



## May the forces be with you

I BEGAN my year on a glorious spring day taking the oath with family and friends and the usual dignitaries in our tiny village church followed by lunch at home. In Lincolnshire we call it the Turnover Ceremony which I understand may be unique. This I assume refers to the Turnover Declaration given by the outgoing High Sheriff. It has been uplifting, humbling and educational in equal respects.

Meeting so many diverse charities was a highlight and I never failed to be impressed by the many volunteers without whom so many aspects of life in our counties would not happen.

In Lincolnshire not surprisingly the RAF has featured prominently with many invitations. To be asked to take the salute at an Army Reservists' Passing Out Parade was an interesting experience to someone from a non-military family but we had a wonderful day at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks at Grantham where I inspected the troops and gave a short address.

The Sovereign's reception at RAF Cranwell in June was followed by a

drive over the Lincolnshire Heath on a beautiful evening to my home in the north of the county before taking up my duty to act as returning officer for the Cleethorpes constituency. I was given a most detailed appraisal by North East Lincolnshire Council a month before, covering the organisation and statutory requirements of the election process.

Lincolnshire has two police forces, which include Humberside Police covering the north of the county, and my work with both forces was interesting and instructive. Attending their awards ceremonies highlighted some of the very dangerous and difficult situations they find themselves in. They also do great work with families with their early intervention teams.

I did significant work with the Tribune Trust which is organised by Humberside Police with the assistance of the High Sheriffs of Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is well supported and raises funds to help the more deprived communities within northern Lincolnshire and east Yorkshire.

I visited the two prisons in the county; I was most impressed with how well they were run and felt at ease during

my tour when I met and talked to some of the prisoners and had lunch with them. In December I was able to present awards given by the Hardman Trust at North Sea Camp open prison.

August provided me with an opportunity to hold my summer reception at home, conveniently the night before my daughter's 21st. A wide variety of civic, charity, police and judicial representatives attended. We were blessed again with good weather.

It was a great privilege to attend many services in Lincoln Cathedral where I also held my Harvest Supper. Two hundred and fifty people attended this dinner accompanied by the truly wonderful RAF Cadet Band. It was an opportunity to welcome many people who do not regularly visit the cathedral who were able to enjoy the splendid surroundings and the music.

I found my work with the courts and judges most interesting and stimulating. Everywhere I went I was courteously welcomed. I presented some 15 court awards, with the help of His Honour Judge Pini QC, at Lincoln Castle where I also held my High Sheriff's Awards presentation.

My legal service was held in Lincoln Cathedral where I was able to welcome the Honourable Mrs Justice Carr, fellow High Sheriffs and some nine judges, including Senior Master Fontaine, the Queen's Remembrancer, who has connections with Lincolnshire.

◆ **Andrew Clark DL**  
*High Sheriff of Lincolnshire 2017-18*



**Left:** Court Award Lincoln with His Honour Judge Pini QC and recipient Claire Chrysostomou

**Below:** High Sheriff with (L-R) Hon Mrs Justice Carr DBE, Lord-Lieutenant Toby Dennis, Under Sheriff David Wood, in front of Circuit Judges and neighbouring High Sheriffs, and Senior Master Fontaine, Queen's Remembrancer (rear R)

**Below right:** With Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance RAF Waddington



Photo: Chris Vaughan Photography