-Lieutenant or one of his deputies who accompanies the member of the royal family but they are always supported by a lady-in-waiting. I have found that they are really pleased to have another woman to talk to while they follow the official group around!

We have done so many fantastic things, but the one that was most fun was the 'Celebration of Gloucestershire' event in the cathedral during the February half-term.

While Mark was considering the running order for the evening and whether the Morris Men should go before or after the brass band, as a keen amateur photographer I was organising a display of photographs of the county spread over the 21 display boards in Gloucester Cathedral cloisters.

I persuaded eight camera clubs from around the county, including the Community Team from Tewkesbury, to display photos of their district. So, with photos of wild boar and the Severn Bore from the Forest, the races in Cheltenham and polo in Cirencester, cattle in Minchinhampton and the Tyndale monument, as well as Gloucester Docks and Gloucester Cathedral, you could travel round the county and see it all!

The response from visitors to the cathedral has been excellent, with so many people viewing the exhibition over the two weeks around half-term.

I know we will miss the fabulous opportunities we have had to meet so many people and learn more about our wonderful county.

Julia Hurrell, Gloucestershire






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Starting as a tailor in Savile Row aged 15, I opened my own shop in 1963. Since then I have tailored for the Royal Family as well as officers of over 50 Regiments of the British Army and specialised in court dress for High Sheriffs.

In 2001 I received a royal warrant for tailoring from the Queen and in 2018 I received the Royal Victorian Order for tailoring services to the Royal Family.

I retired in 2021 but got bored and restarted at home. I do all my own measuring, cutting and

tailoring ensuring that you get a beautifully made and fitted garment at a reasonable price.

We can supply everything you need for your year as High Sheriff. If you would like a chat about your court dress I am in St Albans, Hertfordshire and please do call me.

Geoffrey Golding
01727 857746 or 07903 001773
geoffreygolding@gmail.com

Geoffrey Golding