



# High Sheriff Youth Awards

## Annual Report 2019-2020



Helping young people  
make Surrey safer

# High Sheriff Youth Awards



It is my privilege and honour as a High Sheriff of Surrey to write the introduction to this annual report of the High Sheriff Youth Awards.

I'm pretty sure everyone is drained with the words "unprecedented times", as those words have been virtually repeated every hour in the media; however it's been a real challenge for me, as it is hindering my ability to be out and about and to make a contribution to the county of Surrey.

I look at the challenges with Covid-19 as an opportunity to make a difference; an opportunity for Surrey to Convene, Connect and Contribute. This situation has so far, as in the rest of country, galvanised every aspect of our society to make a difference.

These are extraordinary times and more than ever we need communities, charities, and groups; we need bridge builders and those that provide the glue that hold communities together.

My theme for the year is **Together We are Stronger**.

Within this theme, the three points I would like to address are:

• **Communities**, which includes friends, families, colleagues, and the

third sector (volunteers and charities)

• **Making a Difference**, including the NHS, Emergency Services, shops, places of faith, social clubs and community leaders

• **Going Forward**. There will be better times, we will make a difference to our community.

This year is going to a difficult year, where funders and charities will be suffering loss of income, with supporters facing challenging times in terms of financial constraints. However, we are pleased to announce that our core funding remains the same as last year.

My ambition for this year is threefold – and let me explain why for each:

Firstly. In memory of my best friend who passed away last year, Barry Hitchcock MBE, I want to help set up, in partnership with the Surrey Coroner, a non-intrusive post-mortem scanning facility and a public mortuary – to allow us to give our loved ones dignity in death.

Secondly. At a time when we are acutely aware of those in our country who still go to sleep hungry and children who go to school without any breakfast, I want to use

technology to 'Kick out Hunger'. My aim is to develop a software 'App' that tackles both hunger and food waste. This will ensure that we link those that have and don't need and those that need and don't have. Further down the line I hope to use this platform to tackle other issues such as financial exclusion.

Thirdly. I aim to promote the Community Foundation for Surrey 'Sports Fund' with an exciting programme of events raising funds to support people aiming to pursue a sports career. I already have commitment from chairmen of Chelsea Football Club, Surrey Cricket Club and London Irish to hold events at their venues in Surrey in support of the Community Foundation for Surrey.

I end with a huge thank you to Bridget Biddell who worked tirelessly, visiting many groups and organisations; to the HSYA Council and Trustees; and to our generous donors, without whom our work would not be possible. And a massive thank you to ExxonMobil who have hosted the HSYA Annual Celebration for the past 26 years, we are forever grateful.

**Shahid Azeem**  
High Sheriff of Surrey 2020-2021

# Review of the year 2019-2020



It is May 2020 and I must start by mentioning the sadness at having to cancel the High Sheriff Youth Awards showcase evening at ExxonMobil, cancelled as a result of the pandemic. So many of our friends and supporters were looking forward to what was going to be a wonderful celebration, and I want to thank ExxonMobil for their continued generous support.

As High Sheriff it has been an amazing privilege to be able to see and hear first-hand the incredible volunteering and community work in Surrey – in particular to see the work of the charities and community groups, working with young people, helping to reduce or prevent crime. There is no doubt in my mind that we do not celebrate, share or say enough about these good news stories, so through our annual review we hope to highlight some of this work.

I personally want to say a very big thank you and congratulations to all charities and community groups that the High Sheriff Youth Awards have been able to support in 2019/2020. It has been an enormous pleasure to visit most of these and see the amazing work that is being undertaken. The work you do to make communities in Surrey

stronger and safer is so important and comes, I know, with huge effort and commitment.

In the tradition of previous Surrey High Sheriffs, I too have focused on an area of work which I felt particularly energised by; *nurture through Surrey's nature*. This has involved supporting and promoting all sorts of work, but with the unifying factor of it being outdoors in Surrey's countryside; on farms, in forests, parks and gardens. I have been inspired by the results of this work and I am sure there will be more projects that the High Sheriff Youth Awards will support in future.

To assess these, and the projects of the charities that did and will apply for funding, the High Sheriff Youth Awards have a highly experienced team of assessors. Together with the Council members, grants panel members and Trustees they run an extremely professional, knowledgeable, proficient and caring charity. I want to thank all those who voluntarily give their time and expertise in ensuring the success of the High Sheriff Youth Awards.

Finally, I want to thank all our wonderfully generous supporters, without whom none of this work

would be possible. This year we have been able to support twenty projects. Going forward, and reflecting on the difficult times we now find ourselves in, the need to support work with and for young people to build strength into Surrey's communities is going to be paramount. So, we are fortunate that our High Sheriff 2020/2021 is Mr Shahid Azeem, who with his theme for the year 'Together We are Stronger', focusing on Communities, will provide the springboard needed for the coming year.

**Bridget Biddell**  
High Sheriff of Surrey 2019 – 2020

# The High Sheriff Youth Awards in



The team recognised that young people often have complex and extensive needs that have to be overcome, in order to break through obstacles that so many of them experience and which put up barriers to confidence and ultimately a satisfying career.

## Viewpoint – TheHorseCourse

Viewpoint was launched in 2017 to build upon the strong track record of success of TheHorseCourse and to roll out the ReStart service in Surrey to disadvantaged young people living in difficult situations or at risk of school exclusion through anxiety or difficult behaviour. The ReStart course is for 8-24 year olds who are disengaged from, or not progressing, with conventional talk-based therapy options. The horses calm people, and learning to communicate with the animals is known to have revolutionary effects on mental health and self-regulation. Through the course, participants learn tailored strategies to manage themselves, including engagement, responsibility, calmness, assertiveness, listening and more.

The High Sheriff was honoured to attend the opening, highlighting their amazing work and introducing a new non-verbal toolbox that Viewpoint will be offering to families and carers and professionals. The new course teaches how to read body language and respond appropriately with non-verbal strategies.

The High Sheriff Youth Awards was pleased to provide the funds to enable six young people to benefit from the Horse Course and it was a great pleasure to be able to present a certificate to Viewpoint – Katie and Billy, to thank them for helping in making Surrey Communities safer and stronger.

## Cardinals in the Community

Cardinals in the Community was established to reach and engage as many people as possible of whatever age, gender or ability through the provision of sports initiatives to increase participation in sporting activity, particularly amongst the disadvantaged and minority groups. The focus is on engaging the local youth community in positive activity, using highly experienced coaches and a mentoring approach to promote self confidence and increase the life chances of young people through participation in football.

The programme was established to increase the football provision provided to the Park Barn area of Guildford, at Kings College. Young people take part in regular football activity which is linked with two local grassroots clubs and those who show good progression are encouraged to join these local clubs. Two of the young people are now playing for the club teams, embarking on a pathway to positive progression through life. The young people have the chance to give something back by refereeing in the local Primary School football competition.

The High Sheriff adds: “Thank you to Cardinals for the opportunities given to young people to have fun, learn skills and drills and the potential to gain their own qualifications in volunteering and coaching”.

# 2019-2020



## The Normandy Therapy Garden

The Therapy Garden is a horticulture and education charity that works to have a positive and significant impact on the lives of people facing challenges in life: whether by giving a sense of purpose to children with special needs; or by reducing the isolation of a young person living with autism; or by helping to equip young people who have additional learning needs for a possible future in the workplace. The Therapy Garden changes lives for the better by creating a safe place to enjoy the power of gardening and an opportunity to connect with nature.

The team recognised that young people often have complex and extensive needs that have to be overcome, in order to break through obstacles that so many of them experience and which put up barriers to confidence and ultimately a satisfying career. They identified the need for specialist training for their horticulture staff to ensure that they are in the best position to deliver the optimum outcome for the students they teach.

The High Sheriff was pleased to present their award and noted that “the Trustees, staff and dedicated volunteers are grounded in providing opportunities for young and old to thrive and blossom in the wonderful garden surroundings at Normandy”.



## Matrix Trust - Elevate

Matrix Trust is a local Christian Charity which provides support and opportunities for vulnerable young people across the Guildford Borough. The opportunities offered by the Matrix Trust not only enable young people to believe in themselves, but also provide a platform for change to ensure that young people are not left socially excluded. At Allen House Pavilion, Matrix aim to provide a home-away-from-home for vulnerable and disadvantaged teenagers.

Elevate is a young leaders' programme for school year 10+, focused on three areas: eat, serve and learn. Each week, young people cook and eat together, which is followed by a teaching session focused on different aspects of self-leadership, including workshops led by Matrix Trust youth workers and guest speakers talking about more specialist subjects. Everyone is encouraged to share weekly success stories. The project also strives to encourage young people to serve in different ways throughout their lives and works with the young people to provide a service in the community café and at other events throughout the year.

During her visit, the High Sheriff saw; “An ambitious and exciting programme with potential for life-changing results for young people around Guildford”.



## Safe Drive Stay Alive

Safe Drive Stay Alive aims to make young people more aware of their responsibilities on the road, as drivers and passengers in a vehicle, and the consequences of poor or irresponsible driving. Through improving young people's awareness and their attitude to responsible driving, the ultimate aim is to reduce risk and to reduce the number of road traffic collisions caused by, or involving young people (age 17 – 24).

Young people (aged 16 – 19) are invited to attend a highly charged and emotionally engaging stage 'performance' at Dorking Halls. Each live performance comprises a series of films, each featuring people recalling true stories of how they and their families have been affected by a road traffic collision death of a young person. Between these films, live speakers – police, fire and rescue, ambulance and hospital accident & emergency personnel – recount their experiences in turn. In addition a parent or family member, whose son/daughter/brother/sister was killed, in a road traffic collision, and a young driver or passenger involved in an incident where a passenger died, give personal testimonies.

“This the 14th year of this hard hitting performance was attended by over 160,000 students; congratulations to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service”. High Sheriff of Surrey.

# The High Sheriff Youth Awards in



## Mock Trial Competition

The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition is part of the Law in Schools programme helping to create the foundations for students to develop into legally capable young people. It aims to introduce the legal system in an exciting way that has a lasting impact on all those involved, whilst developing students' soft skills that will be of use throughout their lives. The pupils taking part in the competition are from many different backgrounds and walks of life. In the roles of lawyers, witnesses, magistrates and court staff, students prosecute and defend specially written criminal cases. Teams compete against each other in real Magistrates' Courts in front of real magistrates.

Last year, when asked how the participants benefit from taking part, over 90% of teachers and students said it improved their confidence, team work, presentation and public speaking, listening skills, ability to develop an argument and critical thinking.

The High Sheriff went along to watch and enthused; "What a brilliant Saturday at Guildford Crown Court seeing the students take on the roles of all those involved in defending and prosecuting cases, including having the opportunity to visit the cells below the court rooms. There was a palpable buzz all afternoon and the students were inspiring".



## The Trinity Trust

The Trinity Trust Team has been serving the young people of Godalming and surrounding areas for over 20 years. In 2014, the Trinity Trust Team launched a Friday night outreach initiative in the Farncombe area. Initially the Team engaged with local children and young people outdoors but such was the popularity of the project, the parents and young people requested that the Trinity Trust find a hall so the Team could continue engagement throughout the dark, cold and wet winter months. With the support of the HSYA, the Trinity Trust Team were able to hire such a venue.

The support also included extending the Street Outreach project to Aarons Hill, a close knit area of social housing, with the employment of an additional youth worker. The evening starts off with outdoor sports activities for an all age group, before heading off on street outreach to engage with an older demographic further afield. Trinity Trust is the only organisation providing this kind of support to young people in the area and has a very strong reputation for its work. The HSYA was pleased to be able to support it in this way.

The purpose of 'With My Eyes' is to break the cycle of mental health issues and provide an opportunity for emotions and feelings to be expressed and explored through drama and creative arts.

# 2019-2020



## Guildford Shakespeare Company

Established in 2006, the Guildford Shakespeare Company (GSC) is one of the largest professional producers of live Shakespeare and workshops in Surrey. GSC's Education Department engages with over 4000 people, young and old, across the South East.

With My Eyes is a unique course of dramatherapy workshops for Surrey teenagers with mental-health needs and their parents, run by Guildford Shakespeare Company and professional dramatherapists. It is aimed at young people who have been excluded from school, or are at risk of exclusion. The purpose of With My Eyes is to break the cycle of mental health issues and provide an opportunity for emotions and feelings to be expressed and explored through drama and creative arts. The teenagers and their parents are supported in developing a mutual understanding, based on shared experiences, in a consistent and safe environment. The Award was made to build on the success of the earlier pilot course.

After her visit to the GSC to present the award certificate, the High Sheriff commented: "The confidence exuded from the young people who had completed the pilot course of drama therapy sessions, the support from each other and from GSC was great to experience".



## Staying Safe Workshop

North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (NSDAS) are part of a unique Citizens Advice Branch, Citizens Advice Elmbridge West, supporting the residents of Elmbridge, Spelthorne and Epsom & Ewell. NSDAS is part of the Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership. Some 25% of reported crime in Surrey is domestic abuse. The service focuses on recovery from experiencing domestic abuse and provides crisis intervention for victims of domestic abuse, including safety planning, legal remedies and advocacy on their behalf with other agencies, such as Social Care and the Police. They also provide emotional support and run programmes to help victims to come to terms with their abuse and have a specialist children's worker who supports children aged 5-18 affected by domestic abuse.

They identified an opportunity to help reduce anti-social and criminal behaviour through delivering 'Staying Safe' training, to 540 vulnerable children and young adults (aged 11-18), in targeted areas in Surrey. The workshops are designed to provide early intervention and target domestic abuse related crime prevention, focusing on raising awareness of Violence to Women and Girls; and Resilience versus Violence. The first workshops coincided with White Ribbon Day awareness campaigns.



## Surrey Clubs for Young People

Surrey Clubs for Young People believe in supporting the pivotal role that volunteer-led youth clubs play in broadening horizons for young people by offering activity, opportunity and support, to enhance their lives and support them to develop into active and confident young adults. Surrey Clubs for Young People empower clubs within communities by providing inspiration to move forward and encouragement to overcome hurdles, sourcing the tools they need to do it.

Recently, local artist Alex joined 15 young people at the Weybridge Youth Club to help them get their mural planning and design underway. The young people came up with lots of ideas for the mural and decided on a cartoon/caricature theme. It was a really great night highlighting a brilliant community asset, demonstrating how the members are making the club a place that they are part of and can be proud of.

The High Sheriff noted; "I enjoyed a visit to a youth club new to SCYP, at Weybridge. The young people were involved in an art project to create a collage for decorating the club walls. It was great to see their enjoyment and enthusiasm".

# The High Sheriff Youth Awards in



**‘The importance of this opportunity to these young people cannot be over emphasised. Thank you Skillway for making Surrey’s communities safer and stronger.’**

## Skaterham

In 2019 Skaterham celebrated its 20th year with monthly events to mark the occasion. The group has grown from strength to strength and now boasts 30,000+ members and operates 7 days a week and is so much more than being a skatepark. There are many other activities that the young people have been involved in over the past years. These have included Duke of Edinburgh skills, school work experience, workshops for ramp building, art, dj-ing and performing arts, outings, residential trips and special in-house events. Our aim is to provide a fully inclusive facility for the young people of Caterham and surrounding areas.

This award was to repair the outdoor ramps so that young people can have more variety and keep visiting us throughout the warmer months. These ramps take a pounding from the elements and constantly need repair but they are very popular. Feedback from local partners has proved that opening the skatepark and youth facility more often has a direct impact on petty crime and the fear of crime.

“It’s amazing what an ex-military chapel can become – a skate park enjoyed by 2,000 young people a year and a place to meet and enjoy an adrenaline rush”, said the High Sheriff.

## Amber – Smart Recovery

Amber help some of the most marginal and disadvantaged people in society, with the overall aim of working closely with each young person to move them into education, training or employment and into independent accommodation. Amber have recently received a Community Award from the Howard League for Penal Reform for the work they do to reduce reoffending among homeless young people.

Smart Recovery aims to empower people with practical skills, tools and support so that they may manage their addictive behaviour and lead satisfying and meaningful lives. This is a group session that covers a wide variety of topics including any addiction or unsafe behaviour, dealing with suicidal thoughts, how to recognise unhealthy relationships and build safe relationships. The leaders provide the young people with tools to support their recovery. These tools are often essential for moving on successfully, as they don’t know how to deal with setbacks in a healthy manner, because of the lack of appropriate role models in their childhood.

The High Sheriff noted that; ‘In the space of 6-12 months Amber and its team will ensure that the young people are able to leave with a home for the future, work opportunities and interests’.

# 2019-2020



## Skillway

Skillway works with both boys and girls, who find their education and social progress restricted by their inability to work successfully in large groups and who are, therefore, at risk of truancy. These youngsters can be unmotivated and disillusioned about their own capabilities and have often grown up in difficult circumstances.

Skillway gives each student practical tuition from (mostly retired) volunteers who provide strong and nurturing role models to students whilst teaching skills such as woodwork, metal work, stone engraving etc. Progress is logged in their record books, and students are encouraged to aim for accredited AQA qualifications. The tuition provides the students with a skill for life, but also the benefit of softer social skills such as being prepared for study/work and interacting with other students and adults. When equipped with manual skills, the young people are able to access further training and employment in motor mechanics, building and construction trades.

The grant has helped to ensure that over 40 pupils during this academic year received 'hands on' learning from our skilled and trade-experienced craftsmen.

The High Sheriff commented; **'The importance of this opportunity to these young people cannot be over emphasised. Thank you Skillway, for making Surrey's communities safer and stronger'**.



## FISH Playscheme

The aims and objectives of FISH establish a clear focus on supporting families that are most vulnerable and in need of support enabling access to services for the benefit of their child's well-being. The mix of children (10-16 years old) attending the scheme from varying schools, communities, abilities, cultural and economic backgrounds, both within and outside of the borough, is highly valued.

Increasingly FISH are supporting young people with Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA). It's the extent and extreme nature of this avoidance (of demands made on the young individual), together with displays of socially shocking behaviour that leads to it being described as 'pathological'.

By supporting young people with PDA in a mainstream setting, they can be helped to develop coping strategies and help others to understand their condition. The HSYA was pleased to provide a grant to fund the key workers providing 1:1 support for these young people.

The High Sheriff reflected that; **'It was inspirational to see the care, skill and above all, enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers, many of whom are teachers, some who work for Guildford BC and some who in previous years had themselves enjoyed the fun'**.



## Stopgap Dance

Stopgap, who have been very impressed with the achievements of the Thrive Dance Academy (TDA) programme and see immense complementarity with their work, are keen to take over and expand the TDA project with a very clear strategy for building sustainability.

Stopgap recruit 20-25 young people to attend 12 weekly dance sessions providing an alternative curriculum for young people struggling to cope in mainstream education. Some of them are previous TDA participants and although they have already benefited hugely from the earlier programme, continued participation enabled them to consolidate their achievements. They took on more responsibility in the development of the group's work and used their experience to work with the new participants. Stopgap also show them the possibilities of careers in performing arts, with an apprenticeship scheme operated through Stopgap being a very real target.

Students of Thrive Dance Academy performed a powerful dance at The Farnham Maltings as their graduation performance. As High Sheriff, it was a huge pleasure to present the certificates to the graduates, as well as a High Sheriff Youth Award to Stopgap. Rachel's inspiration in providing an alternative to mainstream schooling to achieve success through dancing is incredible.

# Abridged Statement of Financial Activities

for the year to 31 March 2020

These figures are extracted from the statutory accounts which were given an unqualified report by the Independent Reporting Accountant\* and which were signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Trustees on 9 July 2020. The statutory accounts are available on request to the Administrator. Please email: [admin@surreyhighsheriff.org](mailto:admin@surreyhighsheriff.org)

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Donations	49,801	51,444
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>		
Grants, awards and costs	50,806	46,663
Management and administration	2,782	3,108
	<u>53,588</u>	<u>49,771</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in funds</b>	(3,787)	1,673
<b>Balance brought forward from previous years</b>	23,273	21,600
<b>Balance available for future years</b>	<u><u>19,486</u></u>	<u><u>23,273</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>Debtors less creditors</b>	(200)	(200)
<b>Balance at bank</b>	19,686	23,473
	<u><u>19,486</u></u>	<u><u>23,273</u></u>

\*David Jennings FCA  
51 Shottermill, Horsham,  
West Sussex RH12 5 HJ

# Trustees, Council and Funders

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## Funders and Supporters

The High Sheriff Youth Awards scheme is grateful to its funders for their continuing generous support:

### Public bodies

Surrey County Council  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

### Business, charity and personal donations

ExxonMobil  
Peter Harrison Foundation  
Mr John Jeffrey MBE

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Elmbridge Borough Council  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
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Mole Valley District Council  
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council  
Runnymede Borough Council  
Surrey Heath Borough Council  
Spelthorne Borough Council  
Tandridge District Council  
Waverley Borough Council  
Woking Borough Council



# High Sheriff Youth Awards

The High Sheriff Youth Awards makes grants for any amount from £100 up to £2,000, and exceptionally some larger grants of up to £5,000.

Applications are welcome at any time and are considered by a Panel which meets quarterly.

See [www.surreyhighsheriff.org](http://www.surreyhighsheriff.org) for funding guidance

**High Sheriff Youth Awards**

Registered charity No: 110187

Email: [admin@surreyhighsheriff.org](mailto:admin@surreyhighsheriff.org)

Email: [applications@surreyhighsheriff.org](mailto:applications@surreyhighsheriff.org)

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