



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

News from and about members

Many proud moments

AFTER A year of great highlights, endearing moments and touching celebrations within the county, I have, with much pride, handed over as High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire to Dr Jaswant Bilkhu, who was installed at Ramgharhia Sabha Gurawaria, a Sikh Temple in Nottingham, on 11 April 2015.

Over the past 12 months, I have been fortunate enough to be invited to a myriad of unique and intriguing events and have thus been given the opportunity to meet some most inspiring people; people who work tirelessly to raise Nottinghamshire's reputation around the country and indeed the world. I have been humbled by the countless, truly remarkable initiatives.

It is perhaps a cliché to say 'too numerous to mention', but throughout my year in office, I have received incredible support from people from across the county and I really would like to thank them all; the experience has been heart-warming. Perhaps, however, I could take a moment to reference my shrieval team. The list of those who have contributed to making my year such a success includes Deborah Hutchinson, the Under Sheriff, and my chaplain, the Rt Revd Anthony Porter, Bishop of Sherwood. Bishop Tony, as he is fondly known, presided over The Queen's Birthday Service in June as well as the Legal Service in May. He was a

constant throughout and assisted with the Community Sport Mission among many other projects. Both were a great fount of knowledge and source of advice throughout the year.

A few of the more significant initiatives of the past year have been focused on those in Nottinghamshire in need. Bishop Tony introduced me to Betel, a charity with which he works closely; a truly wonderful group which deserves as much support as possible in its mission. On my visit, I learnt about the struggle of those recovering from addiction and their journey to regain a healthy lifestyle.

One particular occasion which raised awareness of the more vulnerable people in the county was HRH Prince Harry's visit to Nottingham. He is a vocal supporter of the Full Effect project which works with young leaders to help prevent children becoming involved in youth violence and crime. No doubt his association has been fundamental to the project's success.

As High Sheriff, I was also in attendance on HRH The Princess Royal and HRH Prince Michael of Kent; it has been a very royal year for Nottinghamshire! These royal visits have understandably been some of the more newsworthy, but there have been many others which deserve just as much recognition. Of note would be the opportunities I had to bring further



Graham Cartledge with HRH Prince Harry in support of the Full Effect project

attention to Maggie's Cancer Centre in the Nottingham City Hospital grounds; Maggie's is an organisation very close to my heart. As well as hosting a dinner to raise awareness for the local chapter, I also opened the Maggie's Marvellous Goose Fair Charity Ball.

These – and other – groups who generate such positivity within the county by undertaking their noble work are admirable stalwarts of this region. I consider myself to be lucky to have been in a position to promote their causes and bring to them what extra attention I could.

This has been one of the most exhilarating years of my life. As a sports fan, I was excited about the Sport in the Community Mission I chose to support at the beginning of my office but didn't realise just how significant it could be until the competition for naming the country's first City of Football came around. Through my position, I was able to be involved with Team Nottingham's bid. Imagine the thrill when Nottingham was named the winner!

Now that I have officially hung up my cocked hat, buckled shoes and sword, I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to everyone who has been a part of this year and supported me throughout. I shall remain forever honoured to have held this appointment; I will assuredly always think back on my time as High Sheriff with pride and affection.

◆ Graham Cartledge CBE
High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire 2014-15



Graham Cartledge with his family on making his Declaration at St Andrew's Church, Caunton