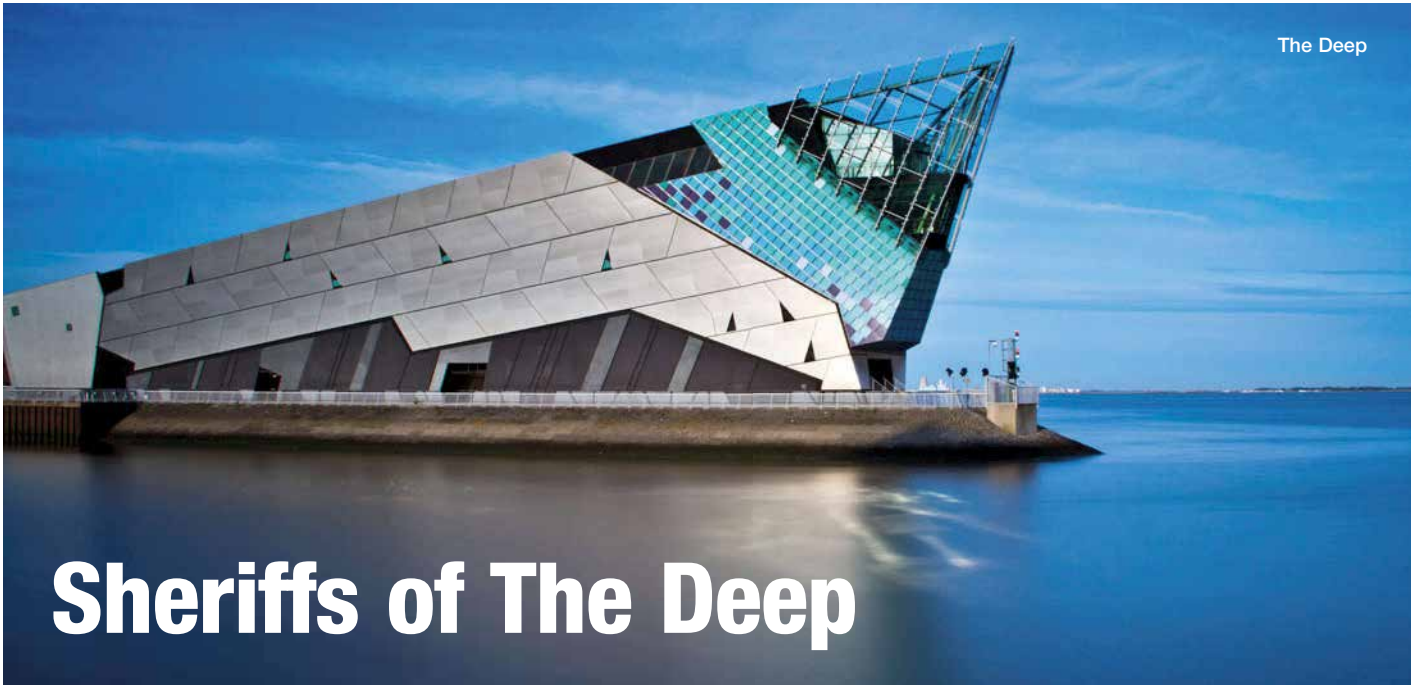




# EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

*News from and about members*



The Deep

Image courtesy of Hull City of Culture

## Sheriffs of The Deep

A MOST agreeable feature of my year of office has been the companionship and camaraderie that developed quickly among my fellow High Sheriffs in the North East of England. We have met on a number of occasions and shared our experiences and stories. To deepen our friendship, I invited all the Sheriffs and their spouses to the City of Hull for an afternoon's engagement and dinner. Sadly, not all were able to accept but Stephen (South Yorkshire) and Anne Ingram, Terry (West Yorkshire) and Liz Bramall and John Dickinson (Northumberland) made the journey.

We rendezvoused at The Deep, the impressive 'submarium' located at the junction of the River Hull and the Humber Estuary. My husband, Professor David Drewry, had been a board member of The Deep for ten years and organised a private tour. The Deep was constructed between 1999 and 2002 and has been one of the most successful of the Millennium Lottery projects – a partnership between the City and the University. The 'aquarium' is home to sharks, rays and northern Europe's only pair of green sawfish along with many other fish. Other marine life on display include fish that glow in the dark, corals, turtles, jellyfish, frogs, an Amazon flooded forest and many species of insects.

Freya Cross, the business manager, briefed us in the Observatory, an eyrie at the high apex of this futuristic building designed by Sir Terry Farrell. From this vantage point we could view the city, the impressive Humber Bridge to the west and the burgeoning green energy developments eastwards. The Deep welcomes between 400,000 and 500,000 visitors a year, twice as many as in its original plan. Our tour commenced in an area not available to the public – the hydraulic research facility of the University of Hull. Here we were shown the 16m-long flume that can simulate river flows, tidal reaches, generate waves up to 0.3 metres and be deluged by tropical rain. It is one of the largest facilities in Europe and is in constant



An aquarist describes some of the fish species in the tanks. (L-R): John Dickinson, Terry Bramall, Gill Drewry, Liz Bramall, Stephen Ingram, Anne Ingram

demand from international investigators. We witnessed experiments related to stabilising braided river channels in semi-arid regions using vegetation.

We then went into the public areas of massive tanks commencing with a lift that took us 10m through the largest tank, viewing the fish as we ascended slowly. Thereafter we were briefed by one of the aquarists regarding coral reefs and threats to them, entered discussions on sharks as we viewed a number in the largest tank, and were shown the very novel display of Gentoo penguins against the backdrop of South Georgia. An important objective of The Deep is a commitment to engaging with our local community – helping to raise learning aspirations among young people and inspiring future generations of pioneering scientists, researchers and conservationists.

We left The Deep having experienced a fraction of what it can showcase. We returned to my home just south of Beverley where we enjoyed a convivial dinner exchanging views and tales; in this way we were able to reinforce both our friendship and our commitment to involvement in our communities.

### ◆ Gill Drewry

*High Sheriff of The East Riding of Yorkshire 2017-18*