



Walbrook

Alderman John Garbutt appointed High Sheriff of Greater London



Alderman for Walbrook Ward, John Garbutt, was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen in April this year as High Sheriff of Greater London. The last time a City of London Alderman was also a Sheriff for the rest of London was 125 years ago in 1895 when Sir George Faudel-Phillips held the office.

The origin of this title is the same as that of the City Sheriffs. Both derive from "Shire Reeve" (guardian of the shire), a term known to be in existence well over a thousand years ago. The office of Sheriff is the most ancient of all civic roles and, as such, has offered the longest continuous service to the

Crown. Like the City Sheriffs, the High Sheriff is part of this continuum.

Before 1889, the Sheriffs of London had always been the City Sheriffs because "the City" was London. They were also Sheriffs for Middlesex. In that year the County of London was created, and the Sheriffs were separated into those representing the City and the equivalent Sheriff for the County of London covering the part of London outside the City.

With the County of London's abolition in 1965, Greater London was created out of what was inner London,

Middlesex and parts of Surrey and Kent at that time. By way of the Local Government Act of 1972, as the breadth of the role covered all 32 boroughs outside of the City, it stated that "the Sheriffs appointed for a County or Greater London should be known as High Sheriffs." There is now a High Sheriff appointed by way of Royal Warrant annually for all 55 Counties of England and Wales.

Today, the High Sheriff of Greater London (HSGL), is the Sovereign's personal appointee for the "County" in law and order. They are nominally responsible for all matters relating to the Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Greater London, excluding the City. It is an independent, non-political appointment whose ambit covers the following main areas:

- The Royal Courts of Justice, including the Queen's Bench, Family and Chancery divisions of the High Court
- Criminal/Crown Courts around Greater London – nine in total
- Prisons – eight in total
- Metropolitan Police
- Charities supporting the justice system

The HSGL has somewhat similar overarching responsibilities to the City Sheriffs, but also some notable differences. As can

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