



Spreading the word

HAVING BEEN nominated for the role of High Sheriff of Gwynedd 2018-19, and attended training sessions at Burghley House, Llangoed Hall, and the Ladies' Lunch in London during the run-up, it was soon time to head for the Royal Courts of Justice and it was there, when my name (along with others) was read out, I realised this is it – WOW! Proud moment I can tell you.

I would be the third person to live at my home Llwyndyrus Farm, to be High Sheriff – the other two back in the 1400s – so no pressure!

From then on, it became real – arranging and choosing what to wear at my Declaration, the venue, whom to invite... the list goes on!

The story came out slowly that I was to be the High Sheriff and the question asked locally was 'what does it mean?'; 'What will you have to do?'; 'I thought it was for posh people'. In the training events, we were told to spread the word,

let more people know about the Shrievalty, and what it does, so this is what I tried to do. I was also advised that this would be a very special day in my life and to make the most of it.

On Palm Sunday 25 March, the sun appeared and shone after a very wet spell. My Declaration service was held in Welsh at my local church, filled with close family and my rural community (of which none I guess had ever been to a High Sheriff's Declaration before and were apprehensive on what to expect). I invited His Honour Judge Nic Parry to explain the role of the High Sheriff, which went down a treat in his able jocular way. This was followed by afternoon tea for 116 guests, prepared by my friends back at the farmhouse. I shall never forget the wonderful day, the cake, the poetry, the music, the keepsakes – it was second to my wedding day!

Two days later I took an elderly neighbour to see a doctor at the local hospital and on leaving, he

Rural Community Tea
at Llwyndyrus Farm
after my Declaration





proudly announced to the doctor, 'She's the High Sheriff you know!' Hence we both had to sit down again and explain the role to him... spreading the word, eh?

My chosen charities are Crimebeat and Air Ambulance. I am walking 87 miles of the Snowdonia Quarryman's Trail – about halfway through now. I have met so many wonderful, hardworking, selfless people, it is so humbling. A few things I have done: HM The Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace; the City of London Sheriffs' reception at the Old Bailey; I welcomed the Hon Mr Justice Francis, a Family High Court Judge to Caernarfon; I presented Court Awards for bravery to three people who intercepted an armed robbery; Mayors' Sundays; 'RAF 100' events; and parades.

I have had pleasure during August in joining the youngsters along with the county's PCSOs on Crimebeat events, e.g. litter picking and a great fun day Zorbing – great to be a child again! It is truly wonderful to see where the money raised for Crimebeat is spent.

◆ Kathryn Griffiths Ellis
High Sheriff of Gwynedd 2018-19



Lord-Lieutenant Edmund Bailey, Under Sheriff Gwilym Owen, Immediate Past High Sheriff Prof Sian Hope, the High Sheriff, High Sheriff's Chaplain Revd Lloyd Jones, His Honour Judge Parry, Alistair Langdon, JP



Sponsored walk of Snowdonia Quarryman's Trail: Gwilym Owen Under Sheriff, Osian Elis, Mrs Owen senior, Helen Owen, Bethan Parry, Harri Parry, Kathryn Griffiths Ellis, Evan Ellis



High Sheriff in the Zorb supported by PCSO, police cadet and Gwynedd Council sports trainers