



East Riding of Yorkshire 2013-14

The year started with a flurry of civic dinners, services and installations of new mayors. The highlight of these was without doubt the swearing-in of the Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber in May, as this was coupled with the re-introduction of the posts of Sheriff and High Steward of the City, being bestowed upon Baroness Bottomley and Lord Mandelson respectively. These posts had been disbanded in the 1970s by the Labour-controlled council, but the same party was active in their revival – amazing how things go around!

Having served as a magistrate in Hull for over 30 years I wished to spend extra time with our emergency services, in particular the police. My appointed police contact and one of his colleagues made sure that I visited almost every section within the force, from the control centre and traffic police to the more rural stations. The traffic police involved me in a most remarkable high-speed chase through the centre of Hull and out to Goole, which lasted over 40 minutes



Stephen Larard, High Sheriff, making presentations of Arctic Star medals to veterans of the Arctic convoys.

with speeds up to 130 mph. The assailant was eventually safely apprehended on the motorway and was later sentenced to an 18-month jail sentence. It was very much being in the right place at the right time. The police

driver, who has been in 'traffic' for 15 years, said it was only the second time that he had ever been involved in a full-scale chase. What impressed me that day was the teamwork and professionalism the police showed, but all the while the safety of the public was paramount.



The High Sheriff and HM Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, the Hon Mrs Susan Cunliffe-Lister, prior to the procession for the East Riding of Yorkshire Legal Service.

During the summer, I honoured an agreement with a fellow magistrate to visit a primary school in a fairly depressed area of Hull, where he was a councillor. 350 children assembled in the main hall for me to talk to them about the role of the High Sheriff – in full court dress. Following this, I received numerous further invitations and ended up visiting over 15 primary schools all over the East Riding, from Flamborough in the north to Goole in the west. The most abiding memory of these visits was the amazement on the children's faces when I first walked in, wearing a strange outfit with a sword! What impressed me was the excellent behaviour of the children and the highly intelligent questions they asked with regard to the role of the High Sheriff.



News from and about Members

My last two weeks were spent in a hive of activity with visits to the Humber Lifeboat at Spurn Point, which is the only permanently manned station in the country; two fire stations; Arctic Star medal presentations to various Arctic convoy veterans; the RAF, who took me on a training flight over the East Riding and the presentation of my own High Sheriff's Awards to deserving recipients from a varied cross-section of the community.

There have been many individuals who have helped and supported me during my year, but particular thanks must go to my PA, David Grantham, and my Under Sheriff, Chris Dawson, who retired on 11 April 2014 after 21 years in that position, the day I handed over to the new High Sheriff, Mrs Gail Mettyear.

I have had a wonderful, busy and enjoyable year and have had the

opportunity to visit and support many sections of our community, from the Services to the voluntary sector. □

Stephen T Larard

*High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire
2013-14*