



## Setting the standard in Sheffield

THE FIRST half of my year in office as High Sheriff of South Yorkshire has certainly provided justification for the claims from numerous previous High Sheriffs of what a remarkable year I was going to experience. I trust that this article provides a few interesting and perceptive illustrations.

Within days of my Declaration my first official engagement was being presented, in full court dress, to HRH the Duke of York in Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield. The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire, which was established by a parliamentary Act of Incorporation in 1624, has, for almost 400 years, sought to maintain the standards and quality of Sheffield-made cutlery and steel products and to promote the name of 'Sheffield'. Interestingly, the Duke of York informed me that, many years ago, the Duke of Edinburgh had stated that he did not expect to see 'members of his family wearing breeches in public'.

The theme of my year of office is 'inclusivity' and in particular focusing on ensuring that children and young people,

in the age range 5 to 18 years, feel part of and involved with society at large. I have met some fantastic people doing extremely good work in this area and have decided that Whirlow Hall Farm Trust should be my nominated charity. The Trust provides a range of programmes for children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable and/or challenged. It operates a working farm which, every year, provides in excess of 10,000 student days of learning experience in a farm environment. Some of its programmes are specifically for children who have been excluded from school with the objective of supporting them in the development of the skills that will enable them to be included again. The Trust, inter alia, runs and manages the second most northerly vineyard in the United Kingdom and produces an award-winning rosé wine.

We spent a splendid evening, in early June, attending evensong at the Temple Church taken by the Master of the Temple, followed by dinner for serving High Sheriffs in the Inner Temple, hosted

**Above:** With the Master and Mistress Cutler at the summer reception  
([www.seamanphotographer.co.uk](http://www.seamanphotographer.co.uk))

by the Treasurer and Benchers of the Inn. The following day, which was the day of the general election, I returned directly to South Yorkshire. I observed the votes being counted in both Barnsley and Sheffield. In my capacity as returning officer I declared the results in Sheffield Hallam, where Nick Clegg lost his seat, and also Penistone and Stocksbridge.

For the close of this article I will move from tradition to the future. I held my summer reception at Factory 2050 in the Advanced Manufacturing Campus and a few days later we welcomed HRH the Duke of York to the county again; on this occasion he visited the very forward-looking AESSEAL factory in Rotherham to open officially a major new manufacturing and test rig for mechanical seals.

◆ **Stephen Ingram**  
*High Sheriff of South Yorkshire 2017-2018*