



Left: The High Sheriff and his Cadet, Sergeant Jamie McDonald of the Air Training Corps

Sailability, which provides sailing on Rutland Water for those with physical disabilities or learning needs. There are dinghies, trimarans and day boats all modified to allow those with reduced mobility to sail as helms or as passengers, and if they feel like it, to race. The attached picture shows me helping to launch a trimaran with a centre-mounted bucket seat for a disabled sailor, and an additional seat to one side for an able-bodied assistant.

In this year of the centenary of the start of the Great War, Rutland has been very active with commemorative parades, a museum display, a website and the updating and reprinting of the book *Rutland and the Great War*, which lists all those who fought and those who died. I am now embarking on a programme of visits to all the primary schools in the county to display items of memorabilia and to highlight the sacrifices made.

Plans for the future include hosting the Area Regional Conference at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, organising a Rutland Diocesan Service in Peterborough Cathedral and arranging a fundraising evening at the National Space Centre in Leicester. Once those are all finished, it will be time to decide which charities and activities to carry on supporting next year when I have a bit more time.

◆ Air Commodore
Miles Williamson-Noble
High Sheriff of Rutland 2014-2015



The High Sheriff with Rutland Sailability's adapted trimaran

Racing around Rutland

AS WITH all High Sheriffs, my year started with my Declaration. In Rutland we perform the ceremony in Oakham Castle, which is the perfect size to hold a sensible number of guests. I had decided that I wanted a High Sheriff's Cadet during my year and, after clearing it with the Lord-Lieutenant, asked the local Air Training Corps to nominate a suitable individual. There were a few delays along the way, but finally the immaculately smart Sergeant Jamie McDonald was nominated, and he can be seen in the picture of us both against the backdrop of the horseshoes that adorn the walls of the castle. Jamie has since left to join the Grenadier Guards, and I now have a new cadet, Warrant Officer Beth Bloor, who was previously the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet. There can be few if any other cadets who have served both a Lord-Lieutenant and a High Sheriff. If High Sheriffs are wondering whether or not to have a cadet, I strongly recommend doing so – not so much for your benefit,

but rather for the interest and benefit of the individual chosen.

The High Sheriff of Leicestershire, Richard Clowes, and I decided to get our fundraising activities off to a start by organising a Charity Racenight at Leicester Racecourse. The evening was a great success, and we raised over £36,000 for the five charities we had nominated. One of these was the new High Sheriff of Rutland's Fund, which I had recently set up in aid of voluntary organisations for young people, and of the elderly suffering from isolation and poverty. I hope to raise more for the Fund in the near future by inviting those in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment to donate it for the benefit of those in greater need than themselves. Other fundraising activities in which I am involved are for the benefit of Warning Zone, the local charity raising risk awareness amongst 11-year-olds, and the Children's Air Ambulance.

A great local charity is Rutland