



## East Riding of Yorkshire 2012-13

While the second half of my year of office went every bit as fast as the first half, there was a slightly different emphasis. In the first six months you are meeting people for the first time. By the second half of the year you are able to bring issues and people together a little more.

I have found my focus on domestic violence has made my year very rewarding and hope that I will continue to have some involvement in this field after I have left office. It gave me a real focus for discussion where ever I went. I spent a lot of time in the first six months visiting the teams from across the county and getting an understanding of the programmes in place. It all culminated in March in a day's conference on teen domestic abuse in Hull, which I chaired. The definition of domestic abuse changed in April this year to include 16- and 17-year-olds for the first time. It was frightening to learn how many teenagers are in abusive relationships



With Chief Fire Officer Richard Hannigan after completing the Night Challenge



Presenting the High Sheriff's Awards.

PHOTOGRAPH: LES GIBBON

and how they can use social media in a very destructive way.

I was able to recognise some of the DV teams in my High Sheriff's Awards. The conference and the awards were covered by our local press and radio and I think it shows how, as High Sheriff, you can help raise awareness of an issue which you focus on.

I have continued to support the High Sheriff's and Humberside Police Tribune Trust during the year and have visited many of the 40 projects to which we have given grants. One of the big events we support is the Humber Night Challenge – a 12-mile overnight cross-country hike which tests young people through a host of exciting challenges, and develops their skills of leadership, teamwork, endurance, communication and commitment.

The teams are recruited through neighbourhood policing teams and the youth and community groups they work alongside. The aim is to include young people who may not have had the opportunity to take part in this

kind of outdoor experience, have little experience of the countryside or do not know what opportunities are available. This year saw 117 young people in 26 teams taking part in the event, with nearly as many volunteers supporting them. I decided I would take part in the event and raise sponsorship for the Tribune Trust – thank you to all those who sponsored me.

It was an absolutely dreadful night as it rained or sleeted the whole way round. I was extremely grateful for the moral support of our chief fire officer who volunteered to come round with me. It certainly was a test of endurance but the kids all made it, and for some it will have been a life-changing experience. A few of them will be selected to go on an Outward Bound course later in the year.

The year has been challenging but very rewarding, and I hope my successor enjoys it as much as I have. □

**Julie Good**

*High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2012-13*