



An honour to serve

WHAT AN enormous honour it is to reflect on this great experience as I come to end of my shrieval year. The second half of my term has proved every bit as pleasant as the first. I have met and engaged with so many individuals and services around the county who work tirelessly, doing extraordinary things to link people and organisations together for the mutual benefit of the citizens of Bedfordshire.

I particularly valued the opportunity of giving out court awards to courageous individuals in our community, visiting Bedford Prison and the numerous occasions sitting on the bench at the Crown Court, Family Court, Coroner's Court and the Magistrates' Court. One outstanding event involved students from a number of schools conducting mock trials, connecting the Shrievelty with

judges, magistrates and courts that are close to the Office of High Sheriff.

My focus on *Youth* led to helping to launch the annual Recognising Young People Awards, which involves schools in the county nominating students for their achievements. I was proud to present the National Crimebeat Award to Tokko for Hate Crime, being 'Highly Commended' by the judging panel, and presenting graduation awards to fashion students whose hard work was demonstrated in a spectacular fashion show.

It was a pleasure to arrange a Tea Morning at Kids in Action. This charity supports children with disabilities whose parents I met, and funds were raised for an extension to their building. A pleasure too, raising funds and presenting a cheque along with the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire to the charity Little

Miracles in Peterborough as their work had touched the hearts of some friends. In celebration of International Peace Day which brought together many faith groups, I took part in launching the Peace Garden, Peace Fountain and the Peace Walk.

I was able to show my gratitude to the many remarkable volunteers and voluntary organisations that I have had the privilege to engage with during my term of office by presenting them with the High Sheriff's Citizenship Award at a special 'Thank You' celebration evening in recognition of their great commitment, dedication and valuable service to the community. I have always considered my county a very special place but my year as High Sheriff has helped me appreciate the wonderful people who always put others before themselves.

At this point, I would like to thank our brilliant Community Foundation for its invaluable support. My chaplain held a Service of Appreciation, attended by HM Lord-Lieutenant, Helen Nellis, mayors within the county, past High Sheriffs, High Commissioners, representatives of voluntary organisations, friends and family. It was a truly emotional and humbling experience that left me lost for words. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve my county.

I appreciate the support of the past High Sheriffs particularly during the Justice Service. Most importantly, I thank my family who have endured my perpetual absence during this time.

◆ Vinod Tailor DL
High Sheriff of Bedfordshire 2017-18



Photo credit June Essex



Photo credit June Essex



Above left: High Sheriff's Awards evening
Left: Citizenship Awards celebration evening
Above: Presenting High Sheriff's Award to Mary Emeji for services to the community