



Charity organisations in my sights



Above: His Honour Judge Andrew Stubbs QC, His Honour Judge Paul Batty QC, the High Sheriff, His Honour Peter Benson and Hon Sir Harry Ognall with Lauren Ingle when she received her Court Award at York Crown Court

MY DECLARATION ceremony in April was carried out at York Crown Court, chosen because this was where my late uncle Oliver Wrightson ate his last supper in the court dining room in October 1987. His Honour Judge Paul Batty QC, who knew my late uncle, took the proceedings smoothly and once I had been passed the baton from my predecessor John Furness, Paul related some amusing stories about Oliver. 'I always said to Oliver, never run to a train.' And this was his undoing as he suffered a fatal heart attack on the platform in York station, running to the station after a rather good court dinner.

My year has been so interesting and I have met wonderful people who do so much for their community. I have also enjoyed briefings at various RAF stations in the county: Menwith Hill, Fylingdales, Linton-on-Ouse and Leeming. In early September, my wife and I were invited to the 32nd Allied Air Forces Memorial Day at RAF Elvington, where in March this year, the museum was presented with a Mirage 4 as a token of thanks from the French Air Force after two squadrons were stationed there in the Second World War.

I enjoyed an interesting morning with

Inspector Paul Cording of North Yorkshire Police. The police do so much work behind the scenes to keep our roads safe from careless and reckless drivers. We patrolled in an unmarked car and found a driver using a mobile telephone while driving – six points and a £200 fine. Later on the A1(M) we apprehended an over-hasty driver travelling at 89 mph (he didn't realise Skodas were that fast) – three points and a £100 fine.

Paul Batty invited me to present an award in York Crown Court to Lauren Ingle, who defended her corner shop from a man holding two carving knives. She fought him off, chased him out of her shop, ran him to ground and called the police. The man was sentenced to 14 years and I presented Lauren with a cheque for £500 for her bravery.

In September I held a drinks party at Phoenix House, Catterick Garrison in aid of Help for Heroes one of two charities I am supporting during my year in office, the other being Headway. We numbered around 130 and the Invictus Choir sang beautifully. The money raised has gone to support the brave men and women of our armed forces who still need support long after the war is over. Their fight to recover goes on every single day, repairing the psychological wounds of war as well as physical. Help for Heroes is in the business of building confidence, resilience and self-esteem and equipping beneficiaries with the skills they need to embrace a new future, achieve their potential and live active independent and fulfilling lives. My target was to raise large sums for Help for Heroes – so far several thousand but with more donations coming in this total will rise. I know that Phoenix House and its veterans will be eternally grateful for everyone's generous support.

◆ **Simon Wrightson**
High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2017-18



Above: Michaela Slay (Events Project Manager, Help for Heroes), the High Sheriff, Mrs Simon Wrightson and Charley Tysler (Invictus Choir) at the reception and concert by the Invictus Choir in aid of Help for Heroes on 21 September