

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

News from and about members



Left: Passing the Humber Bridge at speed with Humber Rescue with Mr David Roberts, head of the service, at the helm, the High Sheriff and consort David Drewry

Estuary encounters!

ALMOST THE entire southern boundary of my county, East Yorkshire, comprises the north bank of the immense Humber estuary. The Humber is the busiest of all UK port complexes handling 19 per cent by volume of our maritime imports. It is also the preserve of fishing enthusiasts along its banks, possesses wonderful opportunities for leisure interests with paths and walks and a rich wildlife. Astride the estuary is the colossal Humber Bridge; for 17 years from 1981 it was the longest single span in the world.

With all this activity there are issues of safety and protection on the water and on the shore, with several organisations undertaking a variety of roles to maintain the security of this busy and extensive environment.

As High Sheriff I decided early on to visit, to become better informed and support the roles and functions of those organisations focused upon the estuary.

In July, accompanied by my consort, Professor David Drewry, I visited the Humberside Police Marine Section. Their area of operations is the Humber and North Sea coastal zone out to 20 miles, and also inland lakes, ponds, drains and ditches. Each year they average one job per day.

Following a presentation and a visit to the electronic equipment store – mostly sonar detection devices – we were taken to Hull marina to board one of their large rigid inflatables and head into the river. We were driven down-estuary to inspect the impressive Siemens wind turbines construction facility then west towards the Humber Bridge. We soon arrived at the south tower which they inspect for security on a periodic basis. We then intercepted a large rib but it was on a training exercise – so no drugs haul or illegal migrants.



Above: About to board the Humberside Police marine section rib in the Humber Estuary

In August I was invited to the Humber Rescue Service. While the lifeboats handle emergencies out at sea this group treats near-shore situations in the estuary and the Rivers Ouse and Trent. The service is manned entirely by volunteers, operates 24/7 and is funded by contributions. The head of the service provided information on their operations; they run two large and two smaller inflatable ribs. We then donned heavy-duty outer wet wear and a very hi-tech waterproof helmet with radio communication. On board the rib, with three staff, we made several passes beneath the Humber Bridge and around buoys marking the main channel. Sadly, one of their main roles is to retrieve bodies of suicides from the bridge. They were keen to show off the paces of the rib and clocked up a speed of 40kts and, on our last pass, turned the rib, at that speed, in a 180-degree arc! It was difficult to hold on with the g-force!

We were impressed by the professionalism and thoroughness of both these groups, dedicated to difficult tasks in a challenging environment. I am now better informed and promoting actively the important work they undertake.

◆ Gill Drewry

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



Cadets, culture, and the hidden chapel

I THOUGHT I knew my county: not a bit of it. It was a humbling year of multiple surprises and learning, and I witnessed genuine heroics. It has led me to believe that the UK simply could not function without the legions of volunteers working behind the scenes, and so many people are being asked in their day-to-day work to achieve so much more with less. The diary benefited from the additional challenges of Hull becoming the UK City of Culture 2017 – the build-up was busy, and the first three months of 2017 was a riot with Hull literally on the map for all the right reasons. What a time to be High Sheriff.

A handshake with the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2016 for 1-1 funding to reintroduce cadets to Humberside Police provided one focus for the year. Corporate generosity, supporting the work of the Tribune Trust (our High Sheriff's fund), quickly seeded 15 cadets; this was of course then matched in full. The Attestation took place on 14 March. It was emotional all round as parents could see their children stepping up, making some positive choices, declaring their intent to make a difference to their communities, their county, themselves and quite possibly other people's lives. The demand for places was such that by mid-2017 numbers had increased to 117 cadets, and this initiative re-connects so many elements of our county. Numerous PCSOs have also requested immediate cadet secondment to their wards, and the benefits will be enormous: an increased police profile, vastly improved connections with some disadvantaged estates, better intelligence and support. This really will have an impact on vulnerable people throughout the county.

The only downside of City of Culture was my chosen venue for the County Legal Service being 'upgraded' to full Minster status following massive transformation

Right: The interior of Trinity House Chapel, Hull where the East Riding of Yorkshire Legal Service was held

Below: The High Sheriff with new Police Cadets, Police Officers and PCSOs



after a successful appeal. With just over two months' notice it was clear it would be impossible to beat the builders and ready the church in time. Another venue was required, and fast.

The result: Trinity House Chapel was made available by the Master Warden and Brethren for the very first time in its history; not too bad for a Guild formed in 1369, and which typically welcomes only 200 people through its hallowed portals every year. We exceeded that in one morning, and showed just what was possible. Everyone benefited from the experience, and the 'House' was fully subscribed for tours throughout 2017.

The year of office has made a massive impression on me personally, and it is possible to combine the role with the full-time executive position of co-leading a company with 1,700 people, BUT only if you have an outstanding support crew in place. I know the workload has

significantly impacted on others as well, but together we have combined to create the basis of a legacy. What a privilege, and what a fabulous year. *

◆ Thomas Martin

High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire 2016-17

**Due to an oversight this article was not printed in the summer 2017 magazine. The writer's vivid account of the reintroduction and growth of Police Cadets in East Yorkshire is most encouraging. This is something the Association supports wholeheartedly and mirrors Lord Shuttleworth's suggestion at Burghley (see page 15) that High Sheriffs wishing to have a shrieval cadet for their year should consider appointing a Police Cadet as the most appropriate to the High Sheriff's role in upholding the rule of law. Ed.*