

Lord Lieutenant and Friends, I am going to stop there as I am hoping that at this stage in the evening, we have met each other and therefore no need for a lengthy list of introductions.

Thank you for being here It is such a pleasure to be able to share an evening with you at Hampton

There are 3 reasons why this is especially so:

Firstly because as High Sheriff I want to thank you for all you do either in person or as support for the person i.e. partners in your capacity as judges, lawyers, magistrates, barristers policing and emergency services in helping maintain the law and order in the county and making for better community.

Secondly for the kindness that you have shown me so far this year. It has been a fascinating education and I have so enjoyed meeting and spending time with many of you. I still have a quarter of a year left and hope that there will be an opportunity to spend time with you in the final quarter of the Shrieval year.

Thirdly it has been awhile since the judiciary or the police have had an occasion to be here. Many murders there have been in this house in recent years but with the professionalism off DCI Tom Barnaby and Mr Poirot, solving murders has

been easy. There have been Blue crested hoopoes, rare birds, revolvers at dusk at the swimming pool, fast Lagondas and military hospitals but all murders solved, that's if you could stay awake long enough to reach the credits of midsummer murders and Poirot, filmed in this very hall.

But not the Mystery of the Double Cuttmill murder which happened in the woods at Hampton in 1932 just a mile away and remains largely unresolved. Still one for you all.

So, it is a huge pleasure to be able to share dinner with you tonight.

Several of you have asked tonight about the history of Hampton so just a very few words as we stand here in the main hall. The House was built in 1766 by Thomas Parker and added to later by William Porden who was the architect after Nash at Brighton Pavilion. In 1799 the Long family purchased the house and estate and remained for 130 years until our grandparents purchased it in 1929. I say our as if you have not met my sister Sarah she is here.

Hampton in 1929 was looking in a fairly sorry state and Oliver Hill who advertised his architectural skills in Country Life was commissioned to renovate and furnish the house.

Hence the art deco feel to the inside. Oliver Hill was an eccentric and he would turn up in silk pyjamas and sporting a monkey on his shoulder. In the 1950's our mum and dad sensibly reduced the size of the house knocking down the servants quarters which by then were unsurprisingly vacant. The ironing board and the twin tub were brought into the house along with other labour-saving devices of the 50's. Not much has happened to the house since then and so this is pretty much how you see it today 70 years on!

It's strange to reflect on so little change when everything around us is undergoing such rapid change. This year I have had a real sense of people's desire and the necessity for change in Surrey and I feel that there is a great sense of positivity about the direction of travel. Community, place and people are the driving force. A realization that strong local communities are essential. Our county's huge voluntary and charitable services playing a big part and being supported by civic society. This gives me enormous hope and I feel so much of what you all do contributes to this. Look at the drive for change in our courts, in our policing our restorative

justice, and in the fire and emergency services, the new ideas for the community protection group

This is all music to my ears, which reminds me to thank our pianist and law student Jacob.

So now I am absolutely delighted that we have a professional orator to entertain us and I now pass over to His Honour Judge Fraser.