



# Lest we forget

IT HAS been a great honour to represent the people of Lancashire as their High Sheriff. So far, as I reach the halfway point, it has been six months full of experiences that I never would have encountered outside of this privileged position.

All Lancashire High Sheriffs are invited to hang their armorial bearings in Lancaster Castle, a tradition that is almost 1000 years old; a unique privilege that clearly highlights the position in an historical context. I experienced this great occasion on 27 April following a ceremony at Lancaster Priory attended by many friends, family and members of the Lancashire judiciary.

I was told at the onset of the year that I should 'make it my own'. Other High Sheriffs had created legacies from their time in office; it was now my turn to concentrate on the things that would allow me to make a difference.

This year is the centenary of the end of the Great War. I knew that there would be many events throughout the country to mark this moving occasion but I wanted to create something in Lancashire that would be a fitting memorial to the fallen and that would educate the young, lest we forget.

I read about the 'There but not there' (TBNT) charitable initiative in The Times in April and the concept really struck me as incredibly powerful. I contacted the Lord-Lieutenant of

Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth, and asked if he thought it had the potential to be adopted across Lancashire as a focus for the commemorations. He agreed and the team from TBNT came up to Lancashire to see us. They confirmed that if we were to adopt the initiative we would be the first county to do so.

As High Sheriff I was able to create a committee of business and civic leaders to represent the Lieutenancy, business, the Church, the Army and the County Council to lead the initiative. The charity manufactures three types of 'Tommy' statues: one small Perspex free-standing item, a second head and shoulders Perspex silhouette that can be fixed to chairs or church pews, and another free-standing six-foot aluminium 'Tommy'.

Since we started promoting the concept we now have 'Tommies' in many public areas including Preston train station, Accrington Pals Church, Stonyhurst College, Blackburn Cathedral and Lancaster Castle. The message is gathering strength and will ensure that the whole county, even the more remote communities, can show their respect for the many who laid down their lives for our freedom.

With only one year to do as much as I could, I needed to hit the ground running. My great support team that have allowed me to do just that include my Under Sheriff



Photo: Archant

**Above:** The High Sheriff with a Tommy silhouette in St John's, the Accrington Pals Church

**Below:** The High Sheriff with his wife Patricia between two mounted Lancashire policemen before his shield-hanging ceremony at Lancaster Castle



David Cam, the previous High Sheriff Robert Webb, my able EA Karen Fairhurst and my wonderful wife Patricia. I have also been enthusiastically welcomed by all in the judiciary including our Honorary Recorder of Preston His Honour Judge Mark Brown, and our Chief Constable Andy Rhodes. They have made my judiciary duties much easier and facilitated a remarkable insight into our legal process.

Other important areas for the High Sheriff involve charitable and civic responsibilities and one activity that stands out for me so far is the unveiling of the statue of Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood. Sir Peter was the founder of Fleetwood and had a colourful life and was also High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1830, a hard act to follow like many other eminent High Sheriffs.

◆ **Tony Attard OBE DL**  
*High Sheriff of Lancashire 2018-19*



Photo: Jonty Wilde

The High Sheriff hanging his shield in Lancaster Castle with David Cam, Under Sheriff, Timothy Duke, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms and Revd Chris Newlands, High Sheriff's Chaplain