



Greater Manchester 2013-14

Stunning experiences and very happy memories were the hallmark of my year as High Sheriff. I have learnt so much about the County of Greater Manchester and in particular those wonderful citizens who live, work and play in it. I have also learned to listen more intently, to smile more broadly and to say 'Thank you' more often to the many hundreds of people I met with throughout the year.

Diversity is what has made the county the success it is today and when matched perfectly with the thousands of volunteers who give tirelessly to the causes they support, it becomes an unbeatable combination. People with pride, passion and purpose are around every corner, keen to make a real difference to the lives of others.

A year which came and went in a flash has been a most humbling experience. I have learnt much from sitting at Crown Courts with High Court Judges and while enjoying their intelligent conversation during dinner, with many thought-provoking discussions.

Pride filled the air at many meetings and awards events I attended: Scouts



PHOTOGRAPH: MARK WAUGH

Her Majesty The Queen during a visit to The Monastery in Manchester for a private lunch.

celebrating excellence during awards evenings which included those volunteers with over 40 years' dedicated service; Girl Guides sharing best practice and long-service awards during their annual review; the Boys Brigade raising funds for those members most in need of help from hard-pressed backgrounds, and Lads & Girls clubs creating a healthy environment for

members to grow and learn and prepare for the future. All these groups and many more are owed a great debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts.

During a busy year I also found myself learning more about the Asian community and I attended several events with entrepreneur business leaders, community groups and volunteers in the county. Civic duties involving the Mayors and Mayoresses of the two cities and eight boroughs in Greater Manchester reinforced the importance of localness and pride in local initiatives. The visit of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Manchester in November was the highlight of the year for me and the many volunteers whom they met that day. During the visit to The Monastery for lunch the Lord Mayor of Manchester introduced the nine Mayors of Greater Manchester to Her Majesty - a most unforgettable day. Most of the civic heads of Greater Manchester came together for dinner in March this year at Manchester Town Hall; Rochdale, Stockport, Trafford, Manchester, Bolton, Salford, Tameside and Oldham were



PHOTOGRAPH: MARK WAUGH

The High Sheriff (left) and the Recorder of Manchester (right) beside the Lord Mayor of Manchester at dinner with other civic leaders at Manchester Town Hall in March 2014.



News from and about Members



PHOTOGRAPH: BERNADETTE DELANEY

The Scouts of Ladybrook Valley District, Stockport were brought together with their families by New District Commissioner, Robina Shah, for their awards night. Seen here are the Mayor of Stockport, Robina Shah presenting an award to Beaver Leader Angela Riley from 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group, Stockport, and the High Sheriff. Long service awards, excellence in leadership and innovation all featured. Some volunteers had devoted over 40 years to the Scout movement.

represented and the Honorary Recorder of Manchester, His Honour Judge David Stockdale QC attended.

It was with pride that I witnessed the Lord-Lieutenant Warren Smith and Vice

Lord-Lieutenant Michael Oglesby present The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to 20 Greater Manchester Charities. The presentation brought together over 200 people in one place at The Monastery,

Manchester. It was a heart-warming and uplifting experience as everyone present was able to learn about the good works of sister charities.

Sadly, the year also witnessed the loss of two giants among former High Sheriffs of the county. Sir John Zochonis DL, High Sheriff 1994-95, died in November 2013 and Mr Bartle Hodgkiss CBE, DL, High Sheriff 1984-85, died in June 2013. Both gentlemen made a huge contribution to the county and their legacy lives on through those charities they supported and the Trustees who remain to continue in their good works for society at large.

Finally, in this increasingly digital age I have found it beneficial to update regularly the Greater Manchester entry in the High Sheriffs' Association website at

www.highsheriffs.com. This provides a useful source for people to learn more about the Shrievalty and contact details of the High Sheriff. □

Paul Griffiths DL
High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2013-14