

Role of The High Sheriff At Loseley For Deputy Lieutenant's 9/10/19

Lord-Lieutenant, Deputy Lieutenants and Louise, Chief Executive of The Royal Surrey County Hospital I have the pleasure of telling you something about the Shrievalty in 2019.

I am not sure that I should be first up, being one of the newbies. And I am certainly sure that as I approach only the half way mark of my year as High Sheriff I should take note of the old adage “Don’t try to teach your Grandmother to suck eggs” because looking round the room there are many grandmothers here who have considerable first hand knowledge of the shrievalty.

Any way I hope I can shed some light on where in 2019 the office appears to me to be going.

I am going to take you very briefly through where we are, on what I see as the areas of commitment for the shrievalty in Surrey in 2019.

The Police

I started the year interviewing for the new Chief constable, I saw that as a great privilege and an acknowledgement of the independence of the office.

Support for the police and meetings with the chief, the neighbourhood teams, the youth intervention inspectors rural police officers etc, together with the more formal Surrey Criminal Justice Partnerships and The Borough commanders' meetings are I think at the heart of the office. And of course, there are the volunteers: The Police support officers and The Surrey Voluntary Police cadets, (established only 3 years ago) as high sheriff you are Patron, and support, and opportunities for awards and recognition are very important.

The Other Emergency services:

Again, I feel you can offer support and encouragement meeting, inviting, attending ceremonies. It is the offices independence and the role as the Queens representative for law and order that makes you well placed to attend Youth engagement Scheme graduations, and fire and rescue honours and awards. I would add one sad and emerging area where I can see the shrievalty having a greater part which is providing support and connections to consider the tackling of modern-day slavery. There are many other areas like Crime beat and the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air ambulance service who seem genuinely grateful for your support and contacts.

The Judiciary and magistrates:

Now we may not have High Court Judges on circuit staying in Lodgings in Surrey but we do have some exceptional Crown Court Judges and not to embarrass Robert, but the most helpful and kindest resident judge. With the legal system in turmoil, I like to think where we can show our gratitude and provide opportunities for judges to meet others in the County we should, this applies to the growing body of magistrates and the coroners and witness service too.

Prisons

To finish the picture prisons, the prison governors of our 5 prisons genuinely seem grateful for your interest and to show you around and explain the problems. I have not yet worked out what help, other than an independent shoulder, but mention of things like volunteers and work in the community are areas where I think it maybe possible to help.

The Voluntary sector;

Where do you start on this, there are the old favourites who appreciate support and then there are those charities who are helping with young people and

homeless and others where crime prevention is on the agenda. This is where I have put my efforts ...much much more to do.

And of course, there is the proactive work on Nurture Through Surreys Nature-I could talk about this for ages and I will hopefully in the spring when after farm days out, forest bathing, prison gardening etc we can pull some threads together and look at best practise and areas to increase. I love this, I feel passionate about the potential.

This brings me onto **The High Sheriff Youth Awards**

I have left the leaflets about, this is thriving, we are giving out approx. £60,000 a year to charities and groups for projects for young people that help reduce crime and make communities stronger and safer. This is still run through wonderful volunteer assessors and council members.

I can't forget **the Mayors and Chairs**, such special people. Where I can, I do, but not too many civic services or mayor makings and an effort to be geographical concentrating on the north and east of the County.

I have run out of time to say anything about all the amazing military goings on, and the cadets and reservists and military appeals committee. It is wonderful to have an insight into this area but I see it as closer to the Lieutenancy than the Shrievalty but tell me if I am wrong.

There are two questions that are asked of you continually:

Where did those ostrich feathers in your hat come from?

And

How did You come to be High Sheriff!?

The temptation is to answer both with the one response.... I was plucked out of a handsome body.

But the exciting news is that in 2020 the answer to at least the second question will be simple....

There is a Surrey High Sheriffs Nomination Consultative Panel, with detailed terms of reference all of which is on the High Sheriffs website for all to see. This includes details of the composition of the widened and broaden membership of the panel. The panel has a clearly set out criteria for nominations which is also to be on the website and which will give the opportunity for individuals to nominate possible candidates for the

panel to consider. In short, the how did you come to be HS will be answered and hopefully the field widened.

So finally, onto social media -thanks to my two amazing predecessors we have a High Sheriff's website with a blog and Instagram. Whatever you do don't go on it now...as I am two weeks behind sorry Robert.

But it is all part of the effort to be more visible and most importantly to provide support for all the fantastic organisations that can benefit from more visibility.

So, the purpose of the office as I see it is summed up in in four lines:

Support and take an interest

Thank and congratulate

Convene and connect

Be an independent shoulder to lean on

This is a huge privilege, hugely challenging but huge fun.

Thank you and please any advice for the next 6 months much appreciated