

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 4 April 2007

NEW HIGH SHERIFF BACKS LOCAL CHARITIES

The new High Sheriff of Essex, Lady Kemp-Welch, has committed support to Essex charities during her year of office. Speaking at her installation ceremony as the 827th High Sheriff of Essex (held at the Crown Court offices in Chelmsford, 2 April), she announced that three specific charities will benefit from her fundraising activities during the year. ”.

As well as raising money for the High Sheriffs’ Fund, which is managed by local grantmaking charitable trust, Essex Community Foundation, Lady Kemp-Welch will also support Victim Support Essex and the Young Concern Trust.

“Essex is fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals and charities all working to improve the quality of life of people in our communities”, said the High Sheriff. “I am particularly interested in child social welfare, adoption and fostering, and will want to help projects dedicated to turning young lives around and supporting parents.”

She added: “by working closely with Essex Community Foundation and tapping into their knowledge and expertise, I hope to increase significantly my awareness of work being undertaken by the voluntary sector in Essex.”

Lady Kemp-Welch has been involved in the voluntary sector in Essex since 1971, and has recently completed 25 years as a Magistrate on the NW Essex Bench and eight years’ Trustee involvement with Victim Support, with two years as Chairman of Victim Support Essex 2004-6.

For information about Essex Community Foundation and The High Sheriffs’ Fund please call Jo Murphy on 01245 355947 or visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk. The next deadline date for applications to The High Sheriffs’ Fund is 1 December 2007.

[Ends]

(134/040407)

For further information contact

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Notes to Editors:

Photo: Diana Kemp-Welch is attached.

Diana Kemp-Welch:

In 1987 Diana was a co-founder of the Young Concern Trust which provides counselling and group therapy for 15 – 23 year olds in the Harlow area, and she subsequently undertook training with Relate.

After the collapse of Communism 1991, Diana assisted a Judge in establishing a Chair in English Law at Warsaw University, part funded by the Know-How Fund. She later worked at the Royal Courts of Justice Citizens Advice Bureau as Co-ordinator of a pilot project which provided pro bono legal advice for litigants-in-person in the High Court and Court of Appeal. Diana is also a member of the Essex Adoption Panel and has assisted the British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) with fund-raising.

Diana is married to John Kemp-Welch, who was joint Senior Partner of Cazenove & Co. from 1980-1994, Chairman of the London Stock Exchange 1994-2000, and a Director of HSBC 2000-2006. They live in the village of Little Hallingbury and have 3 daughters, one son, and 5 Granddaughters. Diana's interests are her family, hill-walking, classical music and tennis.

Essex Community Foundation:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen more than 2500 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £8million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

High Sheriffs' Fund

The High Sheriffs' Fund is managed by Essex Community Foundation and to date has distributed over £134,000 to 172 charities in Essex.

The High Sheriff is the Queen's representative for law and order in the County. More information can be found on www.highsheriffs.com