

NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH SHERIFF SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES

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The new High Sheriff of Essex, Rupert Gosling, takes up his duties after swearing his Declaration at a ceremony held at Chelmsford Crown Court (31 March). He is the 829th High Sheriff of Essex. The High Sheriffs' Fund will benefit from funds raised during his year, through which Rupert will support voluntary and community groups working throughout Essex to make their communities safe from crime and the fear of crime.

The High Sheriffs' Fund is managed by local grantmaking charitable trust, Essex Community Foundation. Since it came under the Foundation's management in 1997, the Fund has distributed over £220,000 to 317 voluntary and community groups all working hard to make our communities safer from crime.

"I am looking forward to my year as High Sheriff and to meeting some of the many voluntary and community groups", said Rupert. "I will be working closely with Essex Community Foundation and sharing their expertise and knowledge of the voluntary sector in Essex".

Rupert is a born and bred Essex man. He lives in Bush End where his family have farmed for over 100 years. He runs the farm which produces arable crops; milling wheat, barley, oilseed rape and beans. Rupert enjoys country pursuits and is involved with his local Church as churchwarden and organist.

For information about the High Sheriffs' Fund and Essex Community Foundation visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call Jo Murphy on 01245 355947. The next deadline date for applications to the High Sheriffs' Fund will be 1 December 2009.

[Ends]

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For further information contact

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Notes to Editors:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen over 3,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive nearly £13 million 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

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 55 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds of circa £200 million
- In 2006/07 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £75million.