

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

News from and about members



County of the competent, capable and committed

Above: Michelle Nicholson founder of Keychange women's charity receives her award from the High Sheriff

HALFWAY THROUGH my year the Crown Court was privileged to host the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Thomas. At lunch the Honorary Recorder declared that the High Sheriff was doing an exceptional job. Unfortunately he then added 'so far', thus removing any chance of my freewheeling through the second half of the game!

I have attempted to focus some of my time on the Magistrates' Courts and the special constabulary, as both play a hugely important role in the criminal system without receiving any payment. This has not prevented my sitting with the visiting High Court Judges, as well our resident Circuit and District Judges. Our prisons have been subject to many organisational changes and their governors seem to change with the frequency of football managers. Nevertheless, the

officers I met have a genuine sincerity of purpose and great professionalism in dealing with the constantly changing objectives and resources.

The police 999 response centre on a Saturday night is an enthralling place to visit. The ability of the men and women to deal patiently with calls that are clearly non-emergencies, and also to sense the casual call that could degenerate into a crisis, clearly illustrated the training that underpinned the responses. South Yorkshire police have not been without some unwelcome publicity, and we have attempted to support the chief constable and regional chief superintendents whenever, and wherever, possible.

It is very exciting to join university students at their graduation ceremonies, and, as a Rolls Royce apprentice myself, I was especially proud to present



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awards to Rolls Royce apprentices from the new university training college.

My wife's and my affection for our four-legged friends has given us the opportunity to spend time with the mounted police division, the dog training unit for both police dog and drug search dog training. Similarly we have enjoyed our time with the canine charities which train dogs for the blind and now, increasingly, dogs for those with hearing and epileptic conditions.

I finished my year on a memorable high with a congregation of over 400 in Sheffield's newly renovated cathedral to celebrate the annual legal service. Five visiting High Court Judges joined the Honorary Recorder, Circuit Judges, District Judges, QCs and JPs, professors from both our universities, and mayors from our four principal centres. It was a colourful and noisy procession.

At the luncheon I was delighted to present three awards; one to a new organisation called Keychange, which helps female offenders to integrate back into society after custody; another to a special constable with over 20 years' service and a string of commendations; and a final one to the manager of

the local Pakistani Muslim centre who has used his boundless energy to bring the civic and religious leaders together in a positive and friendly environment.

Not having been the High Sheriff of any other county, it is hard to make comparisons, but I am convinced that in South Yorkshire we have men and women who are competent, capable and committed to upholding law and order in our county. It has been a privilege to spend time with them.

♣️ John Bramah

South Yorkshire 2014-15



Left: High Sheriff with Rolls Royce apprentices at the university's awards evening