

# CUMBRIA

*News from and about members*



To give rather than to receive

**Above:** At the official launch of the mini police at Cumbria Police Headquarters

**Below:** Visiting the multi-cultural Bazaar group

THE SECOND half of my year passed by very quickly with a packed schedule – ensuring few idle moments. The county has been well supported by the royal family with visits from HRH The Princess Royal, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, HRH the Duchess of Wessex and HRH The Prince of Wales. Royal visits always create great excitement within the local community and my experience has been that the royal visitors never fail to instil great pride

in those they meet. No other institution could have such a creative effect and these visits really help to promote belief and self-esteem within the communities they reach. It is great to witness this effect and so gratifying to see people recognised and thanked for their efforts in their places of work or in their local community.

In addition to the above we have spent a lot of time visiting charities and social enterprises. I believe that this is an important aspect of the role of a High Sheriff and is a natural extension of the emphasis on law and order. So much of the breakdown of law and order stems from the breakdown of family and home life and the more we can do to tackle this problem for young people at an early stage, the better off we all shall be. We have been really pleased to meet some excellent groups working in this difficult field, helping where the challenge is very significant in areas of considerable deprivation and low aspiration. There are so many unsung heroes who make a vital contribution to society and without whose efforts life would be very different for us all.

To celebrate the efforts of some of those we





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were lucky enough to meet we held a small lunch gathering for 70 volunteers and hard-working members of the social services, at which I gave out a number of High Sheriff's Awards. This event was a great success with groups attending from all areas of the county and it provided a great opportunity for them to meet one another and discuss areas of common interest.

One of my final engagements was to see the official launch of the mini police at Cumbria Police Headquarters. This is a great initiative which can bring benefits on so many levels and is the brainchild of a County Durham police officer. The concept is being implemented nationally and I'm

sure it will be a great success.

Reflecting on my year I consider myself to have been most fortunate to have had this opportunity to really get to know and understand my county in all its fascinating layers. The role of High Sheriff affords one such great access and it is wonderful to be able to enjoy this privileged view without the burden of a political bias or a salaried sense of obligation. We must treasure this Office and defend its future since I believe it gives a great deal more than it could possibly ever take.

♣ **Alistair Wannop**  
*High Sheriff of Cumbria 2017-18*

Below: With recipients of the High Sheriff's Awards at The Garden at Eden, Carlisle

