



Rutland 2013-14

After my Declaration ceremony on 12 April 2013 I realised the relevance of the motto of Rutland, *Multum in Parvo*, adopted by the County Council in 1950. Rutland has the smallest population of any unitary authority in mainland England, but I have been kept extremely busy. The preparation given at the Burghley seminars and the regional conferences was thorough and extremely useful and I recommend them wholeheartedly to any High Sheriff in nomination. My main aim was to maintain the historic role of this ancient office, but at the same time to make people aware of its presence in modern society.

During the year I was responsible for organising the very significant Biennial Justice Service and Court Sitting which takes place in Rutland, to keep Oakham Castle as the longest-running seat of justice for over 850 years. It was a day to remember with wonderful support from all the neighbouring High Sheriffs in the East Midlands Region.

In Rutland we do not have regular court sittings, a cathedral or a university and I was extremely fortunate to be included with Sally Bowie, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire, on numerous duties and visits in Leicestershire. These include the Police Headquarters of Leicestershire and Rutland, HMP Leicester, HMYOI Glen Parva, Leicester Cathedral, the Universities of Leicester and Loughborough, the Magistrates Courts at Loughborough and Leicester and the Crown Court at Leicester. I was very honoured to be involved with the Chief Constable's Awards Ceremony and presented the Crown Court Commendation Certificates to several extremely deserving and brave Police Officers. Also, it has been very fascinating to be involved with the Citizenship Ceremonies, which seem to be on the increase in Rutland, with the large numbers of soldiers' families moving here.



My High Sheriff's Awards with the historic backdrop of the horseshoes at Oakham Castle
Left to right: Mount Group Riding for the Disabled; Angela Humphreys, a volunteer almost everywhere I went; Staff Sergeant Instructor Georgina Crosby; Margaret Demaine, Dementia Friends; Paul Beech, volunteer at Warning Zone; Rob Persani of Rutland Radio.

Before my Declaration ceremony, I had been approached to organise the East Midlands regional conference, which was a challenge for me as a new High Sheriff, but the support I received from the Association was excellent. Our speakers were the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, Peter Lawson a previous High Sheriff of Rutland and the Rt Hon Lady Justice Macur, who gave a very informative talk on 'The relationship with the judiciary – formal and informal'. I sincerely hope all those who attended found it enlightening and confidence building. We finished the day with a presentation of Warning Zone, which is the High Sheriff's Charity for Rutland and Leicestershire. It evolved out of National Crimebeat 20 years ago and is an out-of-school activity for 10- to 11-year-olds in Year 6, the age when you can get a criminal record. The hands-on experience focuses on antisocial behaviour, peer group pressure and the consequences of risk taking, in the attempt to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in our community.

Warning Zone has been a significant focus for me this year and I have visited it with nearly every Year 6 at school in Rutland. This charity very much involves the important historic role of law and order and the more modern role of working in the community, particularly with children. And I will continue to support them.

A High Sheriff comes as the ultimate volunteer and I have been welcomed by numerous charities and societies throughout the county, being asked to make presentations and awards. Whether it has been Book Club Bear's Birthday Party or hosting an evening with Sir Ranulph Fiennes, it has been a pleasure to be able to put something back into the community

At the handover ceremony I presented my High Sheriff's Awards to noteworthy volunteers, concentrating on what has been significant in my year and covering the historic role and the active role of supporting the voluntary sector. The award to Rutland Radio recognised its help to me in promoting



News from and about Members

many charities on air, which certainly raised the profile of the duties of a High Sheriff. It supports our county over and above the call of duty.

Rutland may be the smallest historic county in England, but in 2012 the Well-Being Report by the Office for National Statistics found Rutland to be the 'happiest county' in the mainland United Kingdom. I have been extremely happy and honoured to be its High Sheriff.

Trish Ruddle

High Sheriff of Rutland 2013-14



The Biennial Sitting of the Court in Oakham Castle to maintain it as the longest-running seat of justice for over 850 years.